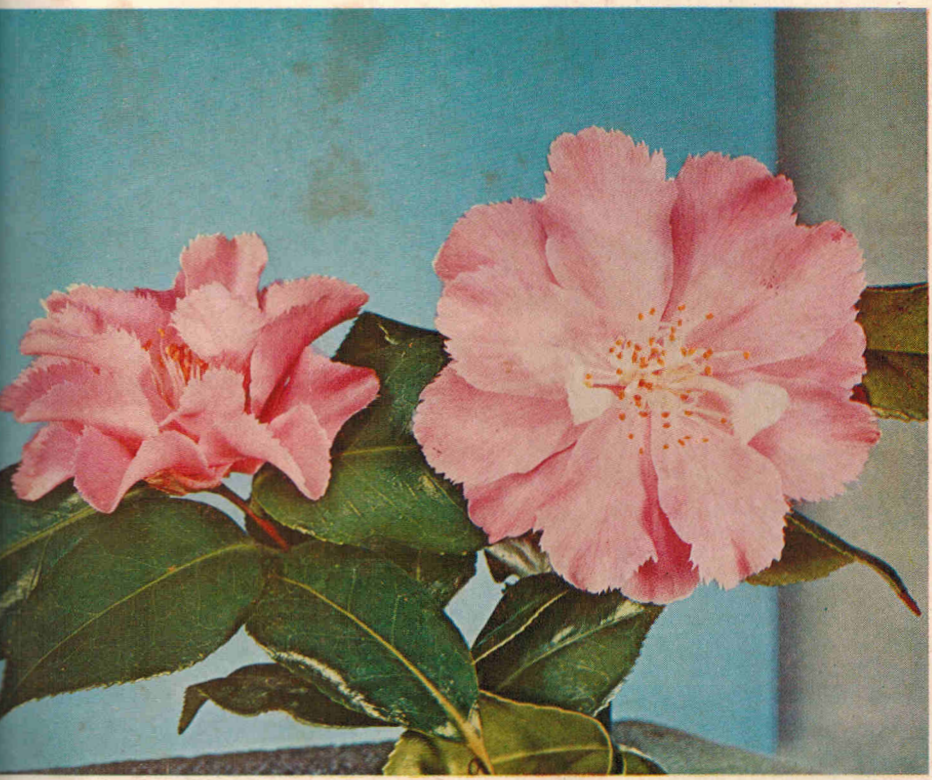
THE Camellia Review



C. japonica 'Billie McCaskill'

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 18 *October 1956* *No. 1*

Seventy-five Cents

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

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

Monthly from October through April, and in July.

All manuscript for publication should be sent direct to the Editor. Publication office, 706 S. Fair Oaks, Pasadena 2, California.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the Secretary at once. Magazines are not forwarded by the Post Office.

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VOL. 18 **OCTOBER, 1956** **NO. 1**

Camellia Reviewer

ELIZABETH BEEBE

You Can Count on Camellias

As mankind has waited for the sun to rise since his time began, watching through that cool, expectant dusk that slowly lightens as the sun's rays gradually creep over the horizon, so we are again hovering on the brink of another camellia season. We have no crystal ball to see the future of camellias and fortunate that is, for who would forego that tingling expectancy with which we survey the green bushes, silent potentials of beauty, of unexpected shapes and hues, of quiet humor in some oddly brazen flowering. The big thing is that, certain as death and taxes, and a whole lot pleasanter, the Camellia Season is at hand.

Dial C A —

Here is a very pertinent suggestion which came from Mr. W. S. Domer, a member of the Potomac Valley Society. He said in a letter, quote: "Many times you get into a town and wish to find a member of a local camellia society with no way to do so. There might also come a time when someone moving to a new community might wish to find another 'camellia nut,' without knowing how to reach one. Or in some cases you might wish to look up in a distant city telephone book the address of the local society. It seems to me it might pay for each local society to put a listing in the phone book under the President's or Secretary's name.

We think this is a very good suggestion indeed and hope our own S C C S will accept the idea. The very thought of not being able to locate a camellia friend is abhorrent — we're not kidding.

Summer Bloom

On a very warm July day we were much disgusted to learn that we had missed seeing a *tutcheria* 'spectabilis' in bloom. Up at the Descanso Gardens there are two plants of this species and Mr. Threlkeld (Superintendent there) told us that one of the plants had had four beautiful blooms and created much commotion among visitors. In fact two of the blooms disappeared and before anything happened to the remaining two, Mr. Threlkeld picked them himself and managed to obtain enough pollen for experimentation. He says the blossoms were quite deep orange in color, fading to yellow with age. Well, though we missed them we trust the plants to bloom again and next summer will be looking for them. We've already marked a 1957 calendar.

Of Great Promise

We recently ran across a most arresting plant title, i.e.: "Two Year Maiden of Great Promise." This was the label off a camellia plant noted by Mr. M. G. Coplen, a nurseryman of Maryland and Virginia as he writes most entertainingly in the Newsletter of the Potomac Valley Society, of early camellias around Washington, D.C. Strange as it seems however, this Two-Year-Maiden name was not thought up by a Japanese but by some obscure English nurseryman who used it indiscriminately for unnamed seedlings and young stock. We hold nothing against Englishmen, (ourselves claiming them among our ancestors) but still feel sort of surprised that such an imaginative name came from a roast-beef-and-Yorkshire-puddinger. With a twinkle belying his avowed seventy years, Mr. Coplen himself remarks, "I thought practically *all* two year old maidens showed great promise."

The Belles of Marengo

Ordinarily the glamorous pursuit of camellias is coupled with some prosaic method of making a living but we know two camellia enthusiasts who turn from their fine collection of cam-

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THE S C C S PRESIDENT FORMALLY OPENS THE 1956-57 CAMELLIA SEASON

Dear Members:

It is with pleasure and pride that I write this letter announcing another Camellia Season. Already indications from the camellia plants within the Southern California area and the South are showing signs of a most successful blooming season, as shown by the nice fat buds.

My own "September Morn" plants greeted me as the name implies, and I expect to enjoy the blooms from now until March. What more can one expect from a plant?

The members of your Board have met and appointed many working committees for the ensuing year, as listed elsewhere in this Review, and which are ncessary for the proper function of your Society, and programs for the meetings have been planned into next year. You can be assured of an interesting program each meeting that you attend, so please put down the dates on your calendar and come join with us the second Tuesday of every month, starting in November.

With my kindest wishes for a successful and pleasant Camellia Season, and may we see you often,

Sincerely,

EDWARDS H. METCALF

NEW REGISTRATIONS

Approved by the Registration Committee of the SCCS

C. japonica 'Royal Flush,' originated by Earl D. Hudson of 10500 Penrose Avenue, Sun Valley, California.

Of unknown parents, this semi-double camellia first bloomed in January 1954. It is a flush pink and varies from 4 to 5 inches in diameter. The plant is compact and grows rapidly with medium dark green leaves.

C. japonica 'RonCharBar,' a seedling, was originated in the Boorman's Camellia Gardens of 9328 E. Broadway, Temple City, California.

The flower (whose name is made up of the first three letters of the names of the Boorman grandchildren) claims 'Purity' as one of its parents. The flower first bloomed in 1947 and has established itself as a mid season bloomer. Its form is described as both rose and semi-double and it is of a creamy white color. The flower measures from 3 to 4 inches in diameter. The plant is characterized by an open type of growth.

C. japonica 'Dickie Thomas' is also a seedling and an origination of the Boorman Camellia Gardens (see above). It also bloomed first in 1947 and claims 'Doncklarii' as parent. It is of semi-double form, colored pink with carmine stripes and ranges from 3 to 4 inches in diameter. An unusual characteristic of this blossom is that you can shake it and yet the petals will hold intact. The plant is of average growth, open in type and with large leaves.

HERTRICH AWARD RULES

1956 REVISION

The *Margarete Hertrich* Award is presented annually by the Southern California Camellia Society for the outstanding *established* camellia seedling, outdoor grown, during a given blooming season.

The *William Hertrich* Award is presented annually by the Southern California Camellia Society for the outstanding *established* camellia mutant (sport), outdoor grown, during a given blooming season.

The Award Winner must receive the highest number of points of all flowers entered in competition during the flowering season, and must qualify under the following conditions:

Conditions

(1) An exhibitor must list the horticultural variety in competition for either award with the Hertrich Award Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society.

(2) Listing with the Committee will be in writing, on forms supplied by the Secretary of the Southern California Camellia Society, and will include the exhibitor's name, name or numbers of the horticultural variety and other pertinent details, and one 35 mm. color transparency (Kodachrome or equal) of the blossom, with a ruler (measuring device) in the picture to establish size. The ruler will be placed in the same plane as the flower.

