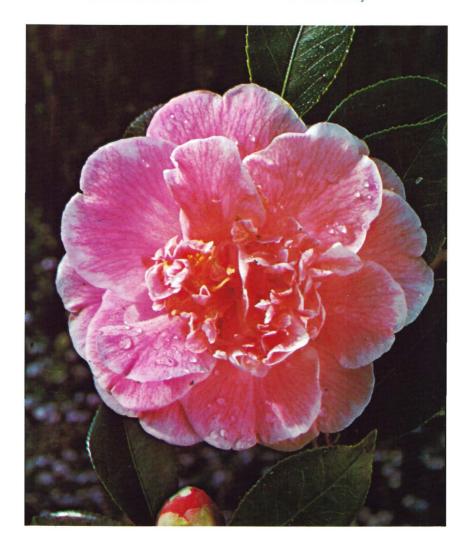


A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



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 to the Secretary. Annual dues, \$12.00

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THE COVER FLOWER

'CORAL MIST' is a C. japonica seedling developed by Hugh Shachelford, of Albany, Georgia and released in 1959. The flower is a white veined and splotched, clear pink with a loose peony form. The plant has a vigorous, compact, up-right growth and it blooms in mid-year. The photo was taken by Yvonne Cave and the color separations were furnished courtesy of the New Zealand Camellia Society.

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MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH WILBUR FOSS

by Christopher Reed

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the February 1981 issue of HORTICULTURE, the publication of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

My love affair with Wilbur Foss began on January 5, 1980. I might have chosen a more conventional alliance — with 'Miss Universe' or 'My Fair Lady.' With 'Honey Chile' or 'Honey Bunch.' With 'Fluff,' 'Perky,' or 'High Jinks.' With 'Queen Victoria's Blush' or 'Mrs. Moore's Speckled.' With 'Lady Aster,' 'Bloody Mary,' or even 'Old Maid Taylor.' But one can't control matters of the heart. I got 'Wilbur Foss,' and he was thrust upon me. This is how it happened.

My wife and I were attending a reception in Harvard, Massachusetts, to celebrate the grand opening of a solar-heated kennel. Never mind about the kennel. This isn't a story about dogs. I fell into conversation with a jovial-looking fellow in his mid sixties — James C. Hopkins, Jr., an architect and resident of Cambridge. When we had finished our sponge cake and champagne, Hopkins told me that while dogs were all very well in their way, he was especially interestd in camellias.

Lust for camellias, he said, had overcome him three years previously. He had been invited to a meeting of the New England Camellia Society, where he was dazzled by floriferous displays in the dead of winter. He returned home, threw out his begonias, lowered the temperature in his conservatory, and bought camellias. two years later he dared to exhibit some of his plants and blossoms in the 150th annual camellia show sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He won many ribbons, Hopkins confessed, beaming. He now had 50 or 60 camellias, mostly small ones, and he was

Three weeks later, on a bright, cold, winter morning, I knocked on Hopkins's door.

He led me at once to the conservatory. I paused on the way to admire three exquisite camellia blossoms floating in a crystal bowl on the dining table. They were light orchid pink, large, and of the form of a loose double peony. Later, I would learn to call them by their proper name, which is 'Tiffany.'

Hopkins's conservatory is small, but it was packed with camellias. Many of these were studded with gorgeous flowers — red, rose, pink, white, or variegated, some with prominent, fetching yellow stamens. Scattered among the camellias were pots of Clivia. One was blooming with rigid orange exuberance somewhat prematurely in the season, as though stimulated by the surrounding loveliness. An acacia by the wall perfumed the scene.

Maneuvering to avoid a dachshund named Katie, Hopkins took me through this bower, stopping at each plant to tell its secrets.

"The three most important camellia species," he said, discoursing, "are japonica, Sasanqua, and reticulata. Many excellent hybrids have been developed in recent years. I have mostly japonica, of which there are several thousand named varieties. The most spectacular blossoms are usually japonica, and they're wonderfully varied in form, resembling roses, peonies, carnations. The flowers range in size from less than two inches to whoppers seven inches across.

"Look at this one," said Hopkins, pointing at a miniature, peony-shaped, soft pink flower with one petal tipped red. "I won a prize with that last year. Its name is 'Hopkins' Pink.' No relation.

"I used to run this greenhouse as a warm place, full of bugs and exotic plants," said Hopkins. "But camellias like it cold. Now the greenhouse gets down to forty degrees at night. On sunny days the temperature goes into the seventies.

"Camellias are almost pest free. The bugs don't like the cold. But I do. With energy prices what they are, camellias are good for someone who wants to grow flowers without losing his shirt."

An attractive fountain was splashing agreeably in Hopkins's conservatory. "All architecture should have water," he pronounced, "particularly conservatories. Water and music. I prefer Italian opera.

"Camellias must have high humidity. The fountain helps, but nevertheless, I mist these plants daily."

Hopkins's potting area is in a corner of the conservatory, out of sight behind a partition. "Everyone has a favorite mixture," said Hopkins. "I use half fir bark and half commercial potting soil. Whatever you use, it should be quick draining and slightly acid.

"Camellias should not be allowed to dry out completely," Hopkins continued. "I try to water these about once a week. I'm an over-waterer. That's one

of the problems.

"Camellias don't need a lot of fertilizer," he said. "I feed mine three times a year, on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day. They set buds in the summer, when you have them outdoors. That's why fall is a good time to buy camellias. You can see what you're going to get."

Hopkins has, in addition to his conservatory, a solar pit, which he built into the slope of a hill a little distance from his house. He proposed to take me to it, but first we lingered in the kitchen while he showed me his scrapbook. In it were photographs of blossoms of the past and ribbons he had won with them. A camellia-lover's di-

On the way to the solar pit, Hopkins pointed out the oak under which his camellias sit during temperate weather. "I put them out in late April and take them in in October," he said.

The pit is a bright and functional space, with workmanlike benches on two sides. Part of the bench space was given over to azaleas, and beneath the benches, pots of bulbs for forcing were making roots in the cool, dark place we are always instructed to start our bulbs in, but which few of us possess. Apart from the azaleas and the bulbs, all was camellias.

"There are three ways to propagate camellias," said Hopkins, "and I've tried them all. Most of my plants are grafts on Sasanqua stock. Cuttings are easy, using half-ripened wood taken in June or July. Almost nobody raises camellias from seed, but I have some seedlings here, you see," said Hopkins, uprooting a small specimen. "That may amount to something, if we should live so long."

"Jim," I said, "I envy you. I have always wanted to grow camellias, but I don't have a greenhouse or a solar pit. I've looked at books on camellias, and nowhere do I find the least suggestion that a person could grow a camellia in

the house."

"How's your house?" he asked.

"Arctic," I said. "In the living room, where we hardly ever live this time of year, the temperature by the big window ranges from the low fifties to the mid sixties. We have a humidifier, and the humidity is always about fifty percent. We get maybe three hours of sun a day, in early afternoon. Ferns do well, a Ficus benjamina barely survives winter, and we have an enormous Clivia that does well enough, although it doesn't bloom until June, after it's been put outdoors."

"I'll give you a camellia," said Hopkins. "See what it does for you."

Rummaging around on one of the benches, Hopkins came up with a camellia in a six-inch plastic pot.

"It's pretty scraggly," he said.

"Thank you very much," I said. "This plant has six buds, but we'll pinch three of them off in the interests of the remaining three," said Hopkins.

"One hates to do it, but camellias japonica expecially - are apt to set more buds than they can mature properly."

"I'm delighted," I said.

"I got this plant last year. Picked it up at the bus station. Came from California. For some reason, it didn't bloom for me. Its name is "Wilbur Foss."

"I'll do my best," I said.

I took 'Wilbur Foss' home in a plastic bag to protect it from chill winds and set it on a table by the window. I misted it generously.

'Wilbur Foss' stood 19 inches tall and had three main branches, with 18 leaves, dark green and glossy, each

about two inches long.

