

THE *Camellia* REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Freedom Bell'

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 Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 p.m. regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00. February 13, 1990, meeting to be held in Arboretum Lecture Hall.

Application for membership may be made to the membership chairman. Annual dues, \$15.00.

OFFICERS — 1989-90

SERGIO BRACCI, President
5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776
Tel. (818) 286-4338

BILL DONNAN, Secretary
700 S. Lake St. #120, Pasadena 91106
Tel. (818) 795-9427

BOBBIE BELCHER, Foreign Membership
Chairman for Australia and New Zealand
7475 Brydon Rd., LaVerne 91750
Tel. (714) 593-4894

DEAN ALLTIZER, Vice-President
1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale 91202
Tel. (818) 241-1211

JEANNE TREFZGER, Treasurer
U.S. and Foreign
Membership Chairman (exclusive of
Australia and New Zealand)
607 Santa Cruz Rd., Arcadia 91007
Tel. (818) 447-7598

DIRECTORS

DEAN ALLTIZER
1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale 91202
Tel. (818) 241-1211

MELVIN BELCHER
7475 Brydon Rd., LaVerne 91750
Tel. (714) 593-4894

SERGIO BRACCI
5567 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776
Tel. (818) 286-4338

JULIUS CHRISTINSON
3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504
Tel. (714) 688-1547

BILL DONNAN
700 S. Lake St. #120, Pasadena 91106
Tel. (818) 795-9427

CHUCK GERLACH
3721 Cedarbend Dr., La Crescenta 91214
Tel. (818) 248-3838

JOHN MOVICH
3929 Williams Ave., LaVerne 91750
Tel. (714) 593-3667

GRADY PERIGAN
1380 Winston Ave., San Marino 91108
Tel. (818) 792-0829

MARIAN SCHMIDT
1523 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia 91006
Tel. (818) 446-5525

JOHN UTVICH
2975 Somerset Pl., San Marino 91108
Tel. (818) 286-5555

DAVE WOOD
2434 Allanjay Pl., Glendale 91208
Tel. (818) 247-1986

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

SERGIO BRACCI
WILLIAM W. DONNAN
COLONEL TOM DURRANT
WILLARD F. GOERTZ
BERNICE GUNN

JOSEPH NUCCIO
JULIUS NUCCIO
CARYLL PITKIN
GRADY PERIGAN
WILLIAM E. WOODROOF

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

MR. J. L. WARSAW
P.O. Box 204, Wanganui, New Zealand

BRUCE ROSE
7 La Boheme Ave. Caringbah, N.S.W. Australia 2229

THE CAMELLIA REVIEW: PAT GREUTERT, Editor,
3230 Mesaloe Ln., Pasadena, CA 91107
Tel. (818) 797-7793

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

Copyright 1989

Four issues per volume—September, December, February, and May.

Correspondence and manuscripts for publication should be sent directly to the editor.
Republication permitted if due credit is given to The Camellia Review and the author.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the secretary at once. Magazines are NOT forwarded by the Post Office.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vol. 51

November-December, 1989

No. 2

New Members	2
The Man Behind the Book, Elizabeth Beebe	3
Pedigreed Fragrance, Ken Hallstone	7
Seed Germination	7
The 1989 Northern California Undisputed Champions,	
Robert E. Ehrhart	9
President's Choice — 'Freedom Bell', Grady Perigan	10
Sun Tolerance of Camellias, Bill Donnan	12
Sun Tolerance of Camellias, William E. Wylam	14
Revised Show Schedule	16
Four Georgia Crackers in California, Arthur W. Solomon	17
Exploring Camellias in San Juan Capistrano, Glenn Smith	22
Passings	22
Camellia Leaf Burn, J. J. Littlefield	23
The Joshua E. Youtz Camellia, Roy T. Thompson	24

Cover Photo 'Freedom Bell'

Bright red. Small, bell-shaped semi-double hybrid. Vigorous, compact, upright growth. (U.S. 1965—Nuccio). Photography — Grady Perigan.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member.
For your convenience an application blank is printed below.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$15.00

Includes Subscription to The Camellia Review — Four issues per year.

Members receive one revised edition of "Camellia Nomenclature" —

150 pages with descriptions of over 4,000 camellias

at a cost of \$5.00.

Please Make Payment to:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

P.O. Box 3690, Arcadia, CA 91066

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring Member	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Member	\$100.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____



THOUGHTS

from the editor

Thoughts From The Editor

According to my dictionary, edit means "to prepare (another person's writing) for publication." That's exactly what I'll be doing for *The Camellia Review*, preparing *your* writing for publication.

What can you tell us?

During this 50th anniversary year of our society we're eager to print stories of those early years. Were you there to give us an eyewitness report?

Also, do your blossoms grace the Court of Honor frequently? Tell beginners who would like to see their flowers sitting beside yours how you do it.

Have you tried Osmocote as a camellia fertilizer? What do you think of it?

Do you raise show quality flowers without using poisonous sprays? Tell us if you do.

Your contributions need not be long. Typed, double-spaced articles are helpful, but not necessary. Just write or print legibly. Your spelling, grammar or punctuation may need a little touch-up — but that's my job. Make me feel useful.

Temple City Camellia Society paid for the color separation for 'Freedom Bell' on the front cover. Perhaps another society or individual would like to see a favorite flower on one of the 1990-91 *Review* covers. The separations will cost \$85. The Southern California Camellia Society shoulders a large responsibility in publishing *The Camellia Review* and we are grateful to those who help us share the burden.

If you know someone who is thinking of joining our society, this is a good year to start. For \$20 new members will receive *Camellia Nomenclature* and all four issues of *The Camellia Review*, even with a late membership.

— Pat Greutert

New Members

Southern California Camellia Society welcomes:

Cameron Ainsworth

3879 Vineyard Drive

Redwood City, CA 94061

Mr. David M. Donnan

20451 San Gabriel Valley Drive

Walnut, CA 91789

Dr. Christopher B. Donnan

833 Moraga, Apt. #8

Los Angeles, CA 90049

Mr. and Mrs. William K. Latham

4425 Otis Court

Carmichael, CA 95508

Gordon and Ruth Rabalais

Rt. 3, Box 451, S. River Drive

Arnaudville, LA 70512

The Man Behind the Book

by Elizabeth Beebe

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article first appeared in The Camellia Review in October, 1954. It tells about the "Patron Saint" of the Southern California Camellia Society, Mr. William Hertrich. Elizabeth Beebe was The Camellia Review editor.

A book review is one thing — the review of a man is something else again. You may read the review of William Hertrich's *Camellias in the Huntington Gardens* to catch a glimpse of the book which of course you will want to own. But the man behind it — how did he write it — why did he write it and what qualities and background and personality are focused into this volume, which cannot escape becoming the camellia classic of the 20th century?

From the authenticity of every statement you will know the author is never satisfied with general knowledge but must trace all questions to the one correct answer. From the camellias described, you will be aware that these have been carefully chosen from many with a single purpose in their choosing. In short, from the book just as a whole, it is inevitably obvious that the author is a person who not only knows camellias through working with them intimately for many years, but from reading about them, discussing them with hundreds of persons and finally from such an enduring interest in them that the subject never, to him, has become hackneyed.

Stepping from the role of editor to reporter, this sidelight on the author aims to give some of the human side of William Hertrich, near whom and with whom I have had the privilege of working over two years.

Background of a Book

Just how did the book take shape? One way was that morning after morning during the camellia blooming seasons Mr. Hertrich was out scrambling up and down the cool damp hillsides as he chose the finest specimens on the bushes, and by nine o'clock he would come triumphantly into the office bearing the large shallow trays lined with

cotton on which the beautiful blooms were carefully arranged — no two touching. Then came another choosing as with deft artistic touch he made up arrangements of different varieties to be photographed — photographed *just so* to show the form, the foliage, the characteristic points of each individual variety. And after the photographs were taken, then the indefatigable Mr. Hertrich would settle down at his desk, which now resembled some fabulous disarranged rainbow, to tear apart the finest of the blooms and describe them minutely on the form chart, place the petals by the color chart and sometimes delay his decision of shade until other opinions in the office were called in to consultation. Then the leaves were considered, studied under the microscope, turned about and talked about until they too were described and charted. With the addition of notes about the entire variety, the nomenclature was fixed through consultation of his own notes and various nomenclature authorities.

This went on and on and on, my own desk usually brightened by blooms that Mr. Hertrich was about to throw in the waste basket and which I regularly rescued from such awful fate. When the urgency of working with the fresh flowers was gone, there was the author, concentrated on the writing of the culture, the history and all of the forepart of the book.

If anyone ever looks at home in the midst of such melanges of camellias in all states of their beauty — of books and pamphlets opened to certain pages — of scissors, knives — microscope, papers and assorted miscellany of camellia travail — that person is William Hertrich. Solemn in concentration, there is always a ready smile as someone comes in and he peers over his

glasses to see who it is.

Sixty Years With Camellias

On one occasion I sat down by his desk and said, "Tell me, how long have you worked with camellias?"