(3) *A horticultural variety* may not be entered in the same blooming season as the one in which it is listed with the Committee. Blossoms can be entered in the following blooming season or seasons. *NOTE: non-winning horticultural varieties which have competed previously, as well as new horticultural varieties which have been listed with the Hertrich Award Committee will be eligible to compete during the blooming season of October 1, 1956 to April 30, 1957.*

(4) Listing, as referred to above, is separate and distinct from any action taken by the exhibitor to register the same horticultural variety with any accredited registration agency.

(5) A minimum of three (3) blossoms must be entered by the exhibitor during the competing blooming season. They may be entered collectively or individually on succeeding occasions. They should be judged preferably at a regular show or meeting, but may be judged elsewhere at the convenience and discretion of the judges.

(6) A 35 mm. color transparency taken of the blossom during the competition season must accompany score sheets used by the Judges in awarding the point scores. In addition a 35 mm. color transparency taken of the entire plant that produced the competing blossoms will be included. *This is required during the first competition season only.*

(7) Blossoms to be eligible for either award must be grown by the exhibitor.

(8) No *horticultural variety* will be considered for either award unless it receives a minimum average of 80 points in the judging.

Judging

(9) Judges will NOT be eligible to enter blooms for competition during a blooming season when they are acting as judges *but may list a horticultural variety for succeeding competitions.*

(10) *Judges will be selected by the Hertrich Award Committee and are to serve for one blooming season.* Judging for either award will be accomplished only by judges accredited and listed by the Southern California Camellia Society. A minimum of two (2) judges is required to score a competing entry.

(11) Scoring by judges will conform with the following point scale:

a. Color ..... 25 points
b. Form ..... 25 points
c. Quality (substance & texture) ..... 25 points
d. Condition (at time of judging) ..... 10 points
e. Size ..... 10 points
f. Distinctive characteristics ..... 5 points

(The term "distinctive characteristics" is largely absorbed in the scale points allocated to either color or form, but in the event of some extraordinary feature—i.e., fimbriation—as in 'Fred Sanders' or 'Fimbriata' the extra 5 points might reasonably be added with an appropriate explanatory note.)

(12) Where two or more competitive entries receive the same number of scale points by the judges the Hertrich Award Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society will determine the winner by judging the plants on the following supplemental scale of points:

a. Habit of growth ..... 25 points
b. Production of good flowers ..... 25 points
c. Foliage (richness of color, gloss, substance, etc.) ..... 20 points
d. Length of blooming season ..... 15 points
e. Self-growing propensity—natural release of spent blooms ..... 15 points

(13) Individual score sheets will be used by the judges; they will sign the score sheets to attest the point score awarded. Score sheets are available from the Southern California Camellia Society.

(14) April 30 is set as the termination of the blooming season in competing for these awards. All judging will be completed by this date.

(15) *Starting with the blooming season of 1957-58 all horticultural varieties to be eligible for either award must have been judged during two blooming seasons.*

(16) Judges will forward their score sheets through Club Secretaries to the Hertrich Award Committee, c/o the Secretary of the Southern California Camellia Society, not later than May 15 following the close of competition.

(17) *Any horticultural variety* which shall receive either award shall thereafter be ineligible to compete under these regulations.

(18) *A horticultural variety* shall not be eligible if it has been available commercially prior to entry in competition for either award.

(19) *To be eligible for competition during a blooming season a variety must have been listed with the Hertrich Awards Committee prior to the preceding October 1.*

Exception: For the season 1956-57, listing will be allowed until November 1st.

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To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

I have had the good fortune to visit the nurseries of John S. Druecker, one of the outstanding growers of fine rhododendrons in California, who lives in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County.

John Druecker is particularly fortunate in that he is located in one of the finest locations for growing rhododendrons. Back from the direct wind, the ocean, and sheltered by a splendid growth of Bishop's pine, (*Pinus muricata,*) from all inclement weather, he has selected an ideal spot for growing exotic rhododendron. His acreage is in a veritable thicket of our western rhododendrons, *Rhododendron californicum* and the many fine companion plants (including camellias of course) which grow with this sturdy Pacific native which is the state flower of Washington.

Backed by the native, *Myrtica californica,* (California Wax Berry) one of the least appreciated evergreens of California, were scores of the rhododendrons gathered from all over the world. You know we go searching far afield for companion plants for our rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias and we have somehow missed this outstanding native. By the way, it grows all the way up and down the coast of California and even up into Oregon. Theodore Payne, our veteran grower of natives, considers it one of the best of our evergreen natives, yet people supposed to be interested in gardening have slaughtered it right and left to make room for less desirable exotics. We took some pictures of a fine specimen which stood by John Druecker's lattice house where it had been pruned in beautiful symmetrical form. I called Ernest Williams' attention to its beauty as evergreen background. You find it all up and down the banks of the small streams flowing west into the Pacific, and on the upper Albion River near Comptche, we found it growing into luxuriant little trees and bushes from ten to twenty feet high making a fine background for the deciduous azaleas and *Rhododendron occidentale* which are particularly lush in that region. I called Jack McCaskill's attention to it and he was quick to appreciate its landscape value.

Of course you sing the praises of the rhododendron from afar. I'll admit, I saw the beauty of 'Blue Peter' which Mrs. Williams took home to their lovely Santa Rosa garden and though there were wonderful deep, clear pinks and luminous apricots, still my affections linger for the soft lavender pinks of our northern wilderness. Often I have seen them reaching up to the lower limbs of the native conifers crowned with pink bloom in mid-May.

On the Mendocino White Plains the rhododendrons are particularly beautiful when they make low compact bushes in the inhospitable soil which dwarfs everything and starts the botanist who is not familiar with the effect of the soil on plants, to giving specific rank to the interesting dwarfs which grow in this shallow black-rock soil which is worse than any hardpan you can find anywhere else in the world.

This pigmy forest has a unique charm you find in no other place but in the narrow strip in Mendocino

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'CINDERELLA' WINS FIRST ALL-AMERICA CAMELLIA AWARD

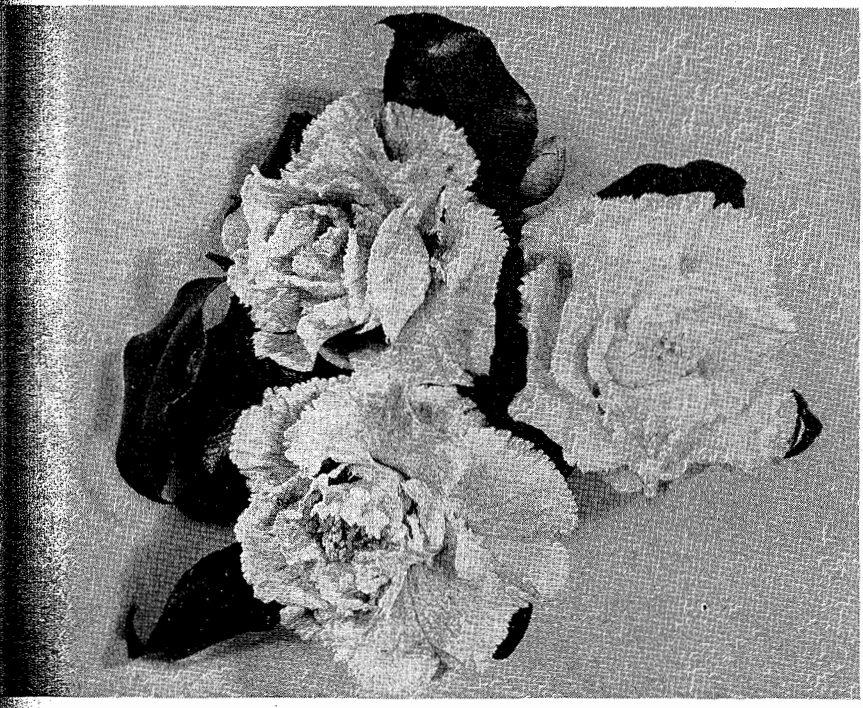
1957 AACS Winner Makes Debut After Extensive Testing

'Cinderella', a spectacularly beautiful new *Camellia japonica*, is the All-America Camellia Selection for 1957, the first camellia ever to be so honored.

The All-America Award is the highest distinction attainable and is given only to the best new camellia. To achieve this top recognition, 'Cinderella' won against the finest new varieties developed in the United States and abroad in extensive three-year competitive trials conducted by All-America Camellia Selections.

All-America Camellia Selections, known also as "AACS", was established in 1950-'51 and incorporated in 1952 as a non-profit organization, by a group of America's leading hybridizers and nurserymen. Patterned after but entirely independent of other All-America testing associations, its primary function is to provide for the scientific pre-testing of new camellia varieties and to encourage only the introduction of those of quality and distinction, garden proved and sure to perform well anywhere camellias may be grown in the United States.

