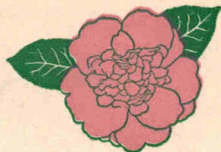


SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



CAMELLIA
SOCIETY

A Non-Profit Corporation

Volume VIII—Number 6

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

February, 1947

The
Southern California Camellia Society

Announces an

All Camellia
SHOW

at the

Fannie E. Morrison Horticultural Center
BROOKSIDE PARK, PASADENA

Saturday—Sunday

February 8-9, 1947

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DR. H. HAROLD HUME, Provost, Division of Agriculture, University of Florida

The February Meeting

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 13, 1947

Odd Fellows' Temple, 175 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena

7:30 P.M.—INFORMAL FLOWER SHOW

Let's show the world that three days after putting on a whacking big Public Show, we can fill our own tables with blooms! Mark them with name of variety and exhibitor. (Ever hear of Arnaldo Da Brescia? Bet you haven't *that* one in your garden!)

8:00 P.M.—CALL TO ORDER

8:15 P.M.—PROGRAM

"Visible Symptoms of Camellia Troubles and Suggestions for Treatment."—A talk by Elvin H. Carter, Charter Member, Veteran Camellia Grower of Carter's Camellia Gardens in Monterey Park. The talk will be illustrated with Kodachrome slides.

"The Effect of Colorado River Water on Camellia Culture" by Harold E. Pearson, Agricultural Chemist with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

9:00 P.M.—PRIZES

contributed by McCaskill's Nursery, Pasadena.

Amateur Exhibitors Prize: Arnaldo Da Brescia.

Members Door Prize: Sacco Vera.

Publications Fund: Queen Bessie.

Test Garden Fund: Gardenia.

TAPS.

ADMISSION BY MEMBERSHIP AND GUEST CARD ONLY.

California's Old Camellias

Part I—Chico District

Robert Casamajor

Until you travel around our State a bit with the express intent of finding old Camellia plants, and how they happen to be where they are, you will never have any idea of the stories behind some of these giants. While I have not seen all of them, by a long way, or even know where they are tucked away in old gardens, nurseries, ranches and parks, I have visited enough of them to be completely awed by their majesty, vigor and stately beauty.

One interesting thing about them is that the natives in their vicinity take them completely for granted. This isn't unnatural, since the trees have been there since these people were old enough to notice anything, so why should they think them exceptional? They will point with pride to a City Hall ten years old, or a new bus line in town, but a 60 or 70-year-old Camellia 25 feet high won't even get an Honorable Mention.

This article is going to present to you several of the old Camellias of California and the stories that have been woven around them, in the hope that readers may be interested enough to reveal the location of other old trees, of which this writer has no knowledge.

Not all the trails I have been sent on, in this search, have yielded the gold that was promised, but none has been without some interest.

To start my story I will take you first to Chico, in Butte County, where a sturdy pioneer, General John Bidwell, set up his home on Rancho Chico in the 1850's and proceeded to plant trees and till the soil by the side of Chico Creek. Strangely enough the largest Camellias in Chico are not on the "Mansion" grounds, by which name the local residents affectionately call the area of Bidwell Park surrounding the stately old home of General Bidwell. There are six old Camellias near the "Mansion," however, all of which have multiple trunks, and Mrs. Fred G. Petersen, who was at one time Mrs. Bidwell's personal maid, assured me that it was her belief that these trees were the oldest in Chico, but had been cut more and hence were not as large as some other trees in the town. These varieties are: Variegated Valtevedra, John Laing, French Peony, Bidwell variegated, and two plants of Red Bidwell or Bonamiana.

Mrs. Petersen further states that she believes these trees came from China and Japan, but is not sure whether

General Bidwell brought them in himself or secured them from growers in the San Francisco Bay area. In this connection it is interesting to note that before his death, some twelve years or more ago, Fred G. Petersen, who was at one time General Bidwell's gardener, wrote a short article on Camellias and their culture and from a typewritten copy of it that I saw I quote the following paragraph:

"From a study of early records it seems that the first Camellias were offered for sale in San Francisco and Sacramento about 1854. An unauthenticated report has it that in 1852 a shipment of nursery stock from Valparaiso, Chile contained the first of the plants to reach this state."