Hopkins had lent me a copy of Camellia Nomenclature, edited by William E. Woodroof, the sixteenth revised edition, published in 1978 by the Southern California Camellia Society. It gives the vital statistics of species, hybrids, and varieties "now being generally grown by amateurs in the Western world and especially in the United States of America."

I looked up 'Wilbur Foss' in the section entitled "Hybrids With Other Than Reticulata Parentage." I found it under W ('Mrs. Nannette Smyre' is under M. 'Governor Lester Maddox' is under G.) This is what I learned:

WILBUR FOSS. Brilliant Pinkish Red. Large, full peony form. Vigorous, upright growth. E.-L. (Saluenensis × Japonica 'Beau Harp') (N.Z. 1971 — Jury.)

Large, I read, meant four to five inches. E.-L. meant Wilbur Foss could bloom from before January 1 to March or later, depending on conditions. Saluenensis is a camellia species, that I knew. The (N.Z. 1971 — Jury.) remained a mystery.

On January 13 I wrote the Southern California Camellia Society to ask for

more details.

On January 30 I received a reply, from Milton L. Schmidt, the society's "foreign representative." He said that the flower had been named for Wilbur Foss, twice President of the Southern California Camellia Society. The cultivar was developed by Les Jury, in New Zealand in 1971.

I misted 'Wilbur Foss' lavishly and tried hard not to overwater it. Wilbur had lost two leaves, but I chose not to

worry about them.

Jim Hopkins called me up one day to say that there was going to be a meeting of the New England Camellia Society, in anticipation of the 151st annual camellia show in late February, and would I like to come? I said of course, and on a frosty Sunday afternoon I joined a company of keen amateurs in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Groden.

While the annual camellia show sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society is the oldest in the country, the New England Camellia

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Society is a fledgling organization, conceived four or five years ago at the suggestion of the Horticultural Society, which wanted a group of enthusiasts to run the camellia show. While one needn't be a member of either society to exhibit in the show, the New England Camellia Society runs it. The 1981 show will be the fourth under its management.

For the instruction of beginners in the group, Walter Wheeler, President of the New England Society gave a short course on how to exhibit camellias. How to fill out an entry blank (with pencil, not ink, since ink runs when blossoms are misted). How to hide a beat-up petal or two (under one of the leaves on which the blossom will be sitting). On the matter of exhibiting camellia blossoms on beds of leaves, Wheeler sounded a strong regional note: "Camellia shows down South are obnoxious. Nothing but whole rows of blossoms in naked Dixie Cups. Nothing stands out. Our shows are small, but the blossoms look beautiful with the leaves."

The 151st annual camellia show would last two days, and it was the responsibility of the people sitting in the Grodens' living room that day to see that the show went well. Two members would be present at all times in the exhibition room at Horticultural Hall to maintain order. Others would conduct informal seminars in the lobby.

Milling around afterward, I met Mary Gunther. I liked her at once. A kindergarten teacher. Very smiley. I told her about my love affair with 'Wilbur Foss.' She was encouraging.

Mary Gunther grows a few camellias in an apartment. She keeps them by a window where they have a constant temperature of 65 degrees, with a little sun in the morning. She doesn't have a humidifier, but she mists them daily and has saucers of water standing around evaporating. In defiance of the conventional wisdom, she told me that real cold was not necessary for success with camellias. Constancy, in the temperature department, is what's

wanted.

Gunther was encouraging, but she also gave me pause. "Gardeners," she said, "always try to grow things they're told they can't."

After the meeting of the Camellia Society, I was eager to own more camellias. I wanted 'Lauren Bacall,' 'Lily Langry,' and 'Lily Pons,' 'Pansy McIntyre,' and the 'Empress of India.' I would even have risked 'Scarlett O'Hara.' I drove to a nearby garden center and came home with 'Mrs. Charles Cobb.' She promised to be a dark red, semidouble *japonica*. She had nine buds.

I thought often of camellias. my emotional investment in Wilbur, and now Mrs. Cobb, was heavy. I worried about Mary Gunther's cautionary note, that gardeners inevitably attempt the impossible. It reminded me of Charles Dudley Warner's grim formulation in the middle of the nineteenth century:

"The principal value of a private garden is not always understood. It is not to give the possessor vegetables and fruit (that can be better and cheaper done by the market-gardeners) but to teach patience and philosophy, and the higher virtues, hope deferred, and expectations blighted, leading directly to resignation, and sometimes to alienation. The garden thus becomes a moral agent, a test of character, if it is not a productive one."

'Wilbur Foss' had dropped three more leaves. But one bud was swelling, and I was hopeful.

At nine in the morning of February 23, Hopkins swung by my house in his yellow Fiesta, and I climbed in. Besides Hopkins and me, the car was occupied by camellias — three plants in bloom and seven big boxes packed with blossoms.

"You bring a lot in case any of the classes is thin," said Hopkins. "There are seventy-six classes. Thirty-four of them are for single blossoms — an anemone red, a semidouble blush pink, a rose form double variegated, that sort of thing. Then there are an-

other thirty-four classes, same description but for three matched blooms. There are four classes for individual plants in bloom — under three feet, over three feet, hanging, and bonsai. And four classes for big displays. It costs nothing to exhibit, but you get cash for first and second prize in each class. First prize for a single is \$2, I think, and \$3 for triples.

Events unfolded as Hopkins had predicted. We got his stuff into the hall, grabbed half a jillion saucers, and went to work. I have no other experience of camellia shows, but as an event involving more than six people, I would rate this one medium-to-low on the confusion scale and high in its camaraderie.

I insinuated myself into the vicinity of the judges to listen in on their deliberations, which had mostly to do with symmetry, size, and freshness. I have had no other experience of camellia judges, but these were super on the conscientousness scale.

Friendly, too. After a while, the judges began asking me my opinion of various entries. I felt like telling them about my love affair with 'Wilbur Foss,' but I refrained.

The judging over, the doors were opened and in came the public, numerously. As the show-goers entered the room, they smiled, a pleasant sight in February. Some took notes, and many had cameras. They took pictures of blossoms. A Japanese family took pictures of family members in front of blossoms.

Hopkins was smiling, too. He had won six blue ribbons, five reds, and one cultural certificate ("whatever that is," he said).

On February 25 I wrote Milton Schmidt, of the Southern California Camellia Society, to ask what he knew about Mrs. Charles Cobb.

On the 2nd of March 'Wilbur Foss' bloomed. The flower was small — not the four to five inches recorded in *Camellia Nomenclature*, let alone the seven inches mentioned in Schmidt's letter about the Fosses and Les Jury. But it was a beautiful blossom, and I cher-

ished it.

On March 7 I received this from Schmidt:

"I regret to have to inform you that I am unable to learn anything here about Mrs. Charles Cobb. The camellia named after her was introduced in the U.S.A. in the early 1900s by the Magnolia Gardens in Charleston, South Carolina . . . Perhaps if you wrote to them they might have some information about Mrs. Cobb. Incidentally, the camellia also has been called 'Nellie Gray.'"

I decided not to write the Magnolia Gardens. Compulsiveness can ruin any relationship. About 'Mrs. Charles Cobb,' a.k.a. 'Nellie Gray,' I resolved to be laid back.

At this writing (early October), the lady of mystery has 52 leaves and 17 flower buds and is about 12 inches high. This, my second camellia, flowered nicely last winter, dropping only three buds unopened. I put it out into the garden in late April and am about to bring it back inside, for six months on the table by the big window.

On March 12 'Wilbur Foss' bloomed again. A friend photographed this second blossom for me.

On March 19 Wilbur's third bud fell off, unaccountably, and rolled to the floor, where it was seized by a Scottish terrier.

'Wilbur Foss' lost all its leaves and died. On April 11 I put it out with the trash, saving the pot.

That's the thing about love affairs. Once in a while they break your heart.