"Sixty years," he returned promptly, with emphasis.

"Do you remember the first camellia you ever saw?"

"Perhaps not one certain one, but I am sure my grandmother had at least one camellia plant. My first real contact with camellias was in 1893 when I was serving as an apprentice to a large horticultural establishment in Dornbirn, Austria."

"How did you happen to go to work there? Were your parents horticulturally minded?" we queried further.

He looked across his desk as if he were looking across the years.

"No, my father was in the government service and the family had to move around. It may be that I inherited my love of plants from my grandmother, who loved her garden. Then my grandparents had vineyards and fruit orchards, and I had studied this culture for two years before I signed up as an apprentice for three years to the Dornbirn firm."

"What pay did you get?" I inquired.

"Not a cent," said Mr. Hertrich with a chuckle and the twinkle coming back into his eyes. "That first year I was paid nothing except my board and room. Later I received three dollars a month. I put in ten hours a day and more in the winter when I had to alternate firing the greenhouse. This was done by feeding peat to a large, boxy type stove which was at one end of the greenhouse. Its heat went through long, tiled flues that were built beneath the benches and ended in a chimney."

"The culture of camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas was part of my assignment among many other types of plants grown for the retail trade. Such plants were propagated from cuttings and sold mostly in small four- and five-inch pots. All plants were grown

under glass. We did not have the camellias named — they were sold as white, pink or red.

"We had to have good flower production," Mr. Hertrich went on, as the remembrance of those early days became vivid to him. "It was essential in order to meet competition. We specialized in the small specimens because the larger ones were more difficult to dispose of. Sometimes some of the large commercial establishments had large specimens planted out in their greenhouses for show purposes. Private estates and city and state establishments cultivated many large specimens in conservatories — some in containers and others planted in the ground. Camellias ten and fifteen feet high and fifty or more years old would still be in containers. Many of the large private estates maintained by the nobility often provided special houses for large specimens of this sort including citrus trees. Such houses are generally known as 'Orangeries,' and a good many of the camellia plants were wintered in these houses along with the citrus trees."

"What happened after your three apprentice years?" I prompted.

"Two years in the German army," said this amazing man, in an off-hand way.

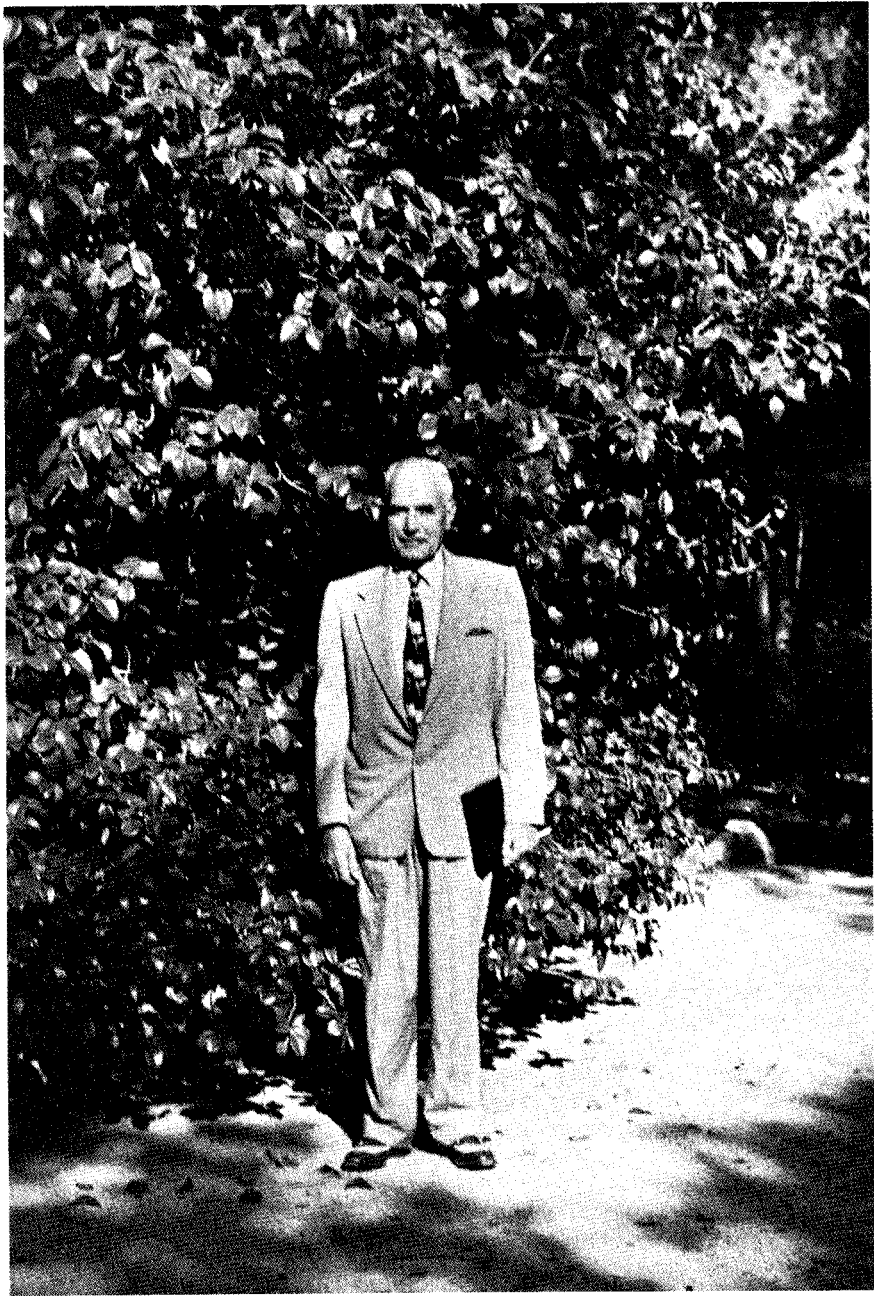
"And then?"

"I was given charge of a range of greenhouses in a large horticultural establishment in Stuttgart. I was all of twenty-one years old then. In 1901 I met a young American in the same firm who invited me to come to America with him. I accepted and we are still friends. I went to work in his father's firm in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and was there for two years and learned a good deal more there about ornamental horticulture."

Camellias Begin To Be Special

"With all of this horticultural work, when did you begin to single out camellias for your real interest?" I asked.

"It began in 1903 shortly after I came to California, for I quickly no-



William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, pictured here overshadowed (which he declared was proper) by a C. japonica 'Pink Perfection', a plant which he found growing on the estate when he arrived there in 1905. He judges it to be around 70 years old.

ticed their relatively easy culture either under lath for the commercial flower trade, or in conjunction with other plants for landscape effect such as was evident around homes along Figueroa Street in Los Angeles. When in 1905 I undertook the assignment of developing the Huntington Estate, I felt the opportunity had arrived to explore the possibility of including in the first planting plan such companion plants as camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons. However, after convincing Mr. Huntington of the worth of the scheme, it was another question to find the material since such plants were not very plentiful fifty years ago."

How Mr. Hertrich acquired these camellias he tells in his book, along with his observations on the Huntington camellias. From my observations on Mr. Hertrich, I would know without his telling me that he did manage to acquire the plants and carry out his scheme. The main point is that through all these years he has always had schemes — visions of future beauty. Just camellias on the estate were not enough for him. In 1912 he surveyed a canyon — one end of which was dammed. Here he envisioned a camellia garden. The dam was removed so that water once again gently flowed through the canyon. More oaks were planted for the shade camellias love, and today this canyon has become the beautiful and distinctive camellia garden which Mr. Hertrich dreamed of — forty years ago.

Active Retirement

Today, although officially "retired" on paper, Mr. Hertrich leads a life more vigorous and more full of interest than the majority of persons. Known worldwide as an authority in the world of palms and cycads, cacti and other succulents and camellias, his correspondents are located all over the

world. As they say, if one stands long enough at Broadway and 42nd Street in New York all his friends will pass by, so all camellia-minded persons sooner or later turn up in Mr. Hertrich's office — all to be received with a smile of welcome, a hearty handclasp and friendly attention. As camellias are eternally democratic, so William Hertrich is equally natural as an honored guest at a dinner in England with royalty or sharing a sandwich with a gardener.

A real profile of William Hertrich could make a long and fascinating book. Not possible here is any elaboration of the horticultural expeditions he has headed, of the camellia and other societies of which he is a member and which have all given him signal honors, and finally of Margarete Hertrich, the gentle wife of many years whose influence has been one of the great factors in making the man William Hertrich is today.

Recently on leaving the office, Mr. Hertrich paused a moment by my desk to say something that had evidently just struck him forcibly. "After all is said and done," he declared, "the fact remains that after these many years, my enthusiasm about camellias and their use in Southern California as decorative plants, with or without flowers, is as great if not greater than at any time since I have become acquainted with them."

Herein, I thought, must lie the secret of that sense of boundless energy and well-being that this man radiates so unconsciously. Older people often live in the past. Here is a man who always is looking to the future for more beauty — newer and finer camellias — another book to write. Ponce de Leon looked in the wrong place for the fountain of youth.