All-America Camellia Selections enables the public to know which are the best new camellias. The ever-increasing popularity of camellias, favorites for generations, is at an all-time peak and has led to the haphazard introduction each year of vast numbers of new seedlings and sports, usually at prohibitive prices. A few of these newcomers are very good but all too many are neither



C. japonica **'Cinderella' winner All-America Camellia Selections 1956**

different nor better than existing kinds and, until now, neither the public nor the nurserymen have had any reliable way to determine which are worthy.

As an organization, All-America Camellia Selections has no plants; its role is research and preintroductory testing. The AACS program, however, benefits both the gardening public, who will be able to acquire these improved kinds in quantity and at reasonable prices, and the nurserymen, who will be able to concentrate upon varieties of proven merit.

'Cinderella' is noted for its flower formation, which is unique and quite different from that of camellias in commerce generally. Development from the long pointed buds progresses slowly and the flower unfurls in a manner notably distinct from the conventional rose bud opening.

Each rose pink petal, veined with deep crimson and bordered generously with a marble white edging, is crinkly textured and wrinkled almost like a new baby's skin. Petal edges are notched and lacinated or fimbriated.

The flower form and coloring instantly remind one of an old-fashioned Valentine with many layers of lacy ruffles. The enchanting blooms of this outstanding new variety usually average about four inches in width and three inches in depth and are produced freely upon a vigorous and stocky plant. The healthy plants bloom well at an early age, producing buds which are well spaced over the plant and are not clustered.

'Cinderella' possesses greater hardiness than most camellias. The plant suffered little damage during the severe killing freeze which struck the Pacific Northwest during November, 1955, when no previous frosts had occurred to induce dormancy and when even the Douglas firs showed severe needle drop. Reporting upon two test plants of 'Cinderella', the Director of the AACS Trial Garden, located at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, found only one tip burned on both plants and that, although flower buds quite naturally were gone, growth buds were 90% good.

In addition to the test garden at Portland, All-America Camellia Selections has established nine other official gardens and, as necessary, may increase this number. Existing gardens are located at Norfolk, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Valley, Georgia; Semmes, Alabama; Lafayette, Louisiana; San Fernando, California; Sacramento, California; Fresno, California; and Portland, Oregon, to afford a good cross-section of soil types and differing climates. Where possible, gardens are at educational institutions or on private grounds; a few have been placed at nurseries.

Each garden is supervised by a Director. Three gardens at nurseries are supervised by prominent nurserymen, none of whom may act as an official judge. Indeed, qualified judges must be amateurs, completely dissociated from any commercial nursery firm. Three judges serve at each garden and are requested to evaluate independently the competing entries, to provide a broad basis for comparing the merits or demerits of an entry. These judges, each a camellia expert, were chosen for their knowledge of and devotion to camellias.

'Cinderella' and other entries were studied and scored under actual growing conditions in each area. A uniform point system, differing slightly for the several types of camellias, was used to evaluate such important factors as hardiness, growth characteristics; foliage; profusion, duration, and quality of bloom; and novelty or features which differentiate a variety from others already in commerce.

At the conclusion of the exhaustive trials, scores and comments of the judges were submitted to the National Camellia Jury for final consideration

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HOW TO GROW BLUE RIBBON CAMELLIAS

By C. W. LATTIN

When your Editor asked me to divulge my secrets for raising "Blue Ribbon Flowers" I was taken for a complete loss—because I have no secrets.

If success (Blue Ribbons) depends upon secrets, we in the "Camellia world" should readjust our compass, get our noses into the wind and reveal everything we know or have learned from experience to everyone. The future of camellias and the happiness and pleasure they bring should not be retarded by secrets.

Nothing but Camellias

For those who want to raise Blue Ribbon flowers—the ribbons and cups are secondary—you must *concentrate* on camellias. You must concentrate to the exclusion of nearly all other shrubs and flowers. Also, you must realize that a camellia is a living thing having definite needs. You are responsible for its being where it is—so recognize these needs. In fulfilling their needs, consider the camellia in its native habitat—where it grows, at what elevation, the soil conditions, rainfall, drainage as well as humidity and temperature variations. You must try and duplicate each and every one of these conditions to the best of your ability. There is a reason why camellias grow in their native land—find out what you are doing wrong—(psychology works on plants too) analyze yourself as well as the plant.

Before winning any blue ribbons, I considered the subject on an overall basis and set an objective, "I was going to grow the d ---- best camellias anywhere, come H--- or High water.

Immediately my problem was "How."

My Course of Action

I read everything I could lay my hands on. I asked a million questions, and in due course of time, I arrived at these conclusions. Blue ribbon flowers come as a result of—

1. A definite objective
2. Hard work
3. Many hours of constant attention
4. Extreme care with plants and flowers
5. Delicate handling of flowers in transportation and placing
6. Expenditure of considerable money

It is "old crow" to many, but there are certain fundamentals of raising blue ribbon flowers that are so important they cannot be repeated too often.

1. You must *concentrate* on growing camellias.
2. You must purchase only good varieties—flowering plants.
   This is of extreme importance because you must choose good performers in the area in which they are to be grown. It is a recognized fact that all varieties do not do well in all locations—sometimes even short distances away.
3. In fulfilling my objective I realized, and I still believe, that better flowers can be grown when the plant is grown in a container. I have over 10,000 plants and not a single one in the ground. My reason for this is that I have definite control over—
   a. *Soil Conditions*
      Potting should be done well and carefully; not too deep, maintaining the plant at proper level. The potting mixture I use is:
      Two parts sandy loam

One part redwood leaf mold
One part peat moss
One part coarse redwood sawdust

b. *Water*
The greatest single basic requirement for a camellia is water. *It must be given as often as required.*
Not as some advocate "water well and not so often." My question to that is, "What is *not so often?*"

c. *Fertilizer*
I belive in the "breakfast, lunch and dinner" fertilizer program. That is—I fertilize three times a year and then I give them a "before bed snack" of a fertilizer containing *no nitrogen* when buds start to show color.
I believe that any well balanced fertilizer be it wet, dry, organic or inorganic is alright and it is unimportant which you use, but what is important is the amount and your program. I use about one-half recommended amounts slightly higher on the nitrogen content to offset my use of redwood sawdust in any potting mix.

d. *Drainage*
It must be perfect.

e. *Acidity*
Per cent not too critical—Somewhere between 4.0 and 6.25.

f. *Location*
North, East, West, South

g. *Protection of plants*
Heat, sun and cold. The ability to move them about cannot be over emphasized.

h. *Bud Set*
Camellias grown in containers can be tipped to one side, especially the larger ones, so that you don't need a ladder to disbud. No camellia is worth a broken neck or leg and still it must be disbudded. Disbud away from leaves and where possible, let the bud hang down. Leave only one bud to each terminal.

i. *Protection to the flowers from wind and rain*
A wind damaged or rain soaked flower never won a Blue Ribbon so I give my plants as much protection as possible.

j. *Mulch*
I use very coarse redwood shavings. Retaining moisture at top of container where many of the tender roots are is extremely important.

k. *Shade and Sun*
My lath house is constructed to give 50% shade. Depending upon your location this may be reduced to 25%. Our summer temperatures often reach 100 degrees.

l. *Humidity*
Very necessary for proper development and opening of flowers of some varieties. See item "N".

m. *Petal Blight*
I have found that Petal Blight can be controlled by carefully removing *every* flower petal, petaloid; stamen and calyx from the containers and *spraying the ground* in my lath house with Diesel oil and Orthocide.

n. *Syringing*

It is my belief, and I practice what I preach, that syringing is very high on the list of necessities. It keeps the leaves clean, it reduces temperature, increases humidity and reduces infection. In my lath house I have an automatic overhead watering system and I spray my plants late every afternoon. *I have not had a single case of infection from aphis or any other type of pest in six years.*

Work With Mother Nature

To my way of thinking, if we, the amateurs, would not be too mystified by the overpowering weight of laborious techniques and forget all about tricky soil mixtures, "super-duper" self concocted fertilizers and complicated routines, and do what "mother nature" wants us to do for our plants, *blue ribbon flowers* would be a dime a dozen.

But if you are still interested in the blue ribbons, cups and sweepstakes, as well as flowers, the end of the line is not just growing the flower. Extreme care must be taken during the development of the remaining bud on the terminal. Because of the position of the bud many do not have enough room to expand normally or fully without becoming bruised or misshapened. Pin back leaves or on occasion, remove them to allow full development. Flowers must also be picked, and handled with extreme care. They must be transported to the show and placed on the tables without so much as a single blemish.