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Runner-up Best White Bloom

of the show Runner-up

Best 'Kramer's Supreme' Best 'Jean Pursel'

Best Miniature Runner-up

Best Small Runner-up

Best Medium Runner-up

Best Large Runner-up Best Very Large Runner-up

Best Three Miniatures

Runner-up Best Three Small Runner-up

Best Three Medium Runner-up

Best Three Large Runner-up Best Three Very Large

Runner-up Best Five Japonicas

Runner-up

Best tray of four different Japonicas Best Medium Large Retic

Runner-up Best Large Retic Runner-up Best Three Retics Runner-up Best Five Retics Runner-up

Best Non-retic Runner-up Best Three Non-retics

Runner-up Best Collection of nine blooms

Best Seedling

Best Small to medium Japonica Runner-up

Best Large Japonica Runner-up

Best Retic Runner-up

Best Non-retic Runner-up

Number of blooms benched

Attendance

'Cornelian'

'Elegans Champagne' Feathery Touch

'Fawn' 'Papoose' 'Ava Maria' 'Allison Leigh Woodroof' 'Feathery Touch' 'Wildfire'

'Elegans Champagne' 'Carter's Sunburst Var.' 'Miss Charleston Var.'

'Charlie Bettes' 'Man Size' 'Spring Festival' 'Ellen Daniel' 'Pink Perfection'

'Mrs. R.L. Wheeler' 'Pearl Maxwell' 'Rasberry Ice' 'In The Red'

'Grand Slam' 'Lady In Red' 'Elegans Champagne' 'Gwenneth Morey'

'Pharaoh' 'Arbutus Gum' 'Cornelian' 'Dr. Clifford Parks' 'Cornelian' 'Harold Paige 'Moutancha'

> 'Mouchang' Elsie Jury 'South Seas'

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'Elegans Splendor'
'Chows Han Ling'
'Betty Sheffield Supreme'
'Nuccio's Gem'
Francis Council
'Allison Woodroof'
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Sacramento, Cal	itornia — March	7 & 8, 1981
Outstanding Flower	'Carter's Sunburst	
of the Show	Pink Var.	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best Very Large		0
	arter's Sunburst Pink V.'	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Runner-up	'Silver Cloud'	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best Large Japonica	Silver Group	man de maner amont a contrer song
(4½" to 5½")	'Nuccio's Jewel'	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Runner-up	'Carter's Sunburst V.'	Mr. & Mrs.
Rumer up	Carter's Santourst V.	Donald Lesmeister
Best Medium Japonica		Donald Lesmeister
(3½" to 4½")	'Nuccio's Pearl'	Mrs. William Breuner
Runner-up	'Pierette'	Mrs. Jack D. Hansen
	Гиетене	wirs. Jack D. Hansen
Best Small Japonica	'Grace Albritton'	Minimin Dankin
(2½" to 3½")		Virginia Rankin
Runner-up	'Johnny's Folly'	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Best Miniature Japonica	(D. (C. '1)	34 034 D 111
(up to 2½")	'Frances Council'	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Runner-up	'Kitty'	Steve & Nancy Campbell
Best 3 Very Large		
Japonicas (over 5½")	'Elegans Champagne'	Mr. & Mrs.
÷		Elmer Achterberg
Best 3 Large		
Japonicas (4½" to 5½")	'Grand Slam'	Mr. & Mrs. James M. Randall
Best 3 Medium		
Japonicas (3½" to 4½")	'Jean Clere'	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Best 3 Small		
Japonicas $(2\frac{1}{2}$ " to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ")	'Purity'	Richard Fesler
Best 3 Miniature	·	
Japonicas (up to 2½")	'Spring Festival'	Mr. & Mrs.
,		Anthony Pinheiro
Best 5 Japonicas		,
(over 4½")	'Elegans Splendor'	Jack Lewis
Best 5 Japonicas	g1	3
(under 4½")	'In the Red'	The Harlan Smith Family
Best 11 Japonicas	'Elegans Supreme'	The Harlan Smith Family
Best Reticulata	Dieguno Supreme	The Harlan Simur Lammy
Hybrid (over 6")	'Cornelian'	Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Achterberg
Runner-up	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Mr. & Mrs.
Kumer-up	Di. Cuyota Larks	Elmer Achterberg
Best Reticulata		Einer Achterberg
	(Do. Louis Dellion)	The Harlan Smith Family
Hybrid (under 6")	'Dr. Louis Pollizzi'	The Harlan Smith Family
Runner-up	'Canadian Capers'	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Thorp
Best 3 Reticulata	(D. CUM I.D. I.)	36.036
Hybrids	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	Mr. & Mrs.
		Donald Lesmeister
Best 5 Reticulata		
Hybrids	'Cornelian'	Mr. & Mrs. K. Neller
Best Non-Reticulata		
Hybrid	'Sylvia May Wells'	Mr. & Mrs.
		Donald Lesmeister
Runner-up	'South Seas'	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Lesmeister
Best 3 Non-Reticulata		
Hybrids	'Sylvia May Wells'	Mr. & Mrs.
•	- •	Donald Lesmeister
Best Collection of 9 Different Japonicas		Mrs. William Breuner
Best Seedling		Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Morton
		•

1981 CAMELLIA SHOW RESULTS — FRESNO

March 8, 1981

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE — ART GONOS FAMILY

INVITATE OF EMPLOYER	miles mes donos	
JAPONICAS:	•	•
Best Large to Very Large	'Elegans Supreme'	M/M Harlan Smith
Runner-up	'Grand Slam'	M/M Jack Woo
Best Medium	'Nuccio's Pearl'	M/M Ron Kellogg
Runner-up	'Silver Chalice'	Bill Harris Family
Best Small	'Ave Maria'	Wilbur & Mary Anne Ray
Runner-up	'Tom Thumb'	Al & Lois Taylor
Best Miniature	'Tammia'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Man Size'	M/M Don Bergamini
HYBRIDS:		Ş
Best Over 5"	'Kohinor'	M/M Don Bergamini
Runner-up	'Lila Naff'	M/M Jack Woo
Best Under 5"	'Black Lace'	M/M Pete Grosso
Runner-up	'South Seas'	Bill Harris Family
MULTIPLES:		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Best 3 Large	'Elegans Champagne'	M/M Pete Grosso
Runner-up	'Mathotiana'	Art Gonos Family
Best 3 Medium	'Magnoliaeflora'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Midnight'	Art Gonos Family
Best 3 Smalls	'Hishi-Karaito'	Art Gonos Family
Best 3 Miniatures	'Man Size'	Al & Lois Taylor
Best 3 Hybrids over 5"	'Mary Stringfellow'	Dr. & Mrs. Fred Heitman
Runner-up	'Diamond Head'	Bob & Betty Kellas
Best 3 Hybrids under 5"	'Coral Delight Var.'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Coral Delight'	Bill Harris Family
Best 9 Different		Art Gonos Family
Best Chemically		•
Treated Japonica	'Laura Walker'	Art Gonos Family
Best Chemically		•
Treated Hybrid	'Nuccio's Ruby'	Art Gonos Family
Best Japonica Seedling	'Pink Flower'	Betty Frost
Best 5 Japonicas	'Wildfire'	Bill Harris Family
Best 3 Different	'Hishi-Karaito,' 'Magnoliaeflora',	,
	& 'Elegans Supreme'	Art Gonos Family
Best Non-Member	'Guilio Nuccio Var.'	Eleanor & Robert
		Reynolds
McKellar Memorial Award		Mr. & Mrs. Karn Anooshian
JUNIORS:		
Best Japonica	'Guilio Nuccio Var.'	Kirk Smith
Best Camellia Other	2	
Than Japonica	'Angel Wings'	Demitri Gonos
Jupomou	(3.6 0)	Domai Conos

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

'Man Size'

36th Annual Camellia Show March 14th and 15th, 1981 The Willows, Concord, California

Sweepstakes Runner-up Novice Sweepstakes Award of Excellence

Best Boutonniere

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Ehrhardt Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini Mrs. Wm. R. Breuner The Art Gonos Family