What, may I ask, is nearer to it than the genus *Camellia*?

Corrections — September-October, 1989 Issue

Southern California Camellia Council sponsors Descanso camellia pruning.

The lovely British lady who took over her father's nursery in England is Jessica Trehane.

Pedigreed Fragrance

by Ken Hallstone

In 1983 at Fresno's Camellia-Rama IX, I tried to promote fragrance in the camellia by offering to donate the first trophy to any society which would start a fragrance section in its show. Here it is six years later and I have provided only four trophies. Apparently not enough camellia buffs have fragrant cultivars, so I guess it is up to me to provide a source of fragrant flowers.

How would you like to get in on a sure thing? I am offering you seeds from my cluster of fragrant seedlings. I have about 250 fragrant seedlings that are in a separate part of my garden. They are surrounded by 15 large camellia plants known for their fragrance — such as 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Scentsation', 'Ackscents', 'Nioifubuki', and 'Scented Sun', to name a few. I will guarantee that the seeds you plant will produce fragrant flowers or I will replace the seeds at no cost to you.

Why am I willing to part with these valuable seeds? I have reached a point where I do not have enough time or space in my garden to grow all the seeds that are produced. I plant all the seeds from my controlled crosses plus *One Seed* from each pod of the open pollinations. The question is: How do I know I have selected the most fragrant

seed from the open pollinated pod? I don't. How do I know the bees didn't make a better fragrant cross with the open pollinations than I did with the controlled crosses? I don't. So, you see, these are intriguingly valuable seeds. What happens to them? Some of them end up in my educational display staged at our show, and the rest are given to garden club members during my speaking engagements.

The thought occurred that I should get these valuable, potentially fragrant seeds to camellia lovers who would propagate them, enter them in shows that have fragrance competition, and I, therefore, could provide more trophies. How do I do this? Human nature is such that if I gave the seeds away, camellia lovers might not take care of them. But if I charged them an exorbitant price, they would grow them ver-r-ry carefully.

This being the case, I will sell the seeds for \$1.00 each. At this price, you will take care of them, which in turn will lead to a greater demand for more fragrance sections in the shows, and I will get to provide more trophies. All money collected will go to the Northern and Southern California Camellia Societies.

Seed Germination

The following article is a compendium of advice given from several sources, mainly articles by the late Rudy Moore, who was curator of camellias at Huntington Gardens. These articles appeared in The Camellia Review in the 1974-75 season. Contributing were Tom Nuccio and Ken Hallstone.

1. Place seeds in a one-gallon container filled with a mix of 50% damp,

squeezed-out peat moss and 50% sponge rock (Moore) or sand (Nuccio). Place seeds on a hot water heater or near a gas stove to maintain heat at about 65-75°F.

2. Examine contents in two weeks. Usual germinating period is 2-6 weeks.

3. When the seeds sprout and the radical (root) grows to 2 or 3 inches,

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW FOR

1989 CROP FRAGRANT CAMELLIA SEEDS

PEDIGREE OF SEED PARENT PROVIDED WITH EACH SEED

\$1.00 PER SEED

KEN HALLSTONE, 996 VICTORIA CT., LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

transfer them to individual 4-inch pots, after first pinching off about 1/8 inch of the taproot. This is important in order to force the roots to branch out. Return those seeds which have not sprouted to the original container. The mix in the new pots can be regular, dampened camellia potting mix. Tamp, but don't pack the mix into the pot. Then, using a pencil point, make a 3/4-inch deep hole in the mix. Enter the germinated seed and tamp the soil around the root, leaving the seed itself above the soil. Water lightly.

4. Return the unsprouted seeds to a warm, protected area. Check the seeds every few days, keeping them damp but never wet.

5. When four or five leaves have formed on the stems of the new seedlings, you can give them about 40% filtered sunlight.

6. Start feedling lightly with liquid fish fertilizer or Schultz Liquid Plant Food once a month.

7. When the plant is doing well, repot into a slightly larger 5- or 6-inch pot. Allow at least 1 inch from roots to side of container. Don't overpot or underpot. Put some broken pot pieces or fine screen over drainage holes so that the soil won't wash out. Now, put an inch or so of soil mix in the bottom of the pot. Then, place your plant in the center of the pot with the bottom roots touching the soil and the top of the root, the crown of the plant, about 3/4 inch below the top of the pot. Hold the

plant in this position and add soil mix, jiggling the pot from side to side to settle the soil around the roots. Fill in to about 1/2 inch above the crown. Then water with an even flow, using a sprinkling can. This should settle the soil about even with the crown, which is where it should be. Never allow the crown to be below the soil level, always even or above. You can add a teaspoon of vitamin B-1 per gallon when repotting.

8. Start feeding as before, beginning in March, also adding a little chelated iron every other time or as needed for good, dark foliage.

Your plants should not need repotting for a year or two. Check them by holding your hand over the top of the container, turn the plant upside down and with a little tap, slide the root ball out. Check the roots. If you see mostly roots and not much soil, it's about time to repot. Never let the roots wrap around the plant until it's root-bound. Repot as before, leaving about 2 inches below the top of the container for water. Make sure you untangle roots so they can grow into their new soil mix. The best way to do this is to use a sharp knitting needle or weeding tool. Start at the bottom of the root ball. Go in about 1/2 inch or so and dislodge the roots until all the roots are loose.

At this point, Rudy liked to form the mix in the pot into a cone shape and work the bottom of the root ball down over it, allowing the roots to go out into

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW
1989 CROP HUNTINGTON GARDENS
CAMELLIA SEEDS

Japonica Seeds — \$7.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Sasanqua Seeds — \$5.00 per 100 (minimum order)

Reticulata Seeds — 25¢ each

Southern California Camellia Society
P.O. Box 3690 Arcadia, CA 91066

the soil more easily. After filling in the soil, water the plant two or three times to settle the soil. After this, the plant should not need water for some time because there are no roots in the soil to take up water. You will probably switch over to cottonseed meal for fertilizer. The first year after repotting, cut the feeding to 1/3 strength and feed only once or twice several months apart, starting in April or a few months after you repot. The best time to repot is from October through March when the camellias are mostly dormant. The second year after repotting, you can resume a regular feeding program — full-strength fertilizer fed three or four times, April through September.

From Tom Nuccio: "Seeds can be successfully and easily germinated

without heat, but it takes several months before they sprout out from the soil. Seeds we plant at the nursery in September or October and leave outside won't break the soil surface until about March. (The seed does sprout a taproot about a month or so after planting, however.)"

From Ken Hallstone: "Unfortunately, seedlings take from three to seven years before they bloom. Retic and retic hybrid seedlings bloom the earliest, followed by japonicas and sa-sanquas. One way to speed up the blooming of your seedlings is to graft them as soon as a scion is available. This generally cuts down the blooming period a year or two. Try it and good luck!"

The 1989 Northern California Undisputed Champions

by Robert E. Ehrhart

It all began this year on February 4 in Modesto, the site of the Northern California Camellia Council Show. It was an unpleasantly cold day. We kept hearing reports and seeing on TV the story of minus 60 degrees in Montana, but knew that cold wave wouldn't hit here. Oh, yes, it would get cold, but the Pacific Air Stream would keep us safe from anything drastic. We were only half right. The force pushed the cold stuff directly south, closer and closer. It was a good thing that the blooms for this show were already in boxes and on the way to the show.

At the luncheon, the show results were announced and Nancy and Larry Pitts had won Best Medium Japonica with 'Margaret Davis' and Best Large Japonica with 'Elegans Champagne'. The latter bloom went on to take Best in Show. No one knew at the time that one couple here in the Bay Area would be on the way to an unprecedented knockout season.

The cold got worse on Sunday, and this began a solid week of abnormally cold weather throughout all of California, but the Modesto Mini-Show had

been saved by just a day. As I mentioned earlier, the cold wave was headed straight toward us with a vengeance. Day after day it was impossible to pick camellia blooms. Nearly everything stopped opening or froze. By Thursday I telephoned Jack Mandarich to ask if the Redwood City Show would go on. He replied, "Yes, blooms will be coming from Fresno."

Saturday, February 11, the Peninsula Camellia Society Show contained 489 flowers, the lowest number of blooms ever recorded in a Northern California ACS-sponsored show.

At the show, Larry and Nancy Pitts kept trying to build a collection of nine different blooms. I can remember Larry going out among the tables picking up a japonica here and there to get up to nine blooms. He made it and won the best collection trophy. And they squeaked by with Best Miniature, 'Little Slam', and Runner-up Retic, 'Miss Tulare'.