Show Preparation

A few pointers or secrets on picking and transportation are: At least 1 week ahead of the show I prepare a 3x5 index card of all of the varieties that I believe will be in blossom at show time. (I have all my plants numerically arranged so this card shows the name and the number at the top and the number of expected blossoms—1-3-5-7 or 12 across the bottom. I then prepare my show entry cards for those that I have on my index. The entry cards are attached to the cross-index card with masking tape for easy removal. On the day of the show or the night before, I pick my flowers by number starting with variety number 1 and place them by number in large wooden trays filled with damp shredded white tissue paper. When each tray is filled, it is immediately placed in a cool dark room. When all the flowers are picked, I then discard all of the index cards for which I do not have a flower and alphabetically arrange the ones for which I have flowers. Using these alphabetically arranged cards I then sort and repack my flowers to name in florist boxes, the bottom of which is also filled with damp shredded white tissue paper. The advantage of the card index and attaching the entry cards to it is—I make one sort and all cards are alphabetically arranged. The entry card is associated with the flower in the box on the alphabetical sort. Do not let a single flower touch the box or another flower. Generally, I can pack 12-15 blossoms to a box—*no more*. Thus, when finished, I have each flower alphabetically arranged and the entry card is associated with the flower. There is no fumbling through cards or preparing cards when placing your entry. Using this procedure my wife and I have put out over 500 flowers in one and a half hours time.

The next headache is how to get your flowers to the show without damage. You have them well packed, now you must protect them from the bumpy roads, quick stops and sharp corners as these play havoc with fragile flowers—so here is another pointer. I take out the back seat of my automobile and stow it away in the garage for the day. On the floor I place six or more 4x6x6

cubes of sponge rubber and over that I place a piece of ¼" plywood to form a floating base. I say "floating" because you must leave *at least a 2 inch* clearance betwen the front seat, the rear seat back cushion and the sides of the automobile. This base takes up all road shocks, eliminates danger on quick stops and sharp curves. I place my flower boxes on this base and do not let them touch the automobile anywhere—you will be generously repaid for your care. I have carried blossoms this way to shows over 900 miles and over a period of three days and had them in "show condition" upon arrival. The trunk of my automobile can be similarly equipped and by a little close figuring I can carry as many as forty-five 14x24x4 inch boxes.

My Ten Commandments

In closing this article, I would like to give you my Ten Commandments for raising Blue Ribbon Camellia flowers.

I Thou shalt not have any other plants before thee.

II Thou shalt acquire only good varieties whose flowers might take "best of show." Thou shalt not waste thy time, money and energy on poor varieties.

III Thou shalt not curse thy luck and lose hope or enthusiasm just because one or more of thy varieties or flowers turns out to be a "dog."

IV Remember the Sabbath Day. It may be the only day thou hast to work and strive to obtain thy objective.

V Honor and respect the views of others even though thou dost not practice what they preach—they could be right.

VI Thou shalt not kill thy plant. Care for it—feed it and water it by all means, but prithee do not let it die.

VII Thou shalt buy thy plants from good reliable nurseries. Do not buy cheap package sale deals. Acquire only varieties that will grow and bloom well where they are to be grown.

VIII Thou shalt not steal plants or scions. Do not be smug or miserly—trade with thy camellia friends. Always remember "it is better to give than to receive."

IX Thou shalt not "run down" any plant or flowers of others. Give other camellia lovers the value of thy experience and thou shalt indeed harvest a rich reward of friends.

X Thou shalt not covet thy camellia friends' success, but try all the harder next year and that Blue Ribbon may be thine.

LADIES *(from Page 6)*

County, 18 miles long and extending from Fort Bragg to Little Salmon River. Back from the ocean a few miles and varying in breadth from three to five miles it reigns supreme in a little floral kingdom of its own.

But I ask your pardon, ladies. I started with John Druecker's rhododendrons and have been led far afield by the charm of our natives.

One of the most valuable lessons I learned from my visit to these nurseries was how the compost was made which gave such vigor to the plants. In the fall of the year the thrifty grower gathers in the natural leaf mold which has many leaves of conifers, pine, spruce, redwood, native evergreens, tan oak, etc. together. When it is dry it is piled up never more than four feet deep and allowed to heat and decompose. No turning or special treatment is necessary; and, when the winter soaking is over you can cut down through thick layers of mellow, living compost such as Mother Nature has been making in this area for countless ages.

FARTHEST NORTH CAMELLIAS

By EIKICHI SATOMI, Tokyo and RALPH PEER, Los Angeles

For many years, it has been known that camellias are growing wild on the Peninsula of Aomori, which constitutes the extreme northern point of Honshu, the principal island of the Japanese archipelago. It has already been established that these camellias are *japonicas*, although in the mountains west and southwest of this area, only *C. rusticana* is found. Except for this northern "colony", wild *C. japonica* grows along the seashore and on islands off the Coast only in the areas comprising roughly two thirds of southern Honshu. Wild *C. japonica* also occurs along the north shore of the South Island—Kyushu — generally known as the homeland of the *sasanqua*. The large island of Shikoku, which lies off the southeast coast of Honshu, is likewise a part of the *japonica* homeland.

The average temperature of Aomori, from January to March, is as follows:

January 26.6°F.
February 27.3°F.
March 27.5°F.

The amount of rainfall in this period averages:

January 58″
February 43″
March 26″

In an effort to solve this riddle, and to explain the reasons for this curious situation, Mr. Eikichi Satomi, Director of the Japanese Camellia Society, in May 1956, made the somewhat arduous trip to the northern tip of Honshu, taking a round about course through the Western Mountains in order to obtain additional information about *C. rusticana*.

Mr. Satomi obtained a report from local scientists concerning the geology of the Peninsula. He was advised that this land had existed, unchanged, since the middle of the Tertiary Period. It has never sunk beneath the sea, and has never been subject to volcanic action.

C. japonica will easily survive the normal winter cold found at Aomori, and the quantity of moisture is quite favorable for the growth of camellias. There is no doubt that these camellias are truly "wild", and yet it seems to be impossible to find any connection with other forests of *C. japonica* which now exist, or which grew in

On left the column marker for this Camellia Colony. The Japanese letters are translated as follows: "Natural Monument; the northern limit of distribution of camellia." Crown of the old camellia beaten and wrecked by heavy sea wind.

ancient Japan. Mr. Satomi points out that camellia seeds are too heavy to be distributed by windstorms, and, likewise, the seeds are too large and too heavy to be carried by birds.

Thinking that there might be some local legend which would account for these camellias, Mr. Satomi consulted the local "wise men" who told him these tales:

Once upon a time, a young man who had traveled far and wide, came to Aomori to fulfill a pledge to find the northern end of Honshu. While resting at an inn in the village, he met and fell in love with a very pretty girl. Unfortunately, however, their love could not be fulfilled because it was necessary that he first return to his home for parental blessing. On a dim moonlight night in the late Spring, during the agonizing moments of their parting, the girl told the traveler that she wished to make a very special request. In the southern part of Honshu, where his home was located, the climate is always warm and mild, and there are many camellias. She wanted him, when he returned, to please bring a quantity of camellia seeds. She explained that from the camellia seeds she would make camellia oil, which would make her nice long hair even more beautiful for his pleasure.

When it became Autumn, the girl thought every day of the young man, and expected him to appear. As time went on she became more and more sorrowful. Spring finally arrived, and when the girl noted that just one year ago they had parted, her sorrow overcame her and she wandered out into the woods and to the hill where they had said goodbye in the soft moonlight. Her heart was broken, she cried out wildly and fell down dead from sorrow.

In the Autumn, after her death, the young traveller returned again to the village, only to learn that his beloved had died. He ran about like a crazy man for some time, but of course could not find the girl. He found her coffin inside the village tomb, picked it up and walked off to the woods where he had last seen his beloved alive. On his way out of the village, the sack containing the camellia seeds he had brought as a present was broken, and the seeds were dropped along the path. When the next Spring arrived, the seeds had all germinated, and now every year, in the month of May, the camellia trees produce beautiful blossoms to remind the villagers of this love story.

The Japanese Law prohibits the breaking of any branch or any injury to the camellias in this forest. It is thought that if somebody does break off a branch or flower, a beautiful girl will appear in the air and will say "please, never injure a camellia."

In spite of this legend, some person passing through the forest broke off the branch of a very old camellia tree, which was full of blossoms. He thought that he would take it home to show to his wife. On the way to his house, the sea suddenly became stormy and was swept by a tempest, which nearly blew him from the path. He was struck with awe, and threw away the camellia branch. The storm immediately subsided, and eventually a new camellia tree grew at this spot.

The area of this camellia colony is somewhat less than ten acres. There are, however, several thousand trees, the largest of which is about seventeen feet in height, and fifteen inches in diameter at the bottom.