Demitri Gonos

Challenge Award
Best Large Japonica
Runner-up
Best Medium Japonica
Runner-up
Best Three Large Japonicas
Best Three
Medium Japonicas
Best Five Japonicas
Best Foutonniere Miniature

Best Three
Boutonnieres
Best Five Boutonnieres
Best Reticulata Hybrid
Runner-up
Best Three
Reticulata Hybrids
Runner-up
Best Five
Reticulata Hybrids
Best Hybrids
Best Hybrid

Best Three Hybrids

Best Five Hybrids

Best Boutonniere Small

'Grand Prix'
'Reg Ragland, Var.'
'Veiled Beauty'
'Erin Farmer'
'Coronation'

'Ella Ward Parsons' 'Grand Prix' 'Wilamina' 'Lady Hume's Blush'

'Pink Perfection'

'Man Size' 'Dr. Clifford Parks' 'Kohinor'

'Howard Asper' 'Francie L'

'Valley Knudsen' 'Elsie Jury' 'Elsie Jury' 'Debbie' Jack Oseguda Mr. and Mrs. James Randall The Art Gonos Family Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Smith Mrs. Wm. R. Breuner Albert A. Ferreira

Marie and John Balzarini
The Art Gonos Family
Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Passinetti
Dr. and Mrs.
Fred E. Heitman
Mr. & Mrs.
Geo. M. Cunningham, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini
Larry and Nancy Pitts
Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini

Mr. and Mrs. Don Bergamini The Art Gonos Family

Mr. and Mrs. James Randall Dr. and Mrs. Hugh H. Wang Jim and June Grant Joan Balzarini

TROPHY WINNERS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

Best Fragrant Seedling
Best Large Seedling
Best Twelve Different Blooms
Best Jean Pursel Hybrid
Best Harold Page Hybrid
Best White
Best Boutonniere Seedling
Best New Small
to Medium Variety
Best New Large
Reticulata Hybrid
Youth Class Japonica
Youth Class Other

Than Japonica

Dr. J. Holtzman
Alton Parker
The Art Gonos Family
Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Bernhardt
Tom and Lu Polos
The Art Gonos Family
Steve and Nancy Campbell

'Pink Dahlia'

'Snowman'

Jack Woo

'Curtain Call' Mr. & Mrs. Geo. M. Cunningham, Jr. 'Elegans Supreme' Kirk Smith

'Lasca Beauty'

Kirk Smith

Don Bergamini

Robert, Ehrhardt

SHOW RESULTS MODESTO CAMELLIA CAVALCADE

March 21 - 22, 1981

Sweepstakes
Runner-up
Best Japonica
(Large or Very Large)
Runner-up
Best Japonica (Medium)
Runner-up
Best Small Bloom
Runner-up
Best Three Japonicas
(Large or Very Large)

'Helen Bower 'Grand Prix' 'Nuccio's Gem' 'In the Pink' 'Maroon & Gold' 'Black Tie' Harlan Smith Family Art Gonos Family Art Gonos Family Harlan Smith Family Mr. & Mrs. Vervalle Harlan Smith Family

'Grand Prix'

Art Gonos Family

		* *
Best Three Japonicas		· ·
(Medium)	'Nuccio's Gem'	Art Gonos Family
Best Three Small Blooms	'Black Tie'	Art Gonos Family
Best Five Japonicas		.*
(Large or Very Large)	'Elegans Supreme'	Harlan Smith Family
Best Five Japonicas		
(Medium)	'In the Pink'	Harlan Smith Family
Best Five Small Blooms	'Black Tie'	Wilbur & MaryAnn Ray
Best Retic. or Retic Hybrid	'Overture'	Mr. & Mrs. E. Achterberg
Runner-up	'Pharoah'	Mr. & Mrs. D. Lesmeister
Best Three Retics.		
or Retic. Hybrids	'Lasca Beauty'	Art Gonos Family
Best Hybrid Non-Retic.	'Angel Wings'	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Kellogg
Best Three Hybrids		, [*] e
Non-Retic.	'Elsie Jury'	Mr. & Mrs. E. Achterberg
Best Miniature	'Tammia'	Art Gonos Family
Runner-up	'Frances Council'	Mr. & Mrs. E. Achterberg
Best Three Miniatures	'Spring Festival'	Wilbur & MaryAnn Ray
Best Five Miniatures	'Man Size'	Virginia Rankin
Best Seedling (Medium or Large)		John & Sonia Movich
Best Seedling (Miniature or Small)		Harlan Smith Family
Best Fragrant Bloom	'Kramer Supreme'	Art Gonos Family
Best Higo Bloom	'Kumagai Nagoya'	Wilbur & MaryAnn Ray
Best White Japonica	'Snowman'	Art Gonos Family
Best Collection 12 Different Blooms		Art Gonos Family
Best Japonica		, i
(Society Members)	'Betty Sheffield Var.'	Dr. Jake Holtzman
Runner-up	'Grand Prix'	Harlan Smith Family
Award of Excellence		Art Gonos Family
YOUTH DIVISION	•	
Best Japonica	'In the Pink'	Kirk Smith
Best Retic.	'Miss Tulare'	Lisa Morrison
Best Hybrid	'Charlene'	Kirk Smith
Best Miniature	'Bon-Bon'	Joellen Bergamini

THE NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND CAMELLIAS

by BILL DONNAN

The Southern California Camellia Society has inaugurated a concerted drive to develop an Endowment Fund for the publication of future editions of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. To this end, various fund raising programs are in the works including raffles, garage sales, direct mail appeals, etc. One of the latest ideas being launched revolves around the sale of new camellia cultivars.

Many of you readers have followed the articles of Meyer Piet in the CA-MELLIA REVIEW. Some of the more recent were: "Hybridizing Progress" - Vol. 40, No. 1, pg. 20; "Hybridizing For Yellow" - Vol. 40, No. 6, pg. 3; "Fooling Around With

The Girls" - Vol. 41, No. 5, pg. 1; "Creation Of The Bionic Camellia" -Vol 42, No. 1, pg. 3; and "The First Ten Years" - Vol. 42, No. 5, pg. 3. You must realize that the team of Meyer Piet, Lee Gaeta, and Mel Gum have produced some very fine camellia cultivars. Three of these, namely 'Hody Wilson,' 'Arcadia,' and 'Emma Gaeta' have been released by Nuccio's Nurseries. There are perhaps 20 or 30 other cultivars which hold considerable promise. Some of these have been tested for from 4 to 10 years. Three of them are being propagated by other nurseries in Southern California. The point is that there are quite a few of these cultivars which could and should be offered to the general public. Following is a brief description of 6 cultivars which have been under close observation and are worthy of consideration.

- (1) Chance Japonica seedling. The bloom is a 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch miniature, creamy white formal double, with spiral, pointed petals. The bloom has a faint blush cast. This cultivar has been under observation since 1976.
- (2) Chance "hybrid" seedling caught by Lee Gaeta in 1975. The bloom is a miniature "Drama Girl" being 1½ to 2 inches in diameter. It is a deep salmon pink semi-double and the plant has a hybrid type leaf.
- (3) Controlled cross of 'Crimson Robe' × 'Applause.' The bloom is a 6 inch rich pink, semi-double with wavy petals. This cultivar first bloomed in 1975. It gibs well with blooms to 7½ inches.
- (4) Controlled cross of 'Crimson Robe' × 'Nuccio's Ruby.' The bloom is a dark red semi-double with 5½ inch flowers. The plant is excellent. This is a "g-7" cross (7 seeds germinated and bloomed and this was about the best). It bloomed in 1975.
- (5) Controlled cross of 'Cornealian' × 'Arcadia.' The bloom is a beautiful 6 inch, pink semi-double, which first bloomed in 1979. This looks to be a rival of 'K.O. Hester.' This cross was the best of 10 identical crosses. One other cross has been retained for further testing.
- (6) Controlled cross of 'Three Dreams' × ('Crimson Robe × 'Kramer's Supreme'). The resulting flower is a 4½ inch bright dark red with a rosebud center on a semi-double configuration. This cultivar was deemed best of four identical crosses. The others have been discarded.