At this point, it looked like a normal year for the Pitts — two or three trophies per show. Then came Moraga, the Delta Camellia Society Show, the

blockbuster. They carried 55 entries to the show and won 49 first-place ribbons! 49 blue ribbons won them a trophy they had not anticipated — Sweepstakes! They had never before won either sweepstakes or sweepstakes runner-up in any ACS show. Out of these 49 first-place entries, 30 went to the head table, and the judges awarded this couple 19 of the show's 43 trophies: Sweepstakes, Best of Show, Best White, Best Collection, Best Four Different Japonicas, Best Flower with Silver in the Name, Best and Runner-up Small Japonica, Best Medium Japonica Runner-up, Best Three Large Japonicas Runner-up, Best Very Large Japonica and Runner-up, Best Five Japonicas, Best Retic under 5 ½" as well as Runner-up, Best Retic over 5 ½" as well as Runner-up, Best Non-Retic Hybrid.

On Sunday night, Don Bergamini handed Larry two stacks of trophy boxes four feet tall. The other 31 trophies were divided up among 20 exhibitors, with 14 exhibitors each receiving only one. Never before had Larry and Nancy accomplished such a sweeping feat.

Well, Nancy and Larry must have known that they were on a roll because they really began turning on the steam. By 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 25, in Santa Clara, they proved that they knew the "Way to San Jose," bringing with them 'Katie', 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Lady in Red', 'Elegans Splendor', 'Three of a Family', and 'Nine Different'. All won trophies, a total of eight. Have you ever won eight trophies in a single show? How about in a single season?

By Sunday, February 26, we're not

even halfway through the season, only three regular shows and a mini-show, and the count stands at 33. What more could we expect? I thought so — a breather, Sacramento, and only three awards. Well, now we're up to 36.

By now Larry and Nancy have changed their method of preparation. Instead of preparing and boxing their blooms until midnight or so and getting up at 3 a.m. to finish, they decided to work until their blooms were ready for display. This meant staying up until 3:30 a.m., then going to bed for an hour or two of sleep. This worked well for them. They packaged 14 cauliflower boxes of blooms for the Northern California Camellia Society Show in Walnut Creek. They entered 89 exhibits and won 67 blue ribbons. Only Don Bergamini won more blue ribbons at this show, 72. But 32 of those 67 blue ribbons went to the head table, the most ever to win the Award of Excellence in this show. And how many trophies in all? 13, including 'Nine Different' and others in all categories of japonicas and retics, singles and multiples. 13 more trophies, but who's counting?

Are they beginning to tire? You bet. It has been six weeks now, with picking and refrigerating going on seven days a week, some days five, six or seven hours, not to mention Saturdays. And also not to mention, both Nancy and Larry work full-time jobs!

But Modesto is such a pretty show, who would ever want to miss that one? Not the Pitts. They put 29 blooms on the head table and won the Award of Excellence, plus two additional trophies. "A tough show," says Larry. "I never do well there."

'Freedom Bell'

When Nuccio's Nursery introduced 'Freedom Bell' in 1965, I was immediately attracted to the bloom and purchased a plant. It has been an excellent landscape plant as well as a very good show bloom. It does well both as a single and multiple entry.

24 years of consistency is difficult to surpass.

Grady Perigan — President, Temple City Camellia Society



Larry and Nancy standing still for a change.

Atwater — almost to the “Land Down Under” — halfway to Southern California. Everyone is running out of blooms. The Pitts are down to five cauliflower boxes to return six cups and get 19 entries to the head table to capture the AOE. Six more, not bad for just five boxes and a 9 a.m. arrival. Just a mini-show to go.

The Pitts were not even going to the Walnut Creek Mini-Show. They had very few blooms left. It was very late in the season — April 1. Larry had a Little League game at 11 a.m. There was hardly time to put the blooms out, but Larry thought, “If I get there at 9 and leave at 10, I can make it. I can enter just a few.” Larry came to the show with one box containing six flowers and won two trophies, Best Miniature, ‘Black Tie Var.’, and Best Very Large Japonica, ‘Silver Cloud’.

So ends my story about Nancy and Larry Pitts and their 1989 camellia season. To me, it was such an impres-

sive year for them, I thought everyone who enjoys camellias might like to hear the whole story.

Larry and Nancy, as you might expect, are very enthusiastic about their hobby. Neither is a professional grower. Nancy, born in Antioch, California, is the daughter of a cabinet-maker-turned-restaurateur and orchard farmer. Larry, born in Kansas, is the son of the manager of the Rice Growers Association.

They entered their first camellia bloom in a Delta Society Show in Pittsburg, California, in 1969, but it took them until 1975 to win their first trophy. Since 1975, it has been all uphill. How about this: 1975, 1; 1976, 15; 1977, 17; 1978, 19; 1979, 25; 1980, 12; 1981, 12; 1982, 24; 1983, 37; 1984, 18; 1985, 27; 1986, 10; 1987, 38; 1988, 25; 1989, 60; total, 340.

Look at that 1980 60 — about two to three times the average. A good year? You bet. Keep up the good work, kids.

Sun Tolerance of Camellias

by Bill Donnan

Reprinted from The Camellia Journal, August, 1989

Dr. C. David Scheibert, of the Ft. Valley office of the American Camellia Society had written Julius Nuccio asking him for an article on sun tolerance of camellias. Julius came to me and said: "I'm too busy to write this article. Why don't you write it and I'll help you?" I said: "Cheeze! I don't know that much about it. How would one start an article like that?" Julius says: "Oh, that's easy. Just write that camellias are shade-loving plants and go on from there!"

So here I am, folks. Just sit back and relax while this fool walks in and sticks his neck out about two feet so it can be chopped off. First, let me say that camellias *are* shade-loving plants but to maintain that they cannot be grown in full sun is an old wives' tale. Proof of the fact that camellias can be grown in the sun can be found everywhere in Southern California. One needs only to drive around the San Gabriel Valley in order to observe camellias 20 or more feet high growing in full sun and hedges of camellias down the sides of walks or along property lines which seem to thrive in full sun. If one looks at pictures of camellias growing in the wild in Japan, Okinawa, and China, he notes that they exist in clumps and bunches with no visible shade whatsoever.

If this is true, why can't any novice camellia hobbyist buy a camellia, "just like the one he saw at the Spring Camellia Show," take it home and plant it in that nice new \$50 clay pot, on the south side of his house, near the front door? Well, chances are that this newly purchased camellia is going to curl up its toes and be dead by July 4th! The reasons for this are not obscure and they revolve around the four "Cs," namely, Culture, Climate, Color, and Chromosomes. Let us discuss these four items and maybe we can give this new hobbyist a few hints on how he can

grow his new camellia in full sun.

CULTURE Chances are that most of the new camellias purchased at a nursery were grown in a lath house or under 50 percent shade. To bring a shade-grown plant into the full sun is a "NO-NO"! It cannot be done without considerable leaf burn. Furthermore, one could not plant a camellia in a container and place it in full sun. The plant would die. In order for a camellia to be planted in full sun it must be planted in the ground with a deep mulch around the base and with very frequent watering. One point for the novice camellia hobbyist to check would be to purchase a virus-free plant having dark green foliage. If the foliage is light green or shows any sign of chlorosis or irregular splotches on the leaves, it will be less sun-tolerant. Virus-affected plants will be literally "eaten up" by the sun. For example, the variety 'Feathery Touch' requires almost full shade in order to survive. Its foliage has a considerable amount of yellowing.

CLIMATE The climate in which a camellia is grown has the most influence on its sun tolerance. If the climate is right, every camellia known to man will thrive in full sun. The best example of this is the situation in New Zealand. Hobbyists there can grow any camellia they choose in full sun. The reasons for this can be explained as follows: First of all, it is known that camellias grow best in the 30 degree to 40 degree zones North and South of the Equator. If you live any closer to the Equator, it is too hot, and if you live any farther away from the Equator, it is too cold. The 1,000-mile-long New Zealand Islands lie between 35 degrees and 45 degrees South latitude. The islands are long and narrow. In many places they are only 25 to 50 miles wide with the Pacific Ocean on both sides. This acts as a climate modifier. But

what really makes for a humid climate is the fact that it rains nearly every other day in New Zealand. On the average, it rains 183 days a year in Auckland! A camellia hobbyist in New Zealand can dig a hole, put in a camellia and watch it grow! He needs no shade cover, no watering, and very little other care. This holds true for nearly every species of camellia grown in New Zealand!

Japan is in the 30 to 40 degree North latitude zone with long narrow islands separating the Pacific Ocean. Its 25- to 50-mile-wide land mass is visited by rainfall every third day, and this combination provides ample humidity. Pictures taken of camellias growing in the wild in Japan are usually taken along the seashore where the humidity is ideal. This does not hold true for Southern California. Along our seashore we do not have the frequent rains which occur in New Zealand and Japan. Salt spray collects on our coastal-grown camellias, and it is not washed off by rainfall.

The seas around Japan are "bathed" by the warm Japanese Current. These ocean currents modify the climate. For example, southern England and Wales, latitude 50 to 53 degrees North (about the same as Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta), will produce camellias in spite of the location because the Gulf Stream modifies the climate. The island of Guernsey, latitude 49 degrees North (same as our Canadian border), in the path of the Gulf Stream current, has a climate in which camellias are grown out-of-doors in full sun.