Although I have inquired of many people in Northern California regarding the source of their old Camellias, this is the only statement I have seen or heard, which purports to reveal a believable story. When you examine the list I have collected of the varieties of old plants in this section you will realize they are all those which were in popular circulation in Europe from 1848 to 1860. Since the Germans emigrated in numbers to Chile, it seems highly probable they brought their Camellias with them to Valparaiso. I find this much easier to believe than the tale that they were imported from Japan and China, since Commodore Perry didn't visit Japan until the early fifties. It also seems unlikely that any of the Gold Rush seekers carried them across the continent.

Of course the next logical step would be to attempt to check old files of California in our libraries for nurserymen's offerings of that period and also investigate to find out what varieties, if any, there are existing today in the Valparaiso, Chile area.

One of the reasons that it is difficult to get accurate information about old trees is, that oftentimes the present-day descendant of the person who planted the trees enjoys a certain amount of local distinction from the lore that has been built up about it over the years, without too much regard for the truth, and is loath to reveal the facts, even though he or she may know them.

Most of the large trees in Chico are concentrated in the old residence section, within a few blocks of the main business district. They are more or less shaded by large trees such as native walnuts, chestnuts, elms and redwoods, as well as the high, two-

story-and-basement houses, which were prevalent in the sixties and seventies.

There are many fine specimens of ALBA PLENA, CHANDLERI, VALTE-VAREDA, LADY CAMPBELL, PINK PERFECTION, SARAH FROST, HERME, ENRICO BETTONI, ELENA NOBILE, JENNY LIND, PURITY, CHEERFUL, DANTE and BELLE JEANETTE.

One of the largest is an ENRICO BETTONI, which at first was disseminated by a local nursery as WALKER and JUNE, but has now been identified by its correct name. This plant is said to have been brought to Chico in 1882 from San Jose, California, as a present from a relative. It is approximately 18 feet high and well branched. A fine specimen of SARAH FROST is located on the northeast corner of 6th and Chestnut, is about 15 feet high and in excellent condition. There are several large PINK PERFECTION trees, two of the finest being at 2nd and Hazel and at 330 Ivy St. Both are over 15 feet high and look very healthy.

In my opinion the tallest of all is a JENNY LIND, located at 3rd and Normal Sts. It reaches to the roof of an old two-story house and is about 22 feet high. The main trunk, before it branches about 18 inches from the ground, is 15 inches in diameter. It is a magnificent specimen. A very old CHANDLERI is located on Manzanita Ave., but it is so closely surrounded by other shrubbery and a large VALTE-VAREDA, that it is almost impossible to photograph. At 5th and Chestnut, up against the side of the Catholic Sisters' Home is a beautiful ELENA NOBILE, partially shaded by a majestic Redwood with a better than three-foot diameter trunk. It was loaded with big fat buds in October. In front of 216 Hazel St. is a red variety, which no one appears to have identified. It stands over 20 feet high and has a single trunk 15 inches in diameter, 18 inches above the ground. The red flowers of this giant are said to take on a blue cast with age.

One very large HERME is located on the Compton Ranch, about six miles south of town and is growing in front of the old water-tower building, in considerable shade from surrounding large trees. This home was built in 1862. Mrs. Helen Gage informed me that her large ALBA PLENA had been given to her mother, as a small plant, by a negro gardener, who had procured it from Sacramento when they were planting the Capitol grounds. Several of Chico's finest trees are said to have come from this same source in Sacramento.

As can well be imagined these many large trees are a magnificent sight

when in full bloom. A kodachrome of one PINK PERFECTION shows not only a mass of color on the tree itself, but a solid pink carpet on the surrounding ground as well. Chico has long been famous for its fine large Camellias and this reputation is well deserved. Undoubtedly the rich Sacramento Valley soil, a plentiful supply of excellent water, favorable temperature conditions, and a high type of residents, inspired by a personality such as General Bidwell, whose absorbing hobbies were botany and astronomy, have all been factors in producing Chico's grand Camellias.

The only sour note in the picture is the attitude of the general public toward Camellias in the public parks. In Chico, the Petersen family, which has long been identified with this plant in California, undertook to set out in the park in the center of town, a spot comparable with the City Hall Plaza in Pasadena or Pershing Square in Los Angeles, some of the fine new varieties. Mrs. Fred Petersen was assigned the job of watching over these plants in their tender years and I have her word for it that people have so abused them by cutting flowers and breaking off branches that she has been compelled to remove all flower buds on the finest types year after year, in order that the public would not know what they were and so be tempted to steal them. This should give those who are charged with the responsibility of caring for the plants at the California Camellia Test Garden at the Huntington Library, cause to pause and reflect before admitting the general public, until the area can be properly guarded and protected.