As has been stated, the purpose of offering these cultivars is to raise money for the Nomenclature Endowment Fund. The procedure for release of these cultivars is about as follows: If any camellia hobbyist, hybridizer, or corporation would be interested in making a substantial, tax deductible,

donation to the Endowment Fund, the Southern California Camellia Society, through the aid of Meyer Piet and his group will make available 6 cultivars of the given plant chosen. It is stipulated that the cultivar must be named prior to its release. The name is to be chosen by the donor acquiring it. At the same time it is stipulated that the Southern California Camellia Society will be allowed to graft approximately 100 scions of the cultivar which will be sold as an additional source of money for the Endowment Fund. The reason for listing six cultivars is to give interested individuals a choice. Perhaps only 2 or 3 cultivars will be released in this manner in any one year since it would require a considerable effort in grafting 200 or 300 scions for future sale.

If any nursery should be interested in any of these cultivars, arrangements could be worked out to effect an accommodation. A nursery transaction would involve a donation to the Endowment Fund and the release of 6 grafted plants of the cultivar chosen and then the nursery would propagate the cultivar for further release.

Color photos of these six cultivars could be furnished to interested individuals and/or color slides of these cultivars are available. Anyone interested in investigating this proposal further should contact the Editor of CAMELLIA REVIEW - William W. Donnan, 700 South Lake #120, Pasadena, Calif. 91106

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY BOARD ELECTED

At the regular March Meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society the following members of the Board of Directors were confirmed by voice vote: To serve out the second year of a two year term: Warren Dickson; Lee Gaeta; and Marion Schmidt. To serve a two year term: Sergio Bracci; Dave Wood; Rudy Moore; Meyer Piet; and

Caryll Pitkin. To serve a one year term: Berkeley Pace: and Bernice Gunn. The new and old Board Members held a meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Mever Piet on March 30th and the following officers were elected for the 1981-82 year. President - Lee Gaeta; Vice-president - Dave Wood; Secretary-Treasurer - Mazie Jean George; Over-seas Membership Representative - Milt Schmidt. After the election of officers, the following assignments were made: Program Chairman - Warren Dickson; Bloom Judging - Sergio Bracci; Meeting Badges - Marion Schmidt; Raffle Ticket Sales - Berkeley Pace and Milt Schmidt: Refreshments - Alma Wood & Emma Gaeta; Plant Procurement -Rudy Moore; Bloom Placement -Chuck Gerlach: Intermission Demonstrations - Meyer Piet; Inter-Society News - Caryll Pitkin; Publicity - Bill Donnan; Seed Sales - Caryll Pitkin; 1982 Huntington Show - Warren Dickson and Sergio Bracci; Awards Picnic - Bernice Gunn.

The Board set the date of May 30th for the Annual Garage Sale which will be held at the home of Sergio Bracci.

The June Awards Picnic has been scheduled for Saturday night June 13th at the Hospitality House, Descanso Gardens. The Board also formalized its plan to create an Endowment Fund to help finance the publication of future editions of CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE. To this end, a Finance committee consisting of: Caryll Pitkin; Bill Donnan; Meyer Piet; Sergio Bracci; and Ted Mitchell has been appointed. (Please read an article in this issue on the preliminary plans proposed by this Committee.)

The raffle for the oil painting of the camellia flower 'Curtain Call' and other prizes was held at the April meeting of the Southern California Camellia Society. The raffle earned \$704 and these funds have been placed in the Camellia Nomenclature Endowment Fund. At the drawing Alma Wood of Glendale won the oil painting. Diane

Peterson, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mowrey of San Diego won the \$100 cash. Other prizes went to: Virginia Rankin of Modesto; Julius Christensen of Riverside; Meme Bracci of San Gabriel; Haig Ashuckian of Lafayette; and Mrs. Crissisi of El Cajon.

Tiffany-style Lampshade

RASMAS Stained Glass of Nahant, Massachusetts has fashioned a Tiffany-style stained glass lampshade depicting a band of ten camellia blossoms enveloping a 22" diameter. The shade contains in excess of 800 individual pieces of glass, and each intricate floral design was drawn from research done at the Massachusetts Horticulture Society. A three-light brass cluster provides appropriate distribution of light upon illumination. This piece displays the finest in materials selection and craftsmanship available. For additional information write: RASMAS, 7 Burpee Rd., Nahant, MA 01908 or call 617-581-0301.

— Ed.

"THE PARTY'S OVER" . . .

by Leland and Arlene Chow

"The Party's Over" is one of the good old favorite Broadway tunes which comes to my mind when all the Camellia Shows are over. It's this time of unhurried, unpressured relaxation that gives me a chance to jot down some thoughts. We all have our routines after the Shows. May I suggest some of mine to you.

The first thing is to scrub out all the stains from our thumb and index fingers. You know that those digits have been accumulating stains from months of rubbing and polishing leaves of your prize display blooms!

Next comes the regular yearly chores which need to be done. Dispose of trash, especially blighted flowers and withered leaves from your bloom boxes and containers. Dry out all paper excelsior or any shredded materials

you have been using for blooms. Store away your boxes and containers, but before you put them on a shelf for another year, do check each one carefully. A cracked plastic box can cheat you of the needed moisture. Those plastics can get pretty brittle in our heat; so repair or just replace them. If not, it could break in sharp pieces and injure your hand, your fingers or even your eye.

Replace any wooden or plastic clothes pins. It is most annoying to pin back a winner and find out that the spring of the clothes pin is broken or that the wood or plastic has deteriorated. Now is the time to take a trip to the

store to replenish or replace.

When items are stored and before final pruning, issue an invitation for a Camellia Open House at your garden. Throughout the show season your friends and neighbors want to breathe down your neck to view those beauties. So now is the time to let them be satisfied. You don't mind them innocently pawing and pulling out blossoms for a better look. Some new neighbor always wants to smell a camellia. Give their nose a treat. We usually schedule our Camellia Open House on a Sunday afternoon. We serve refreshments and Camellia chitchat. It's such a good way to meet a new neighbor and a great way to say hello to long-time friends.

After Show season, we are all so generous with our blooms. Since weather in this San Joaquin Valley has fluctuated, I still have some really gorgeous winners. I take many of them to my office. My patients really appreciate taking one home. They even pay their bill with a smile while carrying a camellia in their hand!

We all need to think of next Show season. As you all know, we prune the small plants lightly and prune the large plants severely. Of course, fertilizing, watering and spraying insecticides is always part of the routine. This is perhaps a good time to re-evaluate the placement of certain container-grown plants. Maybe moving it to another spot might catch more sun or it might be more advantageous to a particular

Any last minute grafting should be done when the pressure is off. This is an opportune moment to experiment with certain scions. At this time you may want to carefully scrutinize the grafts you have done. Each camellia nut has developed routines that fit into his life style.

In closing, another Broadway song comes to my mind - "There's No Business like Show Business"... Camellia Show, that is!

BUYING PLANTS AT MARWOOD HILL

by Arthur Hellyer

ED. NOTE: Reprinted from THE GAR-DEN, Journal of The Royal Horticultural Society, Vol. 105 — Part 10, October, 1980. Marwood Hill is the garden-nursery of Dr. J. A. Smart, British camellia hobbyist, whom many of you know.

Dr. J. A. Smart does not regard himself as a nurseryman in any sense of the word and quite indignantly denies the suggestion that he runs a nursery. Yet he rates a mention in Green Pages, the guide to the nurseries and garden centres of the British Isles.* 'Garden with selected rare and unusual plants," runs the entry, "open to the public daily; nursery specialising in camellias and unusual shrubs and plants. Australian plants, good selection of eucalyptus. American and New Zealand camellias. Plants container grown. Visit recommended all the year round."