COLOR The color of the camellia bloom and its foliage will influence sun tolerance. The deepest red blooms are the most sun-tolerant. Pinks are more susceptible to sun damage, and white camellias are the least sun-tolerant. As we have stated, the darker green the foliage, the more sun-tolerant the plant may be.

CHROMOSOMES In dealing with chromosomes, we are dealing with species. Certain species are more sun-tolerant than others. The species which will take full sun and therefore is the favorite with landscape gardeners is *C. sasanqua*. Almost all of the varieties of this species are sun-tolerant, and they can be planted in full sun. The exceptions are: *C. sasanqua* 'Chansonette', 'Pale Moonlight', 'Pink Showers', and 'White Frills'. The next most sun-tolerant species are: *C. lutchuensis*, *C. granthiama*, and *C. reticulata*. The species *C. japonica* is the least sun-tolerant of the popular species seen in our gardens. Hybridizers have chosen to cross the *C. sasanqua* species with *C. reticulata* and with *C. japonica* to make the hybrids more sun-tolerant. They have been successful with several crosses which have proved to be popular. It seems safe to state that any hybrid with *C. sasanqua* genes in the cross tends to be relatively sun-tolerant.

Now, if our novice camellia hobbyist wants to grow a camellia in his front yard in full sun, he should follow these rules:

(1) Pick out a *C. sasanqua* camellia or, if he wants to have *C. japonica*, it should be a dark red one with dark green foliage.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA REVIEW FUND

Dorothy M. Davis in memory of Wilkins Garner.
Bob and Alice Jaacks in memory of Jerry Donnan.

Send contributions to:
Jeanne Trefzger
607 Santa Cruz Rd.
Arcadia, CA 91007

(2) Keep the plant which he bought "Because I like the one in the Spring Camellia Show" in its container, and hold it in a shady spot until fall. *Do not* plant this camellia or any other camellia in full sun in the spring of the year. In the fall he should move the container-grown plant into more and more sunlight in easy stages. Then in November or December he should plant this camellia in full sun with a deep mulch around the base of the plant. He should maintain frequent watering. The winter rains and the soft winter sunlight will acclimate the plant and "harden" it to the future summer sun's rays. He should make the cli-

mate of the full-sun camellia as much as possible like the climate in New Zealand. Try to maintain as much humidity as possible around the full-sun camellia. One thing to keep in mind about a full-sun camellia is that he will never get a "head table" bloom from this plant.

Herewith is a list of the most sun-tolerant *C. japonica* varieties: 'Covina', 'Ace of Hearts', 'Bob Hope', 'Grand Slam', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Melinda Hackett', 'Flame', 'Magnoliaeflora', 'Drama Girl', 'Silver Waves', 'Blood of China', 'Wildfire', 'Pink Perfection' and 'Debutante'.

Sun Tolerance of Camellias

by William E. Wylam

Reprinted from The Camellia Review, July, 1951, with the original editor's note.

(Ed. Note: Although Bill Wylam generally knows what he is talking about, and we usually have no reason to quarrel with his opinions, in this instance he has picked out a highly controversial subject on which to write. Therefore, his opinions must remain his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the society or the editor of this journal.)

We have regarded camellias as shade plants for so many years that I fear most of us have overlooked the fact that many camellias are tolerant of a great deal of sun. Some varieties are able to adapt themselves to full sun, even here in Southern California, where the sunlight is more intense than in sections where the humidity is higher.

Observers have noted that camellia plants which are large enough to shade their own roots, stand the effects of the sun better than young plants which do not shade their roots enough to keep them cool. A ground cover of shallow rooted plants or a mulch of some material such as leaves, pine needles or peat is of value in protecting the roots from the sun's rays.

As a general rule, older plants are more tolerant of sun than younger plants. Also, as a general rule, reds are more tolerant than whites or light

shades. However, this is far from being a hard and fast rule.

I have a theory which I have never tested but which I believe will prove correct. Varieties having thick, fleshy petals are more apt to withstand sun than varieties of similar coloring but of more delicate structure. It must, however, be borne in mind (in this connection) that flowers which are softened by moisture, from rain or overhead watering, will discolor, even in shady locations.

A change in character of growth is one factor that is quickly apparent in plants placed in sunny locations. These plants are definitely more compact in growth than plants of the same variety grown in shade. Plants growing in sunny situations also tend to set more flower buds than when grown in shadier places. When camellias are grown in dense shade they often refuse to bloom, or even set buds. This is es-

rically noticeable with 'Pink Perfection'. It is also noticeable that a plant growing in a sunny place will bloom earlier than a plant of the same variety growing in a shady place.

One important factor which must be considered in selecting varieties for a sunny location is the coloring of the foliage. Varieties which have a mottled or variegated foliage are not suitable for exposed situations, as the light areas burn quickly, if subjected to strong sunlight.

I would suggest that, when planting camellias in sunny places, a screen of lath (or some lightweight cloth) be placed so as to protect the plant during the hottest part of the day. This screen may be erected early in June and removed in late September. The screen may be needed for two seasons, but often one season is enough to enable the plant to adjust itself to its new position.

Camellias placed near a wall, or other surface which may reflect heat rays, are more apt to be injured than plants growing in the open.

Plants of all varieties of *Camellia sasanqua* seem able to adapt themselves to full sun. However, blooms of such delicate varieties as 'Fuji-No-Mine' and 'Minima' are best when grown in light shade.

The *japonica* x *sasanqua* hybrid 'Vernalis' ('Dawn') is well adapted to full sun. Its dark green, leathery leaves retain their glossy appearance even in the hottest weather, and the flowers appear in midwinter when there is the least danger of their being damaged by the sun. As this variety is also noted for its cold resistance, it is admirably adapted for use as a hedge.

Many varieties of *Camellia japonica* will grow in full sun, but their blossoms have better color and texture if grown in partial shade. It has been observed that flowers of some varieties are larger

and have better keeping qualities, if grown under glass or in light shade.

The following lists are necessarily tentative and incomplete:

(A) Camellias that will tolerate full sun: 'Black Prince', 'California', 'Cheerful', 'Covina', 'C. M. Hovey', 'Duncan Bell', 'Elena Nobile', 'Emperor of Russia', 'Enrico Bettoni', 'Firebrand', 'Gigantea "Jacksoni"', 'Imperator', 'Jarvis Red', 'Lady Campbell', 'Lady de Saumerez', 'Mathotiana', 'Mission Bells', 'Noblissima', 'Pink Perfection', 'Prince Eugene Napoleon', 'Princess Baciocchi', 'Prof. Chas. Sargent', 'Purity', 'Rainy Sun', 'Romany', 'Sarah Frost', 'Tricolor Seiboldi', 'Uncle Sam', 'Victory', 'Waratah', 'Waukanoura Red'.

(B) Camellias that prefer light shade during the hottest part of the day: 'Akebono', 'Arabella', 'Baronne de Bleichroeder', 'Beauty of Holland', 'Bella Romana', 'Bleichroeder Pink', 'Blood of China', 'Cleopatra', 'Crimson Sunset', 'Dante' ('White Pine Cone'), 'Donckelari', 'Dr. W. G. Lee', 'Ella Drayton', 'Finlandia', 'Finlandia Var.', 'Flame', 'Gen. Dwight Eisenhower', 'Gen. Geo. Patton', 'Gigantea', 'Emp. Wilhelm', 'Henry Middleton', 'Herme', 'Herme Pink', 'John Ilges', 'Kumasaka', 'Lady Clare', 'Margherita Coleoni', 'Mme. Jannoch', 'Mrs. Chas. Cobb', 'Mrs. Confer', 'Rosita', 'Te Deum', 'Vedrine', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Warrior', 'Wilders Rose'.

(C) Camellias that prefer filtered sunlight (light shade such as a lath-house or high oak trees) — this includes nearly all camellias, although the optimum amount of light varies widely with different varieties.

(D) Camellias that prefer shade: 'Lotus'.

I talked to Bill Wylam, who lives here in Pasadena. He went to work with Howard Asper at the Huntington Gardens in 1954, despite his "wild ideas." He laughed when I told him I wanted to reprint his article with Bill Donnan's. "A friend once told me, paraphrasing perhaps, 'Never make a definite statement about camellias, because if you do, it'll stand up on its hind legs and laugh at you.'" — Ed. note

Revised Camellia Show Schedule 1989-90 Season

1989

Dec. 3,4 Pacific Society Gib Show Los Angeles County Arboretum Arcadia	Feb. 10,11 Temple City Camellia Society Los Angeles County Arboretum Arcadia
---	--

1990

Jan. 13,14 Southern California Camellia Society Huntington Gardens San Marino	Feb. 17,18 Southern California Camellia Council Descanso Gardens La Cañada
Jan. 27,28 South Coast Camellia Society South Coast Botanical Gardens Palos Verdes	Feb. 24,25 Pomona Valley Camellia Society Pomona First Federal Claremont
Feb. 3,4 San Diego Camellia Society Casa del Prado—Balboa Park San Diego	Mar. 3,4 Kern County Camellia Society Cunningham Gallery Bakersfield
	Mar. 10,11 Central California Camellia Society Fresno

Not in Southern California Council:

Feb. 10,11 Peninsula Camellia Society Community Activities Bldg. Redwood City	Mar. 3,4 Camellia Society of Sacramento Community Convention Center
Feb. 17,18 Delta Camellia Society Campolinda High School Moraga	Mar. 10,11 Northern California Camellia Society Heather Farms Center Walnut Creek
Feb. 24,25 Camellia Society of Santa Clara Community Recreation Center	Mar. 17,18 Camellia Society of Modesto Gallo Winery—Admin. Bldg.
March 24,25 Atwater Garden Society Mitchell Senior Elementary School	

New Zealand 1990

The National Camellia Show, Convention & Seminar will be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand, 25th-27th August 1990. A warm welcome is extended to camellia members from overseas to join us in our 'Special Show'.

