



This is first Bulletin - formerly a postcard.



"The Romance of the Camellia"

J. HOWARD ASPER, Guardian of Thousands of Camellias, surrounded by technical details, is still able to see and appreciate the Romance of the Camellia — will discuss this fascinating topic at our January meeting.

THE DATE: Thursday, January 11, 1945.

THE TIME: 7:30 P. M., precisely.

THE PLACE: Odd Fellows Temple, 175 North Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, California

INFORMAL FLOWER SHOW: Have your blossoms, with name of variety and exhibitor, on the tables prior to 7:30. The lucky exhibitor will be accompanied home by Camellia Princess Bachiochi, contributed by Ed Arnesen, Valley Garden Supply Co., who also contributes Alba Plena Fimbriata for the members' door prize, a large Francine, for benefit of the Red Cross, and a large Star Dust for the book fund.



BRING A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER!

Roster of Officers

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President:

DR. DAVID W. McLEAN
1702 Marengo Ave., South Pasadena
Pyramid 1-1659

Vice President:

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Program—
MRS. VERNE O. McCASKILL, SY. 3-4677
Nomenclature Research—
MRS. CARLO E. GALLI, Sycamore 9-2108
314 Arroyo Drive, South Pasadena
Publicity—
ROY M. BAUER, Atlantic 1-2183
Horticultural Research—
ROBERT CASAMAJOR, Sycamore 2-7641

DECEMBER MEETING—A large attendance heartily applauded the skillful dexterity with which Miss Molly Gibbs produced beautiful corsages, using Camellias, saxafrage, epidendrums and other flowers. The principles of corsage making were clearly explained. The theme of comment after the meeting was that it had been well worth attending. A large display of Camellia blossoms filled the tables; several unusual blooms had the enthusiasts aflutter. Mrs. Galli won the exhibitor's prize; Mr. McKenzie the member's door prize; Mrs. Waldren the Red Cross prize, and Mr. Galli the society's book prize. Thirty-one dollars and eighty cents was forwarded to the Red Cross as a result of the meeting. The following letter has been received:

"Just a few lines, with the enclosed receipt, to thank the Southern California Camellia Society for its wonderful check and to say we may run out of adjectives with which to express ourselves but we can never run out of gratitude and appreciation for your continued interest and generosity.

"Thank every one of you, and a Merry Christmas to you all from the combined Red Cross Gift Repair Shop Committee."

FEBRUARY MEETING will be held, as usual, on the second Thursday evening. **On Monday, February 5**, we hold a joint meeting with the Southern California Horticultural Institute at the University Club in Los Angeles. The program will deal with Camellias, and there will be an informal blossom show. Vern McCaskill heads

a committee to round up members and blossom for this meeting. Three reasons why we should turn out in force for this joint meeting:

1—The invitation is a distinct compliment indicating recognition in horticultural circles. We want to "do our society proud."

2—The meeting will be worth anyone's attendance.

3—Robert Casamajor is president of the Horticultural Institute and probably is responsible in large measure for the invitation. We mustn't let Bob down! **Monday, February 8:00 p. m. — University Club, Los Angeles.**

FLOWER SHOW will be held in Brookside Park, Pasadena, March 9, 10 and 11. We have been invited to sponsor the Camellia division. Another honor we must live up to. The Board of Directors elected Mrs. Robert W. Campbell chairman of a special Flower Show committee consisting of Dr. and Mrs. John Taylor, Mr. Jette Rogers, Mrs. John Harn and Mrs. J. P. Boorman. This is a good, live committee. Our hunch is that we'll all be proud of the society display. But we'll all have to help. Flower shows don't "just grow," as Topsy did!

THE GREEN BOOK—second edition—is in preparation. The list of authentic Southern California grown varieties will be longer, more complete. Cultural data will be included. An appalling amount of work goes into preparation of this book. It will be one more thing to make membership in this society something to be glad of—and proud of.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, at its November meeting, drew lots to determine the length of term. Result: one year, Leslie Marshall; two years, Roy Bauer; three years, Mrs. Carlo Galli. Hereafter, one new director will be elected each year to serve a three-year term.

Delving into the past, the Board found that 30 minutes had been kept prior to the entrance of Thor Petersen into the secretaryship.

Old-timers please note: Jot down any recollections you may have of the founding of the society; of its early meetings and other activities; of personalities involved. Hand your memo to Thor Petersen, to become part of the data for writing a history of the society to date. Sure, we know this will take a little time and effort. But what of the chap who will wade through the memos and write the history?

Reports to the Board, December meeting, showed: Membership, 185; general treasury, \$194.90; book fund, \$173.75; contributed to the Red Cross, 1943, \$95.80; 1944, \$141.15. Rather nice going.

The Board elected Mark Anthony, charter member and first secretary, now on the fighting front in Italy, an honorary member "for the duration." William Hertrich, Curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens was elected an honorary life member.

THE CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA TEST GARDEN

is swinging along. The committee has compiled a list of commonly known standard varieties of this section, of which plants are desired for the project at Huntington Botanical Gardens. Growers and collectors who have these plants are being approached by the committee, asked to donate. After the results are known, a general call may be issued to the membership for certain varieties. Rarer varieties will be obtained by scions to be grafted on Huntington Garden seedlings. Labor is scarce, and grafts require skill, time and post-operative care; hence the plan to obtain plants of the better known varieties.

REGISTRATION OF NEW VARIETIES is a new activity of the society. The Board of Directors voted that rules for registration be drawn up by the Test Garden Committee, not because registration will be a part of the Test Garden activity but because that committee will have access to much data concerning known varieties.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 1 — "Margaret Hertrich," formal white seedling, developed in Huntington Botanical Gardens. Registered October 13, 1944, by William Hertrich, Curator.

LEAVES: Are thick, leathery, 8-12 cm. long by 3.5-4.5 cm. broad; elliptic in shape, with an extended, pointed terminal. Fine, saw-toothed margins, almost notched, bearing minute, brown spines.

PETIOLE: About 1 cm. long, light shiny green, same color as the underside of the leaves. Upper side of leaves is a dull dark green.

BUDS: Globular.

FLOWERS: Formal, imbricated structure, numerous petals, so that only very few short, yellow, anthered stamens are displayed. 10 cm. in diameter (or 4 inches).

Color, pure white.

About 65 petals; outside petals about 4 cm. long by 2.5 cm. broad in the upper third; grading downward to the smaller center petals, which are about 3 cm. long by 1 cm. broad.

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE EDITORIAL. "There are about eight distinct species of this plant (the Camellia) known in our collections; and the varieties of Japonica approach to one thousand, to which many are yearly added; but, unfortunately, their merits are not fully scrutinized before they are sent forth to the floral world under names representing and expressing every quality that is grand or beautiful in floral imagination. Such has been the rapid increase of varieties in Europe, and even in this country, that in many instances three or four distinct plants have come out under the same name; consequently, a great confusion of names has been the result, which has caused much difficulty in attaining the best of names. The collections in this country were kept comparatively pure till within the last few years, when the anxiety of our cultivators to obtain variety caused them to import from French and German markets, which has thrown the nomenclature into an almost impenetrable chaos. But still we can unite in saying, 'What species of plant is there which better merits the intelligent and vigilant care of the amateur and horticulturists?' The elegance of its form, the beautiful verdure of its foliage, and the pure and brilliant colors of the large and elegant flowers sufficiently justify the admiration of all."

Quoted from a treatise on Camellias by Robert Buist, Philadelphia, 1839 — 105 years ago! Hope on, Nomenclature Research Committee!

Southern California
Camellia Society

CAMELLIA
Bulletin