The paradox is explained in the first words I have quoted, for this is a private garden and one of the most interesting and well maintained of the younger gardens in the south-west. It is a mile or so north-west of Barnstaple, at Marwood, and the house is known as Marwood Hill.

Dr. Smart has lived at Marwood for a long time but for many years concentrated his energies on a large walled garden belonging to an old house adjacent to the church. Then, in the 1960s, he built himself a new house a short distance away with a fine view over the valley below the church and from that moment gardening became a major occupation. A small brook was dammed to make several lakes and a wider, cascading stream and the vallev sides were well stocked with an extensive collection of woody and herbaceous plants. A quarry was brought into the scheme and is now full of ramondas and other plants that like shade combined with good drainage and lewisias thrive on what is locally known as a dry ditch but most gardeners would call a dry wall. Ornamental ducks of many kinds have been introduced to the lakes and the streamside is quite densely planted with moisture-loving plants.

Meanwhile the old walled garden, which abuts this new garden, has been retained and is now almost completely filled with greenhouses, one large house for camellias, another for Australian plants and various smaller houses and shelters for miscellaneous

plants and propagation.

By some miracle of hard work, good organization and intelligent use of modern chemical and mechanical aids Dr. Smart has always succeeded in making and maintaining this garden with only one gardener and his own labour. Even so, mounting costs made him seek, as so many owners do nowadays, some method of offsetting part of the cost. He began by opening the garden every day of the year but this was not in itself enough so a few years ago he started to propagate and sell his own plants. It has worked for him far better than I have seen it work in any comparable garden.

He does not buy in anything nor does he entrust propagation to anyone but himself and his gardener. He has installed two very professional-looking mist benches in one of the houses and is quite prepared to tackle grafting under glass if that is necessary for some of the more difficult plants. His potting shed is spacious, well equipped, ade-

quately heated for use in the coldest weather and as meticulously ordered as everything else in the garden. The plant labels, already printed (a winter evening job), hang on pegs in rows ready to hand. All pots and potting materials are under cover and between them Dr. Smart and his gardener produce an impressive number of plants in their "spare" time.

The method of selling is even more original. Superficially it looks much like any small, well-organized garden centre with the containers plunged in sand in neat display frames, but then one notices that it is all completely unmanned. There is no one there, unless, by chance, Dr. Smart or the gardener happen to be around, to collect any money let alone tell customers any-

thing about the plants.

Necessary information is all given on clearly written notices behind each batch of plants. These give the name of the plant, explain briefly what it will do in the garden and what conditions it requires. Each plant carries a price tag and there is a box into which to drop money. It is enough to make a policeman in my part of the world go mad but Dr. Smart is quite sure that he loses very little — certainly not enough to make it worth his while to pay anyone to mind the plants and collect the money. My own theory is that the plants are so good, the prices so reasonable and the surroundings so beautiful that one would need to be a very bad character indeed to be prepared to steal. Moreover, despite the frequent stories one hears of plants or cuttings being taken from gardens, I believe a good deal of it is due to sheer frustration. Enthusiasts see something they covet, have no means of obtaining it by legal means and so persuade themselves that a few shoots pulled off or a small plant dug up can do the garden owner little harm. Years ago I was told by the head gardener of one of Britain's most famous gardens that stealing dropped dramatically directly after they opened a selling centre.

There is, of course, absolutely no

mail order trade from Marwood Hill and no catalogue of any kind is issued. However, Dr. Smart is prepared to propagate plants for special orders and I gather he gets quite a number of requests for these.

As for what is available it is summarized very reasonably in the extract I have quoted from Green Pages. There is a considerable emphasis on camellias which is not surprising since the camellia house is stocked with many of the best varieties and Dr. Smart is a regular and successful exhibitor in the Royal Horticultural Society's camellia competitions. There are some rhododendrons, including a good stock of "Countess of Haddington' which appears to grow especially well in this garden. There are also a good many Australian plants and this is perhaps of even greater interest to RHS members since camellias are easy to come by (though not at Marwill Hill prices) but Australian plants, with just a few notable exceptions, tend to be scarce. Dr. Smart spends three months each winter in Australia and so has ample opportunity to search out and collect good plants. His Australian greenhouse has the most comprehensive collection I have seen outside Kew or Tresco Abbey.

However, it does not stop there and the collection is constantly changing since Dr. Smart's customers tend to come back again and again and like to find something new. They also frequently bring him plants to propagate knowing that he is likely do so far better than they. When I was there in March he had by far the biggest stock of Microbiota decussata I have seen anywhere. For those who are unfamiliar with the plant, and they must be many for it has not been in cultivation long, it is a prostrate conifer which is usually described as looking like a juniper though I think it more closely resembles a cypress. It was discovered not so many years ago near Vladivostock and I first saw it in the Kiev Botanic Garden in 1973. It is completely hardy, distinctly attractive and makes excellent ground cover. It is probably the rarest of a considerable collection of dwarf conifers grown at Marwood Hill.

Another rare plant, possibly exclusive to Marwood Hill, is Ziera arborescens which, as I saw it in spring, is a small, slender-stemmed plant with sprays of small white flowers giving it somewhat the effect of Deutzia sutchuenensis. However, in Tasmania it is said to reach 15 feet (5 m) and to be tree-like in habit. Whether it has yet reached the Marwood Hill sales beds I do not know but if there is a demand for it I am sure it will soon be met. For that is the principle on which all the Marwood Hill selling is done — offer the public what it wants and be sure that the plants are of good quality and competitively priced.

CAMELLIAS SERVES AS AVENUE TO ADVENTURE FOR VI STONE

by Lynn Dias

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the March 6, 1981 issue of STATE TIMES, Baton Rouge, La.

Get Vi Stone talking camellias and you're likely to be at her home all day.

But it's a friendly capture, as she shares her knowledge of the plants while walking past literally hundreds of camellia bushes in her expansive yard on Oleander Street.

Vi Stone is a recognized authority on camellias, but you won't hear her say that. "I play... I don't get dead serious with this stuff," she says. Her words belie the fact that later this month, she will be the first woman ever to address the congress of the International Camellia Society, set to meet on the Isle of Jersey in the Channel Islands off the coast of France.

Mrs. Stone will present a paper on her work with Japanese camellias and the status of the varieties in the western world. The president of the international society asked her at the 1980 international conference in Japan to present the talk, but Mrs. Stone was more than just a little hesitant.

"I wrote and told him I was strictly a novice and didn't know all that scientific and technical language," like the botanists and horticulturists who usually present papers at such meetings. "But he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer," she says.

Her paper has been translated into three other languages in addition to the English version — French, Spanish and Italian — for the non-English speaking delegates to the congress. Some 300-400 persons from Belgium, France, Italy, England, Spain, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and the United States are expected to attend the international meet. A dozen Americans, including Mrs. Stone and her husband Henry, are making the trip.

The first leg of their journey is to Spain, where the international society will hold a board meeting in Santiago de Compostela, "the third holiest city in the world," Mrs. Stone says excitedly, adding that she and her husband will be staying in a 15th century hospital-turned-hotel. They will then travel to the city of Vigo for the Spanish Camellia Society's national show.

It is then on to London where the Stones will spend six days visiting friends made over the years. "Some we have not seen since World War II," she says, explaining that a number of Royal Air Force cadets who trained at a Texas air base during the war stayed at the Stones' home during their time in America.

From London, the couple will fly to the Channel Islands for the camellia society congress and a tour of the Island of Guernsey, and then it is on to New York for a visit with their daughter, a fashion designer for a children's clothing manufacturer. Back home, caretakers will look after the couple's home and yard, which includes an estimated 2,000 camellia bushes among tall pine trees.

Since the Stones retired in 1973 from their jewelry business, Mrs.

Stone has been able to devote more time to her camellias and is continuing her five-year effort to compile an alphabetical listing in English of all the Japanese varieties of camellias. This is no small task, considering there are thousands of Japanese varieties.