1990 is New Zealand's Sesquicentennial Year. The camellia show is one of the official projects in the year of celebrations. Palmerston North, with a population of 64,000, is centrally located in New Zealand. Our visits to lovely gardens containing camellias will take us through some of our best sheep and dairying country as well as a trip to an area very typical of our backcountry areas.

A post-tour of gardens in New Zealand is being organised. This two-week tour will finally arrive in Auckland for a visit to the "World Orchid Show" before your departure.

If you are interested, would you please contact Mrs. Blanche Lauridsen, Aranui Road, Rural Delivery No. 5, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Four Georgia Crackers In California

by Arthur W. Solomon

Reprinted from American Camellia Quarterly, July, 1955

This is the story about a trip to California made by four Georgia Crackers. One was none other than Mr. John Illges, donor of the Illges Medal, who resides at "Plumfield" in one of those Ionic column mansions at Columbus. Two of the others, Mr. Dave Strother and Mr. Maxwell Murray, were from middle Georgia — Fort Valley, to be exact — where camellias grow at their best in the gardens of those two gentlemen. The fourth, the writer, hails from Grimbald's Point at the eastern end of the Isle of Hope near Savannah on the eastern seaboard, where camellia plants and beautiful oaks occupy a prominent place in the landscape scheme.

With Mrs. Maxwell Murray as a gracious chaperone, Dave, Max and I left Fort Valley on February 22 and drove to Opelika, Alabama, by way of Columbus, Georgia, where we picked up Mr. Illges. Leaving Mrs. Murray to visit with her son at Opelika, we boarded the Queen and Crescent destined for New Orleans. We arrived there on the last night of the famous Mardi Gras celebration but, unfortunately, were prevented by a driving rain from taking in the sights.

We arrived at Los Angeles on February 24, where two well-known camellia personalities, Bill Woodroof and Frank Williams, met us at the station. After locating our reservations at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel, which were very hard to get at this time of year and only obtained through the influence of some of our camellia friends, we were then on our way to receive or accept, whichever way you may term it, some of that California hospitality. The railroad journey made us thirsty, and a thirst quencher was most acceptable, after which we motored to one of those outstanding restaurants that all tourists are supposed to enjoy, where we had a wonderful dinner. On our return to the hotel, al-

though it was quite late, we still continued to talk camellias.

Friday morning Frank Williams came to the hotel and advised us that he had arranged through Mr. Howard Asper for a preview of the famous Pasadena Flower Show, which usually runs about ten days. We were conducted through the display by Mr. Asper himself, and we had the opportunity of seeing some of Southern California's nicest floral decorations. After bidding Mr. Asper "Adieu," we went to Huntington Gardens where we were honored by having Mr. William Hertrich, Curator Emeritus of the Gardens, take us on a personally conducted tour. Mr. Hertrich showed us not only the Gardens, where over 1,000 varieties of camellias are growing, but through the Library and Art Gallery as well. Incidentally, Huntington Gardens are one of the points of interest members of the American Camellia Society will be privileged to visit during the course of the Annual Meeting next February.

We had lunch with Mr. Hertrich at the Faculty Dining Room at California Institute of Technology and, of course, a further discussion of camellias. It is worth a trip to California just to listen to Mr. Hertrich's story about what has been accomplished with respect to camellia plantings during the many years he was actively associated with the Huntington Gardens.

After lunch we were once again on our way — this time to Nuccio's Nurseries at Altadena. Mr. Julius Nuccio, one of the most affable gentlemen in the camellia industry, was more than willing to show us what he was doing with *Camellia reticulata* varieties.

Our next stop was at Coolidge's Rare Plant Gardens at Pasadena. There we had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Harvey Short about the many new varieties he has developed. In our opinion, his 'Frosty Morn' is a real

gem.

With Frank still at the wheel, we went on to the McCaskill Gardens, operated by Billie and Vern McCaskill, which are also located near Pasadena. Their new seedling, '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. The flower is a light pink, deeply fimbriated semi-double.

Our last stop that day was at the California Camellia Gardens in San Fernando, operated by Dave Cook and Ed Arensen. (Both of these gentlemen are greatly interested in the work being performed by All-American Camellia Selections, Inc.) There we were privileged to see an outstanding sport of 'Fred Sander' that in all probability will attract considerable attention when it is placed on the market.

After leaving Dave and Ed, we returned to the hotel, enjoyed a delicious dinner, and went to bed, too tired to participate in another camellia "bull-session."

Our original plan to hire a U-Drive-It car for our use while in California was never put into effect. Our gracious hosts furnished transportation at all times, even when a taxicab would have sufficed.

The next morning, Saturday, Frank Williams drove us along the Pacific Coast to Long Beach. We saw a forest of oil well derricks, and enjoyed a shore luncheon. We were late in arriving at our destination — the camellia show sponsored by the San Diego Camellia Society at Balboa Park, San Diego. In spite of our tardiness, we were welcomed with outstretched arms by Dr. and Mrs. Tellum, Dr. and Mrs. Hubbs and many others whose names I cannot recall. The show was a beautiful one and many wonderful blooms were exhibited. The award for the best flower in show went to a 'Variegated Reg Ragland'. One penalty we paid for our late arrival was to miss Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thompson, who had to leave for Glendale before we reached

San Diego.

After the show we headed for Mexico. We found accommodations at a very beautiful motel situated just one-tenth of a mile from the border at San Ysidro. Needless to state, particularly in view of the fact that this was the first opportunity some of our party ever had to visit a foreign country, we did not spend much time at the motel. We went to Tijuana, Mexico, where we had dinner, with all the "trimmings," at the Casino. After dinner we took in the jai alai games, which is one of the fastest sports we had ever seen. Then we took in some of the night life of the town. I cannot tell you — in print — everything we saw, except to say it was most interesting and a bit intriguing. (Of course, we did not do anything that could not be given the widest publicity.) After paying (I think) for the tequila enjoyed by some of the serpentine body dancers who performed for our pleasure and enjoyment, we returned to our motor court for a greatly needed rest.

The next morning, with Frank Williams still at the wheel, we went off on an exploration trip into Mexico. A drive along a beautiful coastal road for 70 miles terminated at a lovely Mexican place of abode at Ensenada, called the Bahai Motor Court, replete with a swimming pool. Like other better class towns, Ensenada provides excellent professional entertainment for visitors. Years ago it was a famous gambling resort. At one time Jack Dempsey was the promoter of a casino conducted on the lines of Monte Carlo. The gambling spirit and love of entertainment continues to prevail, although the gambling places have been closed by order of the Mexican Government.

We took in a few of these places of entertainment. At one place Dave Strother had his palm read and was rapidly becoming impressed with the palmist's predictions until, after a close scrutiny of his long life, she upset the apple cart by stating that his great grandchildren would probably have twins! John Illges was hesitant about

holding out his hand but finally capitulated to the appeal in the lady's sparkling eyes. As might be expected, the lady stressed the fact that John was about to inherit a large sum of money. Each time John smiled at the sum mentioned, she increased the amount of wealth he was going to inherit. She certainly earned her pesos. The palm-reading session came to a sudden end when one of these gay, festive-looking entertainers, mistaking the top of my head for a crystal ball, peered at it and stated, "Ah, Senor, you no wear zee underwear"! That was too much for Max Murray, our dependable balance wheel, who exclaimed that he would rather spend his money for a dinner for all of us than on a palm reader. That he did, and we ate hot tamales and chile con carne with all the trimmings at the Stoehadi.

On Monday we enjoyed a leisurely trip back to Los Angeles, going by way of Riverside, where we visited the Old Mission Inn. This is another place that should be visited by members of the Society when they take in the Annual Meeting next year. From there we

went to visit Mrs. Elizabeth C. Councilman at Councilman Camellia Acres, El Monte, and saw her new white seedling, 'Angel'.

The next day Mr. Ralph S. Peer took us to lunch with Bill Woodroof at the California Club in downtown Los Angeles as the guests of Mr. Reg Ragland. Afterwards, Mr. Ragland took us to see his collection of camellias. All of the plants are growing in containers in three lath houses. Everything was immaculate, not even a single petal could be found under a plant. Most growers, like Mr. Ragland, keep their plantings in a clean, sanitary condition as a precaution against entry or spread of camellia flower blight.