Note: Next month Part II, Sacramento District.

NEW MEMBERS—At the January 16 Board of Directors meeting held at the home of Mrs. Carlo E. Galli the following new members were elected to membership: Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Jorgensen, Robert Brown, Mrs. Evart Charlton, Vernon R. James, Albert Guthrie, J. A. Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Wetherby, Mrs. Jennette Lane, George Mitchell Buffum, Grace J. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. George Hess, Dr. E. S. Packard.

A PLUG!

A plug, Gentle Reader, could be a tall, cylindrical chapeau of the masculine persuasion, covered with beaver fur. But it isn't. It's a boost for our advertisers. Patronize them; and don't forget to tell them why you do so!

A Discussion of *Camellia* Nomenclature and Choice Varieties

By WILLIAM WOODROOF*

NOMENCLATURE

Nomenclature was my first study in *camellia* lore. Having at one time been an attorney with a research mind, and having started to collect *camellias*, buying one variety four or five times under different names, I began to get disgusted, started a research on nomenclature. I have spent eight years now, probably two or three hours every night, on the subject; sometimes I take a little rest and work only 40 minutes a night!

Nomenclature to me is one of the most interesting aspects of the *camellia*, as far as anything but flower and growth is concerned, but after I had worked a while I began throwing up my hands in horror. I had gathered 50 kinds of *camellias* with 20 correct names! I have received catalogues from every nursery in the U.S. and checked and rechecked. It is a mess. How did the trouble come about?

The early names of *camellias* were Japanese. Their natural habitat was Eastern Asia, Korea, China south of Shanghai, and Japan south of Tokyo. They were distributed by priests of those countries; the first were brought to the western world by sailors and doctors in the early 16th century; more came to England in the 18th century. In Europe they replaced the Japanese names with Latin ones, followed by the translations; many were given second names in the language of the country where they were taken. Thus we see the start of the mix-up in nomenclature. When *camellias* came to the U.S. Atlantic seaboard, in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington they were given names of persons, common English names, continuing the mix-up—Japanese to Latin to names of the new country.

Nagasaki is a Japanese *camellia*. It has another name, *Mikenjaku*. The consensus is that it is same as *Candida Elegantissima*; then it became known in Germany as *Lady Audrey Buller*. There are at least five names for Nagasaki.

The sources of names are several. The first source was persons. From Marshall P. Wilder, of Boston, we get Wilderi. Donckelari was brought from

China by Von Siebold and named for a chief gardener, Donckelar; Florida Research now states that the true spelling for this is "Donckelari." A second source of names was places. Gloire de Nantes; in my opinion this is really red Fanny Bolis. Virginica was named for the State of Virginia. Color is another source . . . Alba Plena. The form and feature of the flower is also a source . . . Imbricata and Fimbriata. Then we find names for the leaf peculiarities of flowers . . . Myrtifolia and Laurel Leaf.

Some names describe the flower . . . Gloriosa and Gigantea, etc. Finally, there are names indicating resemblance to other flowers . . . Magnoliaflora and Peonaeflora.

I don't need to tell you there is much present confusion in *camellia* names. Many of you have bought the same *camellia* two, three, four or five times. It is sad. I hope some day we will have a remedy for it, and with the intensive work being done, especially by the University of Florida and by the Southern California *Camellia* Society, we are making progress.

There is still danger, however, of duplication. We may call a *camellia* here by a certain name and it will be called something else in another part of the country. Again, there cannot be a sudden name change. True, C. M. Hovey is Col. Firey; it was so named in the 1840's. Most of you here know it, however, as Col. Firey; if we suddenly sell that plant as C. M. Hovey, many people will not know it. Education has to be slow. We can't suddenly say, for instance, that Jordan's Pride is Hikari Gengi.

Contributing to the confusion in names was a lack of cooperation among propagators and growers. They did not get together on the names of new sports and seedlings. These were transferred from one to another and sometimes put out under a changed name. It is a problem to name a sport. In my opinion, a sport of any known variety should carry the name of that variety. If you have a solid red sport of Finlandia, it should be known as Finlandia Red or Red Finlandia.