While she "has always loved camellias," Mrs. Stone first became interested in Japanese camellias some 10 years ago on a visit to Japan. Since then, she has traveled to Australia, New Zealand and China as well as all over America, gaining new friends along the way through the common bond of camellias. The Stone home is filled with gifts — many of them one-of-a-kind — given to them by acquaintances throughout the world.

And their international friends do not forget the Stones, with many of them staying as guests of the couple whenever they visit the United States. The Stone home often resembles Grand Central Station, with all the coming and going. But through it all Mrs. Stone is a gracious hostess, always taking the time for a cup of coffee and often sending boxes of blooms away with visitors.

Just about any visit to the Stone home is sure to include a tour through the grounds with Mrs. Stone pointing out the different varieties, sometimes looking at a metal tag she has carefully placed on every plant and graft listing the name of the flower and the date it was grafted or planted. Blooms weigh down the branches of the bushes similar to fruit on a tree.

The Stones have registered 10 varieties of camellias with the American Camellia Soceity, of which Mrs. Stone is a director-at-large for the Gulf Coast states. She is the first American woman ever elected as a director to the International Camellia Society.

In addition to the 10 already registered, the Stones hope to register five more varieties. Registration is a complicated and tedious process, including having to count the number of petals on a bloom — sometimes numbering more than 500 petals.

NUCCIO'S NURSERY'S TWENTY BEST SELLING CAMELLIAS

by Tom Nuccio

Ed. Note: This article is based on a talk given at the Pacific Camellia Society in December 1980. Your editor was fortunate enough to obtain this article in March 1981 — because Tom was unfortunate enough to have an appendix operation — and thus he had time to write it for me! Incidentally, this is the first article in a series we hope to publish about nursery favorites around the world.

When I was asked to talk at Pacific Camellia Society, the topic which was finally decided upon was "What Are the Twenty Best Selling Camellias and Why." But perhaps this should more correctly be entitled "What Are Our Twenty Best Selling Camellias and Why," because throughout the nursery trade best selling varieties will vary somewhat according to each particular nursery. Nurserymen, like anyone else, have their own favorite varieties and will propagate and sell them accordingly.

What makes a camellia a best seller? Basically, there are three main factors involved. The first and most important of these is the plant itself. What the average homeowner seeks when buying a camellia is a flowering shrub, the emphasis being on shrub. He wants a good looking plant twelve months a year. For this reason, no Reticulatas or Reticulata hybrids are on the top twenty list.

Second in importance for a best seller is durability. How strong a plant is, how easy it is to grow and maintain are important features. Camellias that are weak growers or that have other cultural problems will not be top sellers.

And thirdly, of course, is the flower itself. The size of our best selling Japonicas range basically from medium to large, and that the bloom must be attractive goes without saying. But probably the most important single factor is performance. If the variety has problems with opening, for example, or is of inconsistent quality, it won't be a best seller.

Here now is a list of our twenty best selling camellias followed by a brief description of each:

Yuletide Tiffany
Narumigata Ace O' Hearts
Setsugekka Betty Sheffield
Supreme
Shishi Gashira Glen 40
Showa Supreme
White Doves Grand Prix
Giulio Nuccio
Adolphe Audusson
Variegated Margaret Davis

Variegated Margaret Davis
Debutante Mrs. D. W. Davis
Kramer's Supreme Nuccio's Gem
Silver Waves Pink Frost

The Sasanquas I've listed first simply because they are among our very best selling camellias. Sasanqua sales during the past decade have increased tremendously. Landscapers have finally "discovered" them, it seems, and are using them much more on their jobs. The fact that Sasanquas are among the hardiest of camellias along with the fact that they can tolerate full sun contributes greatly to their desirability. Another plus for Sasanquas is the fact that their autumn flowering habit puts them in color when not much else is in bloom.

'Yuletide' I've placed at the top of the list simply because it is at the top. This variety is by far our top selling camellia. In fact, we propagate almost twice as many 'Yuletide' each year as we do any other variety. The reasons for 'Yuletide's' popularity are several, the most important of which is its wellgroomed, upright shrub. The bright orange red flowers peaking generally in December make this camellia a remarkable garden variety.

An interesting note I should mention here, not merely about 'Yuletide,' but about Sasanqua varieties in general, is the fact that Sasanquas are very

often purchased not as individual plants, but as a group for mass plantings. People generally only buy one plant of a particular Japonica variety, but they will buy several plants of a Sasanqua variety to create either a hedge effect or a ground cover effect. This fact alone accounts for why a number of our top selling Sasanquas are in fact our top selling camellias.

The next two varieties, 'Setsugekka' and 'Narumigata,' are mentioned together because of their similarities in growth and blooming habits. Both are extremely vigorous and upright growers easily reaching a height of 8 to 10 feet, and both have large blossoms. 'Setsugekka' is single to semi-double and is white; 'Narumigata' is a single white bordered rose. For some growers 'Hana Jiman' is the top selling bordered Sasanqua, but we prefer the somewhat fuller growth habit of 'Narumigata' coupled with the fact that 'Narumigata' sets seed rather heavily which we harvest and plant for future understock.

We sell a lot of 'Setsugekka' and 'Narumigata' because we always have a good supply of both. In fact, you could say we purposely "over-propagate" these two varieties. Being strong and upright, they make excellent understock, and if in a given year we end up with an unsold surplus, we will use them in our grafting program.

The following three varieties, "Shishi Gashira," 'Showa Supreme,' and 'White Doves,' are our best selling of the low growing Sasanquas. "Shishi Gashira,' a double rose red, is by far the best seller of the three because of its low, tight, and compact growth. 'Showa Supreme,' a beautiful double pink, barely outsells its parent, 'Showa-No-Sakae,' which is very similar in color. We like 'Showa Supreme' better because the growth is a bit more compact and because of its very heavy bud set. 'White Doves,' although it does have occasional difficulty opening some of its buds, is still our best low growing white and, hence, a top seller.

The first five Japonicas, 'Adolphe

Audusson Variegated,' 'Debutante,' 'Kramer's Supreme,' 'Silver Waves,' and 'Tiffany,' I am grouping together because they are what we call our "bread and butter" camellias. These are the varieties we generally sell when someone comes in and says, "I want a red, a pink, and a white." These are the varieties most used by landscapers on jobs when no particular varieties are specified. And here are the reasons. All five are strong, upright growers, easy to take care of, and all have nice large flowers. And the first four are much more sun-tolerant than many other Japonicas. These are, simply, just good reliable camellias. And these five give a full cross section of camellia color: two pinks ('Debutante' and 'Tiffany'), one red ('Kramer's Supreme'), one white ('Silver Waves'), and one variegated ('Adolphe Audusson Variegated').

Next on the list is 'Ace O' Hearts.' This variety is gradually taking the place of the old 'Covina.' Like 'Covina,' it will tolerate full sun if necessary, and like 'Covina,' it makes an excellent shrub. But 'Ace O' Hearts' flower is larger and is red, whereas 'Covina' is a small rose red.

The next variety, 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' violates two of the basic standards for a top seller. It is not particularly easy to grow; it is somewhat slow and subject to root rot. Secondly, it is temperamental in its blooming habits. Not only is there a tendency for the buds to bullhead and not open, but there is strong tendency for the plant to sport and give the owner everything but the white flower with the rose red border that he originally purchased. 'Betty Sheffield Supreme,' is nonetheless a top seller because it is so unique and beautiful. But because of its bad habits, we as growers feel that it is almost a shame that it is so pretty!

To date there is no perfect red formal; all do something that detract from the perfection that is sought in a formal camellia. But by far the most popular is still 'Glen 40.' Although a number of its flowers come rose form and al-

though it is a slow grower, it is nonetheless a strong plant and good performer, and hence, a top selling variety.

'Grand Prix' is our best selling red. Nice large semi-double flowers, early bloom, on a good growing, well-formed plant make this variety hard to beat.