The blooming time is from the middle of April until the latter part of May. It is noteworthy that the trees are much too tall to be protected by the snowfall. In the winter these trees are battered by cold winds and blizzards. Probably, these trees survive because the combination of the native mulch plus the snow around the roots provides an even temperature of about 33°F. so that the roots are never injured.

There seem to be two possible explanations for the presence of these camellias. One theory is that a ship bearing camellia seeds to an oil mill was wrecked on the coast, and the seeds took root in the sand. Actually one side of the Peninsula is bordered by the Bay of Mutsu, where ships come for protection in stormy weather. At the point where the camellias are found, there is a sandy beach, but elsewhere in the Bay the cliffs go right down to the water. The explanation of the wrecked ship would be all right except for the fact that, in addition to camellias, there are other sub-tropical plants growing in this same area.

The true explanation seems to be

(Continued on Page 16)

FROM SEED TO SEEDLING

by Dr. Walter C. Hava

Before writing about my experiences with camellia seeds may I take this opportunity to thank the Southern California Camellia Society for the many pleasant hours of reading and for the amount of valuable information found in the pages of your publications. Gratitude, mixed with a pass-it-along spirit prompted me to write your Editor offering this article.

Cracking

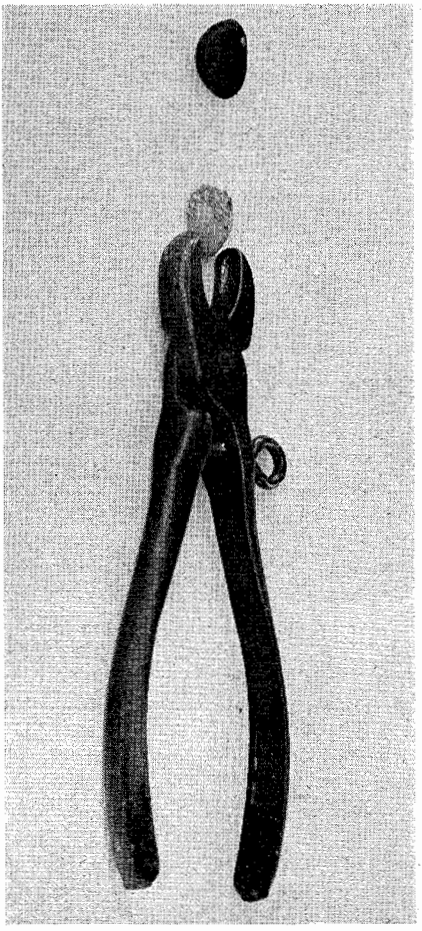
The first urge really came from my enthusiasm over a method for removing the hard seed coat (endocarp) from *japonica* seeds before planting. I assume that my method is not in use in Southern California, at any rate, as I fail to find any mention of a similar method in any of the seed propagating articles from that locality in your fairly recent publications.

In an exceptionally fine article by Dr. Walter Lammerts (a reprint from the "Camellia Research"), Dr. Lammerts mentions cutting the seed coat with a knife but I have found that in using a knife, the embryo is often cut to say nothing of what happens to one's fingers. There was also a fine article in your Review entitled "Growing Camellias from Seed." In this, Mr. David Feathers suggests that a coarse file be rubbed across an edge of the seed.

I feel I have hit on a method which for me at least solves the problem. That is the use of the Shoat or Hog ring pliers such as is shown in the accompanying photograph. With the type of these pliers having a set screw attachment, the seed coat can be cracked and removed without endangering or damaging the embryo. (I have used the term "embryo" for all of the yellow substance inside the seed coat.)

To use the pliers, I place the seed between the beaks with the set screw adjusted to clear about one sixteenth of an inch, making it impossible for the beaks to close more than this amount. This prevents injury to the embryo. If the seeds are sorted as to size, the pliers do not need to be adjusted for each seed.

These pliers are really designed to



place sharp pointed rings on the noses of hogs and this has always seemed to me brutal although when I find that hogs have been rooting around my camellias I have wished rings had been put in their noses. The

pliers are also used by upholsterers to attach fabric to seats of furniture and autos. They are quite a versatile tool. For their use with seeds however I presented a pair to Mr. K. Sawada of Mobile, Alabama who was well pleased with them and mentioned their use in the 1954 Year book of the A C S. There was also some experimenting done with them in the Huntington Camellia Garden.

I am strongly convinced that the entire removal of the seed coat before planting accelerates germination as the impermeability of the seed coat prevents water and oxygen from reaching the expanding embryo. Another advantage of removing the seed coats is the ability to determine which seeds are good. I usually find from 5 to 20% of the seeds I crack are bad. This is even when seeds come from reliable sources.

Germinating & Planting

I used to germinate my camellia seeds in glass jars using spagnum moss cut into short pieces with the scissors. This permitted it to pack closer around the seeds. I preferred spagnum to peat moss because the former has antibiotic properties besides being a good rooting medium. Spagnum will kill off the mycotic or fungus organisms and therefore one does not have to be so careful about sterilizing everything. It is very difficult to keep the contents of a jar sterile for the very air that enters the jar may contain fungus spores.

However, I have discontinued germinating seeds in jars because I now expose all my seedlings to the X-ray, using the superficial therapy machine. I plant the seeds in fruit crates, selecting a time when as many seeds as possible are in an early stage of germination. First I put down a layer of about 3 inches of soil containing a good quantity of humus, then one inch of European peat that has been broken up fine and soaked over night. The seeds are then spaced on this stratum and covered with a half inch of peat. Last year I changed my mixture, using a rich earth mixed with cotton seed meal in the belief that it would produce bottom heat thus doing away with the electric cable or fresh horse manure. Results were very encouraging as when seedlings in the cotton seed meal were about three inches high, those in the control flat were just beginning to push up the peat.

The flats are easily exposed to the X-ray machine without the seeds being disturbed. My use of the X-ray is in the hope of inducing mutations. Now that I have over 200 seedlings propagated by the above methods I am anxiously waiting for them to bloom.

Suggestion of the Month

Supplement your membership in the Southern California Camellia Society with a membership in the American Camellia Society. This organization publishes a valuable yearbook as well as a quarterly which are surely worth the price of membership.

So if you are not already a member contact the SCCS Secretary or our SCCS President for a membership blank.

FARTHEST NORTH *(from P. 14)* that the Tsushima Current, which flows from south to north along the eastern shore of Honshu and the island of Shikoku actually enters the bay of Mutsu. Most scientists now agree that the seeds falling into this warm water (perhaps carried out to sea by local rivers) have been brought into the Bay of Mutsu, and some of them have remained on the sandy beach. The Tsushima Current is quite warm, and thus serves the double purpose of transporting the camellia seeds, and warming the air in this region sufficiently to permit the camellias to survive.

THE MEANING OF THE NAME "SASANQUA"

by L. A. CHARETTE

The question: "What does the word 'Sasanqua' mean?" posed by Elizabeth Beebe, under the arresting title "Sasanqua Hang-over" in the October, 1955 issue of THE CAMELLIA REVIEW was a challenging one. This note is offered as possible explanation.

During a period of two years in Japan I occupied myself in collecting plant specimens, and gathered data on the semantics of the names given by the Japanese to their exotic and native plants, as supplementary information for my plant collections. Upon reading the editor's query, I went to my notes and looked up what I had on *sasanquas*. The information was too fragmentary and inconclusive so I wrote to my Japanese correspondents for help. With their characteristic good will and zeal I was provided with a mass of translations and data.

SA-ZAN-KA is the Japanese name for *Camellia sasanqua* Thunb. and is written by a combination of Chinese ideographs. In Japanese pronunciation the ideographs are rendered as SAN-SA-KA, or its variant SAN-CHA-KA, both of which are the classical forms. With the passing of time it was found that SASANQUA was much easier to pronounce, decidedly more euphonious, therefore it gradually replaced the more ancient pronunciations.

SAN: the Chinese pronunciation for an ideograph which when rendered in Japanese pronunciation is YAMA, the Japanese for mountain.

CHA (or its variant SA): is derived from the Chinese pronunciation of TSA, which, when pronounced very quickly, closely resembles the Chinese pronunciation of CHA, which means tea.

KA: is rendered in the Japanese pronunciation as HANA, meaning flower.

Therefore, the meaning of SASANQUA can be interpreted as meaning MOUNTAIN TEA FLOWER.

In connection with the above explanations, it must be remembered that there are two pronunciations for Chinese ideographs in use in Japan: the Japanese pronunciation and the classical Chinese pronunciation. First, and foremost, is the pronunciation which the Japanese use. When the Chinese system of writing was adopted in Japan, the Chinese ideographs underwent a change, in that the Japanese gave their own pronunciation and meaning in interpreting the Chinese ideographs which was suitable to their particular use. The pronunciation may be a combination of both.