After enjoying a long chat about camellias, Mr. and Mrs. Ragland took us on a 60-mile drive to Balboa Bay, where we did justice to a real Pacific Coast seafood dinner at the Yacht Club. (As a result of my frequent references to food, the reader may no doubt be wondering whether we went to California to see camellias or to eat.) After dinner we attended the meeting of the Camellia Society of Orange County,

FOR SALE

20th Revised Edition of 1990 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

Members — First copy \$5.00 / Additional copies \$15.00 each

Non-Member \$15.00 per copy

12 copies or more \$10.00 each

Postage included on all copies

Southern California Camellia Society

Box 3690 Arcadia, CA 91066

Available after October 1, 1989

where Mr. Peer was the speaker of the evening.

On Wednesday we had an opportunity to rest at the hotel before Mr. and Mrs. Peer took us to the Beverly Hills Club for lunch, and to see the Hollywood stars. The latter, in true Hollywood style, wore thin party dresses just a wee bit low in front and, frankly, it was difficult to look those interesting celebrities straight in the eyes and continue to talk camellias. In the afternoon we visited the Peer collection of camellias and, later on, drove to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd J. Taylor for a wonderful cocktail party. Here the camellias were so beautifully planted in the landscaping that most of the party was spent in the garden enjoying the quality of the blooms.

The evening was devoted to a meeting of the Pacific Coast Camellia Society in Glendale, where we served on a panel discussion with Frank Williams as moderator. The greater part of the discussion dealt with the varietal bloom differences in plants grown in the South and West. In reply to an inquiry as to the best recent introduction in the South, we could think of none better than 'Mrs. D. W. Davis'.

When you go to Los Angeles next year, be sure to visit the Farmers' Market, where you can buy almost any kind of fruit or vegetable or observe the choicest collection of California's farm, orchard and vineyard products. What a place to eat those things Frank suggested! After a short stay at the Market, we drove to Mr. Arthur Freed's Orchid Farm about 50 miles beyond Los Angeles.

Friday we were again the guests of Mr. Peer, who took us to meet the officials of Huntington Gardens. We had lunch as guests of Dr. J. E. Pomfret, who is now in charge of the Huntington Estate. Later, we were joined by Mrs. Peer and we went to the Santa Anita race track, where we occupied a box provided through the courtesy of Mr. Charles S. Jones, who at one time was associated with Descanso Gardens and Nurseries. This race course is well

worth seeing — the landscaping is really marvelous, and with spaces fully a half-acre in diameter, there were beautiful designs made of yellow and blue pansies. Even the hills surrounding the race course are magnificently landscaped, and many colored flowers were used so as to make the view from the grandstand one never to be forgotten. From the race course Mr. and Mrs. Peer drove us back to the hotel.

Friday night we enjoyed a steak barbecue with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams and their four wonderful children, all of whom pitched in to make the visit a most enjoyable one. The Williams home is most attractively located on the side of a hill which, together with the swimming pool, is surrounded with plantings of many fine varieties of camellias.

On Saturday Mr. Peer took us to the camellia show at San Marino, sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society. Mr. E. C. Tourje, Chairman of Judges, was good enough to appoint the four Georgia Crackers, as well as another visitor from the South, Mr. Aubrey C. Harris, Shreveport, Louisiana, as judges. I was especially fortunate in being asked to work with Mr. Tourje and Mr. Hertrich in judging their first show of *C. reticulatas*. At the show we renewed acquaintance with many of the camellia personalities we had met at the A. C. S. Annual Meeting in California in 1949, among them Mrs. Dr. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thompson, Mrs. Tinkham, Mrs. Beebe, and scores of others that I wish my memory was good enough to enumerate.

After a short rest at the hotel, we went to a cocktail party at the Peer residence. Monique and Ralph really gave us a party that will linger long in the memories of all of us, and you will have to see this home to appreciate all that was done for our entertainment. It is built on the top of a hill, and the camellias are arranged in terraces, beautifully done under a most efficient gardener, who was there to tell us the many things that have been accom-

plished under most difficult conditions. The home, which overlooks the countryside and the many entrancing lights of the city, is on three floors, on each of which something was served. We had to leave the delightful hospitality of the Peers to keep an appointment for dinner at the Moulin Rouge. Mr. Peer left his guests to personally see that we were there on time, and left no stone unturned to see that our trip was perfect in every detail.

The Moulin Rouge is a huge place of entertainment with a capacity of 900 or more guests who enjoy the floor show while dinner is being served. The *pièce de résistance*, insofar as entertainment was concerned, was for the benefit of John Illges. It consisted of a large champagne glass that was slowly lowered from the ceiling, in which was seated a lovely young lady dressed in pink tights. The reference, of course, was to John's seedling, 'Pink Champagne'.

Frank was on time Sunday morning when we started on a long motor trip to see the big trees in Sequoia Park, and then on to Yosemite, where the ground was covered with snow. Lunch at Ahwahnee Lodge high in these mountains is another "must" on the itinerary of visitors to the Annual Meeting next year. After lunch we drove to Bakersfield and took in the camellia show staged by the Camellia Society of Kern County, at which the Best Flower of the Show was a 'Te Deum'. That night we stayed at Fresno.

Before leaving Fresno on Monday, we called on Mr. Milo Rowell, Jr., and looked at his collection of camellia plants. Afterwards we drove through

the lovely Yosemite Valley to Modesto, where we spent the night.

The next morning we drove to Hayward and had a nice visit with Mr. Toichi Domoto, who showed us his camellia, 'Shiro-chan', and then on to Lafayette to visit Mr. D. L. Feathers and his excellent collection. This garden, like that of Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor, is one of the comparatively few gardens in California where camellia plants are used in the landscape scheme.

On Wednesday, Mr. Feathers took us to see Mr. Harold Paige, who resides in Lafayette. Growing camellia plants in containers is Mr. Paige's specialty. It is surprising to see bushes growing in containers that look as good as his, or that bear such beautiful flowers.

Our next stop was at the nursery of Mr. Vernon James near San Jose, and you should watch this gentleman's hybridized production of a cross between a *C. cuspidata* and a *C. japonica*. Here, together with about a dozen other camellia enthusiasts, we were entertained at a luncheon. From there we went to see the collection of Mr. C. Breschini, and then on to San Francisco to inquire about our railway tickets for the trip home. That night Mr. and Mrs. Feathers, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Paige, had a steak dinner for us and a few others. On the front porch of the Feathers' home was an 8-foot 'Capt. Rawes' reticulata in full bloom. Not a single flower was less than five inches in diameter!

Unfortunately, our time was limited, because preparations had been made to entertain us in Northern California and even over in Sacramento. It

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Bob and Ruth Marcy,
in memory of Armando Caputi

Send contributions to:
John Utvich
2975 Somerset Place
San Marino, CA 91108

was difficult to get Pullman reservations, and there was no way in which we could linger longer, much as we would like to have done so.

On Thursday morning both Mr. Feathers and Mr. Williams took us to the train at Oakland, and here is where we regretted to have to tell both of them "Goodbye." We thanked them for the most enjoyable trip we have

ever had anywhere, anytime since we have been playing with camellias, and thought of Frank having to drive alone all the way back to his home in Beverly Hills.

From Oakland to Chicago we had a lovely trip on the Vista Dome California Zephyr, and Saturday evening all of us were back home on Georgia soil.

Exploring Camellias in San Juan Capistrano

by Glenn Smith

In our patio garden the wild birds feed in front of the figure of St. Francis, then drink and bathe in the fountain, which they think is a birdbath. The sky is intensely blue against the tile roofs and tawny hills. The weather is so mild we have lived in shorts for the months that LaVerne and I have lived here. When night falls, brilliant stars fill the sky from horizon to horizon. This is San Juan Capistrano beautiful, the mission town. The gardens are lovely and seem not to mind the adobe soil from which the building blocks of the mission are made.

So far we haven't seen camellias growing except for a few in our garden and some sickly ones across the street.

Ours are old standards planted in amended soil by a landscape firm retained by the original owner and seem healthy. For a while we will keep those few camellias we brought with us in containers and hope we generate a few blossoms for the shows.

There is a large bank at the rear of the garden, which was created by grading the hillside. The trees and ground cover thrive, but the shrubs, including hardy plumbago, appear to be dying. Some of the exposure is right, so we will try a couple of camellias in the ground. We will find out if large holes and a good mix will overcome the clay and hard water.

More in the next report.

PASSINGS

Jerry Donnan, Pasadena, California

E. Eleanor Ingram, San Diego, California

Carlton J. Latour, Lafayette, Louisiana

Introducing in 1989-90

'BILL WOODROOF' — 'PINK LACE'
'RUDY'S MAGNOLIAEFLORE' — 'SPRING MIST'

Write for FREE catalogue

NUCCIO'S
NURSERIES

3555 CHANEY TRAIL
P.O. BOX 6160
ALTADENA, CA 91001

Closed Wednesday & Thursday—Sundays thru December

Ph 818-794-3383

Camellia Leaf Burn

by J. J. Littlefield

Reprinted from the April, 1951, Camellia Review

As a garden consultant, I thought I knew all the answers to camellia troubles. A *chamaelaucium* (Geraldton wax flower shrub) grew exuberantly beside my front porch. I finally decided I'd rather have another camellia in its place as a companion plant to 'Anna Frost' camellia.