Another reason for confusion in *camellia* names is lost labels. Dr. Hume, in his fine treatise on *camellias*, says there are some 1300 names of *camellias* in the trade. I have found better than 2500 listed in catalogues in the U.S. in the last ten years! A prominent

*(Footnote: Digest of a talk given on January 9, 1947 before the Southern California *Camellia* Society. Mr. Woodruff is Horticulturist with the Valley Garden Supply Co.)

cause of lost labels was the Civil War. During that war camellias were neglected; many were destroyed. When interest in camellias revived, propagation was started from old varieties, but they didn't know the names, so here we go with another list of names for many camellias! Later we find the old names cropping up.

Another cause was due to failure in grafting. The top would die and it would come up again from the roots. The growers didn't know what the understock was, but did know what the top was.

In 1930 in London, the International Horticultural Conference established an international code of nomenclature. The Code provides that a plant can bear only one valid name. The name should be placed after the species to which it belongs. The name of the individual variety should be indicated by the contraction "Var." (variety).

Latin, under the Code, is to be used only when it expresses a characteristic of the plant; Latin proper names are not allowed. Many of you will name seedlings, so I think it would be a fine thing if the Society would print this Code. Do not change the existing name of a camellia to conform with these rules, however.

For a name to be valid, it must be published in a recognized publication. The first name so published is the correct name. It is recommended that a single word be used, and never more than three, and that the same varietal name is not allowed in more than one species. Another rule is to avoid names likely to be confused. Avoid the use of Mr., Mrs. or Miss in naming camellias; use the name of the person only. Also avoid long names and those difficult to pronounce. Avoid use of the articles "a" and "the." Camellia nomenclature presents a tough problem and so far we have only scratched the surface. The hundreds of hours spent are paying dividends, but we still have

far to go. Your support is needed in any way you can help.

As you know, the camellia varies in form, and the most reliable way to tell a variety is by comparison of the leaf or foliage. Although many foliages are similar, they are just like finger prints. I have never seen different camellias have identical foliage.

VARIETIES

I am frequently asked, "What is your favorite camellia?" I counter with another question. In what form and color? I have a favorite in each form and each color. My favorite pink peony, for instance, is Debutante. "What is your favorite form of flower?" That is also hard. I suppose I would say a huge red and white semi-double; all men are suckers for red!

What do I consider in choosing a camellia? First, form; then color and texture. I also consider very, very important in a camellia its type of growth and foliage. There are so many good camellias, why have one that tries to make a vine out of itself? The camellia is not only a beautiful flower, it is the finest evergreen shrub that exists. A large flower, other things being equal, is better than a small one; but a small flower more beautiful in color and form is better.

WHITES

Pax. Also known as Snow Doll. A white sport of Laurel Leaf. This you all know is a large imbricated double. Compact growth, not too fast.

K. Sawada. An Overlook seedling. White imbricated double. Very good, compact, upright growth. Beautiful flower.

Fimbriata Alba. Supposedly a sport of Alba Plena. Identical foliage. It came from China to England in 1830.

Chastity. New seedling of Valley Garden Supply Co. It is a double peony

Rare Camellias

Defoliated plants shipped in March in light crating

WALTER ALLAN,
Summerville,
South Carolina

with lemon-tinted center. Heavy grower and quite large.

Haku-Raku-Ten. Great mix-up in the South on this. For two years Magnolia Gardens has listed a new seedling called Refugee. This year that is deleted and a flower listed Haku-Raku-Ten, which is identical to Refugee. We mostly know it here as White Crane. However, that is another mix-up. They say that White Crane is the same as Haku-Tsuru.

Triphosa. Very large, long-lasting flower. White, velvety petals. I like it better than Lotus.

Alba Plena. Came to the U.S. in 1800 via Michael Floy. I don't need to describe it. It roots slowly.

Margarete Hertrich. From Huntington Gardens. Beautiful imbricated double, fine grower, vigorous and compact.

Lotus. My understanding is that it came from Japan to Domoto Nursery in Hayward, Calif., in 1892. Rather upright grower, but weighted down by the large, heavy flowers.

Elizabeth Boardman. Magnolia Gardens. Large, semi-double, beautiful flower. Good upright grower.

September Morn. Named Albatross before it was discovered to be September Morn. Open grower, foliage sometimes variegated with yellow.

White Giant. An Overlook seedling, said to be finer than Lotus. Vigorous, compact, upright grower.

REDS

Glen 40. Large, bright red, imbricated double, finer than Col. Firey. Slow, sturdy grower.