A theory is offered that in South China, there exists, or did exist in very ancient times, a species of plant which closely resembled the *Camellia japonica*, known under the name SAN-CHA. When the Chinese immigrants settled in Japan they were accompanied by their learned priests and teachers of the Confuscian and Buddhist codes. Seeing the Camellias of Japan, which so closely resembled the plant which they knew in China as SAN-CHA, they gave it the name SAN-CHA-KA.

There exists no literature or other form of conclusive record upon which can be based a determination of the Chinese species of plant in question. It is certain to have been an element of great antiquity, and it is problematical if such a plant now exists there.

It is conceded by some Japanese students that it is now quite impossible to ascertain the true facts concerning the name and its application. They are lost in the mists of its great antiquity. All that remains is the

(Continued on Page 27)

AN AMATEUR TRY AT FORCING CAMELLIA SEEDLINGS

By CLIFFORD C. PRESNALL

During the winter of 1955-56 my wife tried various ways of growing a few camellias from seeds produced on a nameless bush in our back yard. Results were better than expected—good enough to warrant testing of her ideas on an expanded scale during the following winter.

The expansion came from Huntington Gardens, via the Southern California Camellia Society—143 seeds consigned to our refrigerator for a week immediately after their receipt on November 1, 1955. We then placed them in damp spagnum moss to sprout, encouraging them by placing containers near a radiator and covering them with air tight plastic covers to maintain high humidity. Green glass containers gave definitely higher sprouting percentage, but don't ask me why. After sprouting began (about 2 weeks) we pawed through the moss every other day or so and transferred the sprouted seeds to a potting mixture, one-sixth sand, one-sixth bovung, one-third peat moss, and one-third rich woods soil. This was in small metal planter boxes topped with glass to hold in the moisture.

Photograph taken April 29, 1956 showing seedlings happily developing in home constructed miniature greenhouse.

We used planter boxes measuring approximately 7x18 inches, and 6 inches deep. The sprouted seeds were planted close to the surface, without root pruning, and about 2 inches apart. As fast as stem sprouts appeared above ground the glass covers were discarded and each box was equipped with its own hothouse roof, a rube goldberg contraption of wire ribs about a foot high draped with Saranwrap. Ribs were held in the box corners by slight spring tension and the taut Saranwrap, stuck to the box all round. Next time we probably will fasten them with solder, thus avoiding likelihood of wrecking both roof and temper each time the wrapping is opened to permit watering.

To encourage the seedlings to outgrow their quarters we rigged a fluorescent light 18 inches overhead (4 tubes, 40 watt, 36 inches long). To top it off, we placed the whole contrivance above a radiator in a northeast window. The light burned continuously, causing neighbors to inquire solicitously, "Is someone sick at your house?"

All this added up to a non-stop growing spree in 100 percent humid-

y and 70°-78° temperature. Water-
g was required about once a fort-
ght, and we were fortunate in being
le to control fungus with one spray-
g of Captan. This was in mid-Feb-
ary when the plants averaged 6
ches high.

Growing space gave out toward the
st of April, coinciding with the be-
nning of warm weather and the end
our patience. Hardening the seed-
ngs for transplanting was done by
rning off the light, moving the
xes to the protection of our open
rage, and removing the Saranwrap.
fter a week of mist spraying—every
hours the first day, then gradually
creasing to twice a day—the seed-
ngs were root pruned, transplanted
o 5 inch pots, and placed in a lath
use for the summer. There they will
obably remain through the winter
o, with perhaps a little added pro-
ction when temperatures drop below
5° or so. If they can't survive our
nters we don't want them. Actually,
r greenhouse is still in the dream
ge.

For the statistically minded, here's
log of our exploration into seedling
lture.

1 Nov., 1955—143 seeds received
om Huntington Gardens. Placed in
frigerator.

8 Nov., 1955 — Transferred to
routing dishes.

22 Nov., 1955—First sprouts.

5 Feb., 1956 — Second flush of growth begins on largest plants (about 6 inches high).

12 Feb., 1956—About three-fourths of the seeds now sprouted, half the plants now in second flush of growth.

1 April, 1956 — Largest plants (about 10 inches) starting third flush of growth. Last 2 seeds planted; total, 124 out of 143.

29 April, 1956—Begin hardening. Over half are in or past third flush of growth.

5 May, 1956 — Transplant to lath house.

4 July, 1956 — 116 plants now alive; 50 have started fourth flush of growth.

21 Aug., 1956—108 alive. Fourth flush of growth completed by all but about 20; several starting fifth.

It interested us to observe that after the plants were shoved out into the unsaranwrapped world they made no leaf or stem growth for nearly two months. Growth thereafter has been considerably slower than under continuous light, as shown by height of 17 inches on the tallest plant to date, which was 13 inches high when transplanted. Another significant point is that the eight plants which failed to survive the shock of hardening and transplanting were small individuals from late sprouting seeds. Most of the eight that died after July 4 were victims of the excessively high gray squirrel population in our neighborhood.

NEWS, NOTES AND NOTICES

Temple City Society

Following happy precedent, camellia lovers and the general public are invited to the Annual Camellia Breakfast which starts off the Society's activities for the 1956 season. Breakfast, (hearty, delicious and served up with good fellowship and camellia gossip) will be on tap from 8:30 to noon on Sunday morning, October 7th in the pleasant patio of the Les Marshall's, 6747 North Rosemead Boulevard, San Gabriel. In addition to all you can eat for $1.00 (children up to 12 years, 60c), drawings will be held every half hour. We'll see you there.

Temple City

The first meeting of the season is scheduled for the evening of October 29th at which Edwards Metcalf will present highlights of his southern trip last spring illustrated by the fine pictures he took.

Society of the Potomac Valley

Show dates set: Dates for the two shows that the society will sponsor next year have been set. A one day show for blooms grown under glass will be held on March 9. The society's third annual camellia show, which this year will not include underglass blooms, will be held on April 13 and 14. Co-Chairmen for the show will be Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Carter of 5502 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. As has been past practice these shows will be open to non-members as well as members.

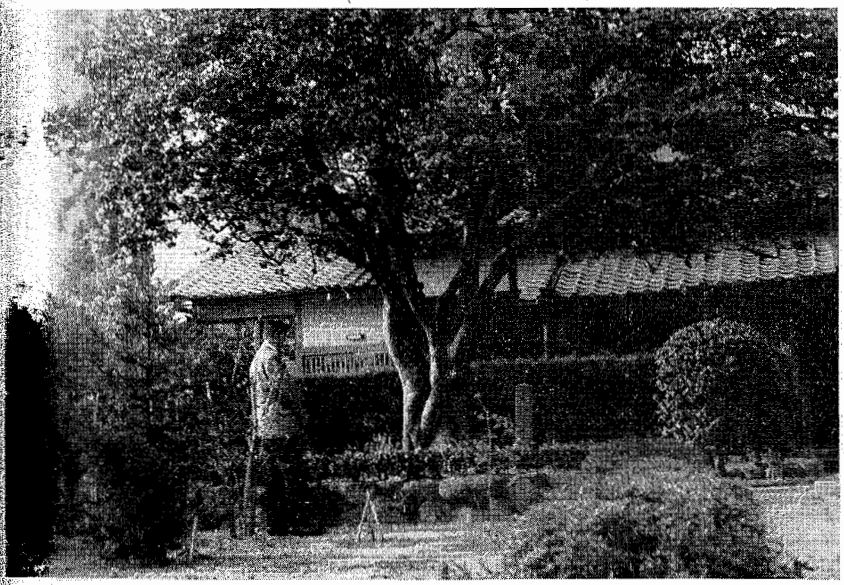
Membership: The Society's membership now stands at 156. The membership is distributed as follows: District of Columbia, 40; Virginia, 51; Maryland, 56; New York, 5; New Jersey, 1; Delaware, 1; Pennsylvania, 1; and most happily California, 1.

Shreveport, Louisiana

The Men's Camellia Club has scheduled its 1957 Camellia Show on February 23rd and 24th. W. C. Rasberry is to be Show Chairman.

THE MYSTERIOUS WABISUKE

By RALPH PEER, Los Angeles and EIKICHI SATOMI, Tokyo



The old, old wabisuki.

There are in Japan, five different varieties classified as "wabisuke". Botanists have been unable to classify this item and it is generally thought to be a hybrid having a *japonica* as one parent.

The blossoms of all wabisuke are small singles. These varieties are sterile and do not produce seeds.

During a visit last April to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan, Mr. Eikichi Satomi, Director of the Japanese Camellia Society, found growing in the garden of the Daitokugi Temple the oldest wabisuke in Japan. An ancient post on which Japanese letters have been carved is standing not far from the tree. The wording on this stone reads:

"This is the wabisuke beloved by General Hideyoshi Toyotomi".

According to local tradition, this tree was planted in the latter part of the 16th century and is, therefore, one of the oldest camellia trees in existence.