So the wax plant was rooted out and 'Debutante' camellia set up housekeeping in its place. "Surely," I thought, "'Debutante' will feel at home beside the healthy, robust-growing 'Anna Frost' camellia." Yes, the 'Debutante' was planted properly. Drainage was provided, and the plant was set in a good soil mixture of peat moss, leaf mold, a bit of well-weathered manure, and existing garden soil.

Soon the troubles started. Leaves turned brown from the edges on in towards the centers. Some of the brown burnt-like leaf margins were about a quarter of an inch wide. In checking with several camellia specialists, the symptoms indicated alkali burn.

A generous handful of sulphur was scattered evenly in the basin of the thinish, three-foot-tall plant. Iron sulphate (snow-form, looks like flour) was applied in diluted liquid form. One heaping tablespoonful to each gallon of water. Two basin fillings constituted one treatment. This particular size basin drank up seven gallons of diluted iron sulphate. Two treatments were applied during the summer at intervals of six weeks apart. It was fed a specially formulated camellia food, obtainable at nurseries, three times during its growing season, watered regularly and had semi-weekly foliage baths during the summer months.

Still the plant didn't respond to treatment. In fact, Martin Faber, then president of the Pasadena Horticultural Society asked me, "What's the matter with that camellia? The leaf edges are burned, and the leaves are almost paper thin!" I explained about the alkali water burn trouble.

Next year the brown leaf margin edges were narrower. The same cultural treatment was applied. Sulphur, iron sulphate, acid plant food feedings, and systematic watering. Finally, after two years of constant care, more so than for a growing child, that plant snapped out of its misery ailment and now is beginning to perform somewhat near normal.

It took me over two years to figure out why 'Debutante', a first-class, healthy-looking plant when purchased and set out beside the portly 'Anna Frost' camellia, should act up the way it did.

The 'Debutante' camellia trouble was this . . . I didn't dig out enough soil, which contained bits of alkaline reaction roots of the Geraldton wax plant! I should have made a much larger hole for the 'Debutante', filled it partly with good garden loam, then mixed the other humus type ingredients with that soil.

It's a good idea to study the soil situation if you contemplate planting a camellia in place of another shrub that has grown in that location for a number of years. If there's any doubt as to soil condition, don't even hesitate for a minute. Dig out that soil that has been occupied by the roots of the other plant. Bring in some good soil from other parts of the garden or, if you have it, use compost soil.

Editor's note: Joe Littlefield has spent many, many years in horticulture, writing, lecturing and broadcasting. He is now a popular gardening consultant at Fair Oaks Nursery, 284 E. Orange Grove Boulevard in Pasadena.

His first gardening book, Down to Earth Gardening, has just come off the press. You might like to stop at the nursery and take a look. Joe knows his stuff and has a chapter on camellias and azaleas.

The Joshua E. Youtz Camellia

by Roy T. Thompson

Reprinted from Camellia Notes, publication of the Pacific Camellia Society, March, 1950.

The 'White Daikagura', recently re-named 'Joshua E. Youtz', is easily the Camellia of the Year. Propagated from Japanese seed by Joshua E. Youtz of Pasadena, it was offered for sale for the first time in September, 1949, by Nuccio Nurseries, Altadena. The variety has aroused great interest among both amateur and professional growers; at the Feb. 18-19 camellia show in Pasadena it won the Frank Williams Cup as the outstanding new introduction of the season.

The bloom is semi-double white of good substance, varying to full peony and also to full double imbricated with bud center. Flowers are four to five inches in diameter. Of great value is its earliness of bloom, coming out when there are no other whites comparable to it in size. In the unseasonably hot autumn in Southern California just past when temperatures reached 80 and 90 degrees for days at a time and when many old stand-bys like the variegated 'Daikagura' blasted most of their buds, the "White Daik" opened normally and fully, and without any blasting. It regulated its bloom so that it was continuously in flower from October to March. Growers who sell cut flowers have long been looking for a fine white for the Thanksgiving and Christmas trade. They have their wish in this variety; it hangs on to its stem better than 'Alba Plena' and is of better substance. Several growers have expressed the opinion that this is the best camellia of all time.

Like the camellia itself, the story of this new variety is out of the ordinary. It came from the same lot of Japanese seed as the 'Mme. Hahn', 'Victory', 'Adah Pearl', 'Miss Pasadena', 'Alexander Nowlin', and others.* For years Joshua Youtz kept these varieties segregated as the "Japanese seedlings." Other growers obtained and propa-

gated these varieties but the "White Daik" remained in the Youtz yard and was always referred to by that name. During the war all the Youtz plants suffered greatly from lack of care and were in bad condition when, in 1945, Mr. Julius Nuccio, recently out of the Army, went with his father to visit his old friend Ellsworth Youtz. The latter gave Julius three scions from the "White Daik" with the remark, "I'm afraid this plant will die and I want you to take these scions and graft them for I don't do grafting."

There is another phase of this story which should be told in order to make the record complete. About a year after the Nuccios had obtained scions, Mr. George T. Goodhue of the Goodhue Gardens, Fresno, went to Pasadena and bought several thousand dollars worth of plants from the Youtz family. Some of these died and later on Mrs. Minnie Craig LaRoche, partner of Mr. Goodhue, went to Pasadena to report the loss. After considerable discussion with Ellsworth Youtz**, Mrs. LaRoche left with a small "White Daik" plant which she took back to the Goodhue Gardens. Some time later she took scions from this plant to Mr. Ed Arnesen of the Valley Garden Supply Co., North Hollywood, and that nursery now has the variety under propagation.

In February, 1950, Ellsworth re-named the variety for his father and registered it with the American Camellia Society as the 'Joshua E. Youtz', thus honoring the name of a man who was, in his time, one of America's outstanding propagators of new camellia varieties.

*American Camellia Yearbook, 1949, p. 190.

**Joshua E. Youtz, father of Ellsworth, died Nov. 18, 1946.

Directory of Other California Camellia Societies

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB AND CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Bill Lee; Secretary, Ruby Eason, P.O. Box 918, Atwater 95301. Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room, Bloss House, 1020 Cedar Ave., Atwater.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Chris Gonos; Secretary, Dolores Martin, 2405 E. Pontiac Way, Fresno 93726. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November through February, Sheraton Smugglers Inn, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Pitts; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Court, Clayton 94517. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November through March, Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Rd., Concord.

SOUTHERN COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Beverly Dukes; Secretary, Shirley Jenkins, 4824 Hasti-Bob Ct., Bakersfield 93309. Meetings: Call Beverly or Fred Dukes for meeting dates, time and location (805) 831-4383.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Harlan Smith; Secretary, Betty Grover, 1108 Ulrich Ave., Modesto 95350. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, September through April, Centenary Methodist Church, Room 6, Norwegian & McHenry Avenues, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Jack Lewis; Secretary, Jim Toland, 1897 Andrews Dr., Concord 94521. Meetings: 1st Monday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., San Francisco Federal Savings, 1660 Olympic Blvd., Walnut Creek. Final meeting in Spring is first Monday in May.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Marcie Altizer; Secretary, Mary Simmons, 5616 Freeman Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, 8:00 p.m., Descanso Gardens.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Cam Ainsworth; Secretary, Betty Semich, c/o Cam Ainsworth, 3879 Vineyard Drive, Redwood City 94061. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October through March, Ampex Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Larry Andrews; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, November through April, 7:30 p.m., Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan, 1933 Foothill Blvd., La Verne.

SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, Donald Lesmeister; Secretary, Evalena Smith, 601 - 34th St., Sacramento 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October through April, 7:30 p.m., Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Dean Turney; Secretary, Edalee Harwell, 2165 Leon Ave., San Diego 92154. Meetings: October through April, 7:30 p.m., Casa Del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF—President, John Mendoza, III; Secretary, Mrs. Roy Williams, 1159 Park Ave., San Jose, 95126. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Sumitomo Bank Building (upstairs), 515 No. First St., San Jose.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Wally Jones; Secretary, Pauline Johnson, 1251 Tenth St., San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, October through May, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palo Verdes Peninsula.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Elsie Bracci; Secretary, Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel 91776. Meetings: November 16, January 25, February 22, March 22, Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia; April 26, Ayres Hall, Arboretum.

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
CAMELLIA
SOCIETY, Inc.

P. O. BOX 3690
ARCADIA, CA 91066

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 740
Pasadena, CA

Return Postage Guaranteed



'Pink Crepe de Chine'

Very large, light rose pink with a white efflorescence, semi-double *C. reticulata* chance seedling of 'Shot Silk', mid-season. Houghton S. Hall.