'Giulio Nuccio,' a long time favorite coral rose red semi-double, owes its popularity to the fact that it grows and performs well anywhere.

'Margaret Davis' is gradually outselling 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' as our most popular picotee variety. It has a similar flower as 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' but has none of the growing or blooming problems of it.

'Mrs. D. W. Davis' is a strong grower, though somewhat open when young. Its soft blush pink, very large open blossom makes it a spectacular variety.

'Nuccio's Gem' has become since its introduction eleven years ago our best selling Japonica. Though perhaps a bit slower in growth than 'Alba Plena,' its flower is far larger and is of better quality. Also, the blossom of this formal white is longer lasting and does not tend to shatter like 'Alba Plena.'

And finally, 'Pink Frost' has proven to be one of our best selling formal pinks. The plant is nice and bushy, and it blooms quite early.

In compiling the above list of our twenty best sellers, I ended up on the first attempt with about thirty varieties! Varieties that may not be among the top twenty one year might well be included in a following year. So it should be remembered that such a list is a flexible one, and for this reason I would like to briefly mention some varieties that are "top contenders."

In Sasanquas, both 'Little Pearl' and 'Jean May' are good selling uprights, while 'Tanya,' 'Showa-No-Sakae,' and 'Bonanza' are among the best selling low growers.

In Japonicas, 'Mabel Bryan' is our best selling striped camellia followed by 'Carter's Sunburst.' 'Herme' is still a popular variegated camellia, but we feel 'Elizabeth Dowd Silver' will someday outsell it because of its similar but larger flower. 'Drama Girl,' with its spectacular very large rose red flower, is quite popular. We do look, however, for 'Katie,' which has a fuller flower, to outdo it in the future because of its full and upright shrub. ('Drama Girl' is a very open grower). 'Ragland Supreme' outsells 'Purity' as our best selling late formal to rose form white. 'Blood of China' is still one of our best late reds. 'Magnoliaeflora' and 'Mrs. Tingley' continue to be much used as reliable, profuse blooming garden varieties. And finally, the 'Chandleri' family with its many sports remains ever popular.

Currently no hybrid is among the top twenty best sellers. But the hybrids that are the most popular tend to be Saluenensis hybrids because of their massive bloom and fairly bushy plants. 'Coral Delight,' 'E.G. Waterhouse' and 'Freedom Bell' are good examples. Some of the best selling Reticulata hybrids are those that also have some of the best plants, such as 'K.O. Hester,' 'Miss Tulare' and 'Dr. Clifford Parks.' But by far one of our best selling hybrids is 'Betty Ridley' because, for all practical purposes, it looks like, grows like, and blooms like a Japonica. In the near future this variety could well be among our twenty best selling camellias.

Our best selling miniature is the unusual 'Tinsie.' Our best selling species? 'Luthuensis' is our most sought after species followed in popularity by 'Rosaeflora.'

Finally, I wish to conclude with something that is somewhat of a guessing game. I would like to finish off with the names of a few varieties that I expect to be in or near the twenty best selling camellias in the future.

'Nuccio's Pearl,' although new, is becoming ever more popular. This light blush pink formal toned deeper pink toward the edge has an exceptional bushy and upright growth habit. 'Tama-No-Ura,' although a mere small single, has a most unusual look. The red flower bordered white is an eye catcher. It grows well, is upright, and although perhaps somewhat willowy, makes a nice garden variety either free standing or on a trellis. 'Rosette' and 'Misty Moon' are two new Sasanguas of ours. The former is a double rose pink, semi-low growth habit and extremely profuse. The latter is, for a Sansanqua, a very large flower. It is a soft pink single to semidouble on a bushy, upright plant. Finally, two very promising varieties are 'Egao' and 'Shibori Egao.' Both of these Japanese varieties are Sasanquas or Vernalis, as the case may be. At any rate, their flowers are large and Japonica-like. The plants are very vigorous, upright, and spready, and are sun hardy. 'Egao' is a clear pink, similar to 'Donation,' and 'Shibori Egao' is the variegated pink and white version of it.

In summation, then, it can be said that any camellia that is to be among the best sellers must first of all be suitable to the landscape. Namely, a variety has what it takes to be a top seller when it is a "good flower on a good plant."

OLD FAVORITES

Ed. Note: We intend to run a series describing some of the old favorite camellia cultivars. There used to be a regular feature in CAROLINA CAMELLIAS magazine on this subject — contributed by Albert Fendig of Georgia. If any of you readers would like to describe your OLD FAVORITE we will include it in a future issue. Meanwhile we will reprint some of Fendig's descriptions.

'SODE-GAKUSHI'

Some of our most spectacular and unusual varieties were originated in Japan. One of these is SODE-GA-KUSHI (pronounced so-day-gah-kooshe) which was catalogued by the Yokohoma Nursery in 1905. Later the name LOTUS was applied to it by Collidge in 1928. It also has been catalogued under the names of SODE-GUTCHIE; GRANDIFLORA

ALBA; SODEKAKUSHI; SODE-GAKUSHI; GAUNTLETTI, and YOKOHAMA.

This cultivar has remained an "Old Favorite" because of its very large size and unusual shape of its bloom. The bud, itself, is spectacular and has been described as resembling the half-furled wings of a swan.

The flower is white, semi-double formation, and many specimens blooming outdoors (without gib treatment) have measured six inches in diameter. Its fifteen large petals when open form a cup-shaped lotus-like flower. Central stamens are numerous. If it were not for the fact that this bloom is quite susceptible to damage by sun and rain and cold it would be a very popular variety.

The foliage of SODE-GAKUSHI also is distinctive being long, narrow, heavily ribbed and thick. The plant tends to be bushy and not too vigorous

One of the important things about this cultivar is the quality of the seedlings which have been produced from it. Its list of outstanding offsprings include MRS. BERTHA A. HARMS, MASTERPIECE, BUD'S BOUQUET, SUN-UP, GUEST OF HONOR, FROSTY MORN GRAND FINALE, CORAL PINK, LOTUS, CORONATION, CHANSONETTE and EVELENA.

For all of these reasons it is believed SODE-GAKUSHI will continue to remain in the "Camellia Hall of Fame."

Charm: The ability to make someone think that both of you are quite wonderful.

When people get too old to set bad examples, they start giving advice.

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Even in the good old days kids went to extremes. Today they start from

Patience: The quality that is needed most just as it is exhausted.

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Directory of Other California Camellia Socieites

- *CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Leland Chow; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: To be announced.
- *CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Roy Zembower; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.
- CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, Ann McKee; Secretary, Mrs. Zella Mack, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.
- *CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bob Kellas; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.
- DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Jack Lewis, 3824 Beechwood Dr., Concord, Ca 94520. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, November through March, Central Contra Costa Sanitary Dist. Treatment Plant, (Imhoff Drive) Martinez.
- LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Warren Dickson; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.
- MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ron Kellogg; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Ragland, 709 Leytonstone Dr., Modesto, Ca 95355. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, David Hagmann; Secretary, Judith Toomajian, 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.
- PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Alice Neely; Secretary, Marge Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Central Bank of Glendale, 411 N. Central Ave., Glendale.
- PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Mandrich; Secretary, Robert Marcy, 1898 Kirkmont Dr., San Jose 95124. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway Redwood City.
- *POMONAVALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Julius Christinson; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.
- *SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Eugene Snooks; Secretary, Mildred Murray, 467 E. Fulvia St., Encinitas, 92024. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.
- SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 349 Condon Ct., Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Allstate Savings 1304 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.
- SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Woody Passinetti; Secretary, Mrs. Nona Passinetti, 295 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Piner Grade School, Santa Rosa.
- *SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Wallace Jones; Secretary, Mrs. Martha Ann Walter, 671 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach 90277. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.
- *TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Sergio Bracci; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 21; Fri. Dec. 19, Thurs., Jan. 22; Thur., Feb. 26; Wed., Mar. 26; Thur., April 23. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA Society, Inc.

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