HERTRICH AWARDS *(from page 5)*

(20) These awards will be evidenced by a plaque, bowl, or other suitable trophy (elective) appropriately engraved, bearing the name of the winner and shall be the property of the winner.

(21) The names of the respective winners of these awards shall be published in the July issue of the Camellia Review.

(22) These rules and regulations shall be subject to revision or amendment by the Board of Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society. Any revision or amendment so made will become effective for the succeeding blooming season.

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CINDERELLA *(from Page 8)*

Through open competition against a field of the world's finest new camellia in one of the most thorough and accurate horticultural testing systems y devised, 'Cinderella' is recommended as truly worthy of the country's highe camellia honor — an All-America Camellia Selections Award.

Plants of this great new All-America camellia will be available throug leading nurserymen and the AACS label guarantees top performance.

Camellia MAIL BAG

From San Bernardino, California

L. Burr Belden's letter contained the following interesting paragraph: quote—"As for the climatic tests, I have over a period of years planted camellias at homes of friends in Upper Kern River Valley, Owens Valley, Bishop Creek, San Bernardino Mountains and the Mojave desert plateau. I had no 'test' idea in mind then but things sort of turned out that way. Friends admired camellias and wanted them. They lived in what most of us had thought unlikely spots so we went ahead and tried them. Surprisingly enough the plants have grown and bloomed. There has been nothing scientific about it and a more careful series of tests would be advisable before any conclusions are drawn. Next spring I do plan to set out *C. rusticana* and some others in Bridgeport where the winter snow often piles up 5 or more feet. If *C. rusticana, C. saifera* and others survive in Bridgeport we may have something."

Ed. note: What a wonderful idea the above opens up—individual camellia test gardens to say nothing of the many wonderful ties between camellia friends. Anyone else doing this sort of thing? Do write us about it.

From Cornwall, England

Mr. G. H. Johnstone writes, quote: "Reading the current issue of the Camellia Review, Vol. 17, No. 8, I have observed an error which I hope you will find opportunity to correct. On page 32, "Hybrids from the Feminine Angle," the breeding of *Camellia williamsii* 'Donation' is ascribed to my late neighbor Mr. J. C. Williams of Caerhays Castle, whereas the credit for breeding this remarkable hybrid belongs to the late Col. Stephenson Clarke of Borde Hill in Sussex.

I think I can claim to have been the (grateful) recipient of the first rooted cutting of *C.x* 'Donation' to be sent out from Borde Hill Garden."

OUR NEW CAMELLIAUTHORS

The practical designs and ideas of **Alvin Babcock** of Rosemead, California will appeal to the thrifty "do-it-yourself" propagators among our readers.

Dr. Walter Hava of Waveland, Mississippi tells his own methods for successfully producing seedlings.

Winner of many sweepstakes, **C. W. Lattin** of Oakland, California is well qualified to point the way to success for other blue ribbon seekers.

The ingenious miniature greenhouses described by **Clifford Presnall** are proof that camellias can be fostered in Washington, D.C. Mr. Presnall is an enthusiastic member of the Society of the Potomac Valley.

AUSTRALIAN CAMELLIANA

Camellia Annual

Concrete evidence that interest in Camellias in Australia is growing apace can be found in the 1955 Camellia Annual published by the Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society. In one year, membership in the society has almost doubled, now reaching 150 individuals.

It is interesting to note the new varieties registered: 'Margaret Waterhouse', a new *saluenensis* seedling raised by E. G. Waterhouse; two seedlings, 'Red Ensign' and 'Laurie Bray' by G. C. Linton; 'William Honey' by the Melbourne Gardens and 'Teringa' raised by Mrs. Hume Turnbull. Two interesting registrations were hand crosses by Charles Cole. He used the pollen of 'Elegans' and seed of 'Spencer's Pink' to produce an informal double of delicate shell pink which won a blue ribbon at the Melbourne Camellia Show. This was named 'Rosemary Elsom.' The other cross which also won a blue ribbon resulted from crossing the 'Spencer's Pink' pollen with seed of 'Elegans' and the large single flower of rose carmine was named 'Mattie Cole.'

Of the interesting articles making up the Annual, Mr. C. R. Merrillees contributed perhaps the most technical one, "Tap-Roots in Camellias" illustrated by Tables showing length of tap roots of different varieties. The author set out to prove that nipping the tap root is not beneficial to the plants but probably came into use because of its economic benefit to the nurseryman.

An article on the 'Czar' mentions two articles on the same subject which appeared in the Camellia Review and with one in Waterhouse's "Camellia Trail" make up the only published data in existence about this variety. The Czar's origin is still controversial.

Other articles include two on *sasanquas* — one on their cultivation in Australia and the other about the *sasanquas* in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens. In a discussion of the synonyms 'Gauntletti' and 'Sodagakushi' the author, E. G. Waterhouse, concludes that 'Gauntletti' is the valid name. Another discussion seeks to make clear the differentiation between the two varieties 'Great Eastern' (Australian) and 'Great Eastern' (New Zealand).

Other worthwhile articles combine to make this 20 page booklet even without illustrations a commendable addition to camellia literature and we are sure, only the forerunner of much sought after information about camellias in Australia.

The "New Zealand Gardener"

In the April number of this neat little magazine we came across a delightful argument for camellias by Will Livingston entitled "Romance of the Camellia." Skimming rapidly over the high points of camellia history, Mr. Livingston presents reasons why the camellia is having such a revival in New Zealand. He says it is "everybody's flower" and that it can be adjusted to most any locality ending his article by pointing out the wide range of colors from which one can choose.

The Australian "Women's Weekly"

The July issue came out with its entire cover a colorful melange of luscious *C. sasanqua* 'Plantation Pink,' a variety, says the magazine "developed in Australia and highly praised by American camellia fanciers."

Two pages of the magazine are devoted to camellias with ten illustrations in color. These are all of good size, the magazine pages measuring eleven and one-half inches by

(Continued on Page 30)

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.K.S. and the British Museum, by T. 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 Harold Hume. $6.00.

"Camellias in America, 1955," by 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 fame. $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.

Our Cover Flower

BILLIE McCASKILL, distinctive new Japonica seedling, is "the most beautiful pink camellia in the world today" says Vern McCaskill, and so say other camellia experts. Vern grew 90,000 camellia seedlings before he found just the one he wanted to name for his wife.

The flowers are semi-double soft pink with indefinably delicate pink tinting and shading, margins of petals exquisitely fimbriated. There are a few central petaloids with one predominant and erect like a tiny plume. Blooms mid-season to late and is very floriferous. Excellent bush with medium-sized dark glossy green leaves. Its genetic fimbriation is distinctly different from the fimbriation on mutations which often revert back to the parent plant.

Feminine as pink lace, of which it reminds you, this charming camellia is a natural for the floral world and a joy for all who love to arrange camellias.

The three "First Camellia Gentlemen from Georgia" discovered BILLIE McCASKILL so to speak at the Southern California Camellia Show in 1955 and were most generous in its praise. In the kind words of the camellia world's own beloved Judge Arthur W. Solomon, "BILLIE McCASKILL is going to be a 'must' in every camellia collection whose owners appreciate a medium-sized bloom that will stand out among the big ones."

Along with Time and Tide, camellia seeds wait for no man and the Society has plenty of them to sell. Read the ad for further information. The sooner you germinate them the better percentage of good performance you can expect. So send now — **now.**

SEEDS TURN INTO PLANTS FOR A NOVICE

by ALVIN E. BABCOCK

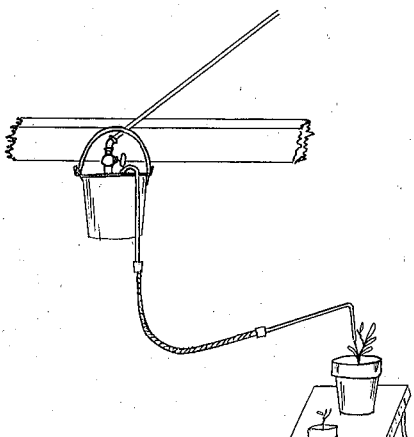
Because the readers of your publication might be interested in the exper ence of a novice in starting Camellias from seeds, this description is bein submitted. When the green thumb friends of the novice heard via his wif whose thumb also has had a greenish tinge of many years, that he wa interested in producing seedlings, several of them remarked, "O, he can hav my seeds. I'm not going to use them this year." The resulting in-flow of seed from these friends numbered nearly 400.

Imagine the gratification of this novice on seeing that, at the end of six months, some of his plants had attained a height of 4½ to 5 inches. This satisfactory growth is attributed to a number of causes, namely:

1. The seeds were planted practically right away after being received, (some in peat moss, others in "Black Magic") so as to benefit from the pre-winter warm weather.

2. The shells were cracked in a small vise before planting to allow immediate ingress of moisture into the interior of the seeds.

3. When the tap roots had attained a length of three inches, two thirds thereof were cut away and the remaining one third inserted into th rooting mix (4 parts sand and 1 pa peat moss) leaving the seeds on th surface.



Easily constructed siphon-type apparatus assures gentle but efficient watering of tender seedlings.

4. When two or three leaves ha developed, the plants were transferre to the growing mix (equal parts o soil, sand, peat moss and leaf mold)

5. During the winter months, th plants were kept in the house in fron of a large west-exposure windo where they had warmth from th furnace and strong light during th major portion of the day, the shade being drawn when the afternoon su would be too hot.

6. Luke-warm water to which wa added a very small amount of liqui fertilizer was administered daily.

There you have a six-point progran of this novice. Ninety of the larges of the plants have been moved ou into the farther end of what was onc a hen house and onto a broad, hig shelf adjacent to the open-air side o the building. To facilitate the dail watering and to get away from th dashing stream from the garden hos which has a disgusting tendency t wash the soil from the pots, a crud pressure reducer was devised.

The accompanying sketch illus trates how this works. A 10 quart pai was fastened to a cross beam of th roof structure of the building. Wate was piped to a point near the pai with a valve conveniently located. A short piece of hose completes the rout of the water to the bottom of the pail Water is fed to the plants via

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SANQUA *(from Page 17)*

e, in its present form.

It would appear that the question: hat does the word 'sasanqua' an?" is one which will never be factorily explained!

The above is but one of three ible explanations which I have at d. It is not possible to go into r explanation at this time. To do would require an elaborate treat- t involving the use of Chinese and anese ideographs.

I wish to thank Mr. Masayuki Oue, oung student at Chuo University, kyo, who kindly furnished me with slations and other data; to Dr. aburo Ohwi of the Tokyo National ence Museum who verified Mr. e's researches and translations, as ll as Mr. Syuho Kirino of Yatsuo Toyama Prefecture who provided ditional information.

Ed. note: If any reader has other ormation concerning the origin of name "Sasanqua" we should be erested in printing it.

OVICE *(from Page 26)*

hon tube, made of 2 pieces of ee eighths inch copper tubing con- cted by a two foot length of gas e. This siphon tube can be moved ound over the plants and the whole up of 90 can be watered in less n five minutes. The pail being only o feet higher than the tops of the nts, the water, instead of gushing d washing the soil out of the pots, s as gently as "Sweet Afton." hen the job of watering has been mpleted the flow of water can be pped by hanging the hooked end the lower piece of copper tubing er the beam to which the pail is ixed.

Liquid fertilizer can be placed in pail and then the water rushing from the high-pressure city line nds it with the fertilizer so that tering and fertilizing can be done one operation. It appears that about one-half of the seeds planted will produce healthy plants.

REVIEWER *(from Page 2)*

ellias each morning to engage in a business activity *almost* as glamorous as camellias. Down on South Marengo Street in the town of Alhambra, California, Mae Franklin and Evangeline Aldrich make bells. Not only do they conduct the only bell business this side of the east coast but they are the only women bell makers in America.

There in their pleasant little building set back from the busy street and withdrawn from the frenzied manufacturers close by, we spent part of an afternoon looking into another world. The two close friends who live together and raise camellias together also manufacture bells of dozens of types from a two-ounce size to church bells weighing 500 pounds.

"But not just bells," Mae asserts. "We aim to make authentic reproductions of bells of significance." For instance, their "Callifornia Bell Company" turns out small souvenir bells for about ten California Missions, representing in miniature the particular bell of each mission. The bell of San Juan Capistrano is especially appealing as it bears a bronze swallow for handle. One of the most interesting reproductions the girls make is the graduated set of bells called the "Canestoga Jingles." It seems that in pioneer days the Dominican Sisters salvaged bells from the hames and harnesses used with the old Canestoga wagons which had crossed the plains, and these were used as the first school bells of California. Their reproductions now are intriguing patio bells. In fact a large share of the girls' bells now are popular patio accessories and their beautiful tones mean "Come and get it."

Perhaps the most fascinating feature of this bell business is the part that bells have played in history and

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AUSTRALIA *(from Page 24)*

thirteen and three-fourths. Shown are an artistic espaliering of the 'Shishi Gashira,' a driftwood arrangement of 'Mine-No-Yuki' and some very appealing Victorianish bouquets. A short article of cultural suggestions accompanies the photographs and, making us feel very far away, the announcement of a July Camellia Show — the camellia season "down under" being reversed from our time.

Remember a subscription to the S C C S makes a mighty fine Christmas present. A subscription now includes this issue, Number One of Volume 18. The Review will be one bit of Camelliana that will turn up faithfully for eight months of the year.

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

ADVERTISING RATES

Inside back cover, $40.00. Full page, $35.00. Half page, $20.00. Quarter page, $12.00.

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

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

Buy Seeds Now

The Camellia Garden Committee reminds us that it is seed time again, and that the new crop will be ready for distribution November first. The committee urges that members and their friends obtain their seeds and germinate them early, while viability is at the peak, and seeds germinate in days instead of weeks. The growth of the young seedlings is much more rapid during the warm days and nights of fall than during the cold winter months, and an early start can save as much as a year of that all important blooming time.

Germinate your seeds in damp peat moss and then transfer to sand with a little peat mixed in. Leave the young seedlings in the sand until next spring.

This year the price has been reduced to $4.25 for the first 200 seeds and $1.00 for each hundred seeds in excess of 200.

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)

Street .....

City..... Zone..... State.....

Business .....

Sponsor .....
(signature)

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY LETTER IF PREFERRED

REVIEWER *(from Page 27)*

the endless uses for them now. In the girls' shop we saw molds and bells in different stages of fabrication. Mae rang a number of one batch of similar bells and we noted the variation in tone occasioned, she said, by the difference in temperature when the bronze was poured.

Bells, unlike camellias, can be set on shelves until needed and at workday end the girls go home to check on their camellias where Mae keeps records of minute detail on every plant. Her 'Pope Pius IX' she was telling us has had its first bloom for several years on practically the same date. "Now how do you suppose that plant knows what day it is?" asked Evangeline for it is she who regards the plants as individuals and companions, and looks to them for inspiration and answers to her problems.

That, we aver, camellias can do and bells don't. And as for their music, it was Keats who said, "Heard melodies are sweet but those unheard are sweeter," and every camellia lover has surely heard the beauty of his camellias which "pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone."

We feel that all three rate a salute; the bells, the camellias and — the Belles of Marengo.

A Yellow Camellia Blossom

To the unknown friend who sent us the copy of the Australian Women's Weekly. Foreign magazines are always exciting and aside from the camellia interest we were intrigued by the attention paid to beautifying the Australian woman — even as American magazines do. Indeed — a whole separate insert of beauty culture. And of all things, we report (with a slight camellia chuckle) the magazine included an entire Kathleen Norris novel. So thanks a lot to our good unknown benefactor.

It Was April Fool For Us

We can't call it all luck when some one wins a camellia award. So we give Mrs. Busby credit for propaga ing and exhibiting camellias whic amassed the greatest number of poin during the last season. We sincere applauded her receipt of the love silver bowl as lasting tribute to h faith in and affection for camellia But we do think that Luck was hove ing over her that April evening f with the bowl in her possession sh held two lucky numbers for the dra ings and carried off two fine camelli plants. "Them as has, gits" we sai to ourself grimly as we ended th evening with perfectly good tickets— only good now for the wastebaske And that Joe Kapps had *promise* they were winning numbers. Come t think of it, we never did see hi again after all the plants were draw That was *his* luck is all we have to say

Cabbages or Camellias?

Anyone who is aware either fro publicity, or from an actual visit, the tremendous scope of the camelli plantings at the Descanso Gardens i nearby La Canada could not hav failed to chuckle over a short new paper article which referred to th Descanso "camellia patch." Of cours there's a question of how many can ellias constitute a patch — or a patches confined to cabbages? Th dictionary says a patch is a "sma piece of ground or something on it. We won't settle for that in relatio to Descanso camellias. "Something o the ground," indeed. We'll be fir witness for the defense if this obscu and misinformed reporter wants t make something of it.

That's All for Now

We must stop this rambling and g fossicking among our camellias. Wa to fossick* with us? It's fun

says

Liz

*Webster says: Fossick, to rummag (Australian)

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Pasadena 2, California

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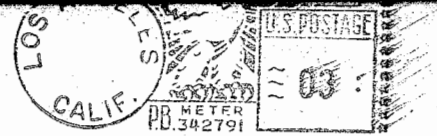

American Camellia Society
Box 2398, University Station
Gainsville, Florida