Mrs. Charles Cobb. Black-red peony, beautiful foliage, heavy bloomer.

Aunt Jettie. Also known as Angelica. Huge semi-double peony, vigorous, more or less upright grower.

Adolphe Audusson. Deep red semi-double. An old camellia, not too well known on the Pacific Coast.

Duncan Bell. Anemone type, deep red, tremendous grower, heavy bloomer.

Blood of China, or Victor Emmanuel. Salmon-red, large semi-double peony. Vigorous grower with small dark green foliage.

Julia Drayton. In California this camellia shows stamens.

J. J. Pringle Smith. Finest red camellia of Middleton Gardens.

Firebrand. From Magnolia Gardens. Large semi-double, symmetrical growth.

Marion Mitchell. Large semi-double, often variegated.

Fimbriata Superba. Red semi-double with fimbriated petals.

PINKS

Debutante, also known as Sara C. Hastie. Beautiful pink.

High Hat.

Daikagura.

Rosea Superba, which is rose pink, is beautiful foliage plant identical to Julia Drayton. Very large flower.

Anne Galli, also known as Pink Bleichroeder, Huntington Pink and Casa Blanca.

Eleanor Hagood. Gorgeous growth. Large formal double and rather vigorous.

Mrs. K. Sawada. Very, very pale pink. Full formal double. Same growth as K. Sawada.

Pink Shell. A California camellia. Won't open too well, but one flower is worth the plant. High bud center and sometimes more than an inch high. Rather vigorous upright growth.

Reticulata. The strain is mostly from the University of California. Huge semi-double, stamens somewhat tipped with black; type of growth much to be asked for.

Empress. Grandiflora Rosea. Also has the new name of Akashi-Gata.

Louise McClay. From Tea Gardens. Deep rose, large semi-double. Slow spreading growth.

Madame Maintenon. Magnolia Gardens. Large pink semi-double.

Magnoliaflora. Slow, compact grower, pointed foliage, flower shades from center to tips.

VARIEGATED

Nagasaki. Large deep rose-pink, splotted white. Slow, compact growth. Does not hold too well.

Crape Rosette. Light to deeper pink tipped with white. Finest variegated from Middleton Gardens.

Coletti Maculata. From Tea Gardens. Heavy bloomer. Also known as Purpiana and Girard De Ballion.

Emperor Wilhelm. This has many synonyms, some referring to different strains with more white; Gigantea in the South; Gaiety. We have Southern catalogue listing two new seedlings—Mary Belle Brennan and Jolly Roger which we are advised are the same.

Lady Jane Gray. Sport of Southern Donckelari with several other names. Large peony, rose-pink, blotched white.

Peoniaeflora. Vigorous. California's finest.

Laurel Leaf. Also known as Avenir and Hiroshima. I am advised that the name Laurel Leaf was given by Mrs. Mary Swords De Ballion of New Orleans.

Ville de Nantes. Issue of Donckelari. Beautiful fimbriated, dark red and white semi-double.

Adolphe Audusson Variegated.

Donckelari.

King Lear, said to be an improved Donckelari.

Lindsay Neill. One of the most sought-after camellias today. Rose red semi-double, rather large and spreading growth.

NEW CAMELLIAS WHITES

These are new; I don't know too much about them, but they are reported to be fine.

Mrs. Charles Simmons. Magnolia Gardens.

Lady of the Lake. Large semi-double, Magnolia Gardens.

Liberty Bell. A new peony from Overlook Gardens.

White Queen. Tremendous large white semi-double, 6 inches across.

Frizzle White. Overlook seedling.

White Empress. Form of Empress but not the same plant.

REDS

Campbell Ashley. From Middleton. Loose Peony.

General Eisenhower. California seedling originated by Mr. Reeves and

named last year. Somewhat similar to Duncan Bell. Variegated form will be known as Admiral Halsey.

Henry Middleton. From Magnolia Gardens.

Louise Weiss.

Rising Sun. Like Kimberly. Very deep red and far surpasses Kimberly.

Robert E. Lee. Named for a famous camellia collector in the South.

Tiara. Orange-red seedling.

James Allan. Tremendous new fiery red of Walter Allan, Summerville, South Carolina.

Black Dragon. Color of Mrs. Charles Cobb and form of Blood of China.

PINKS

Blush Hibiscus.

Lady Charlotte.

Mrs. Freeman Weiss. Loose semi-double pink.

Prima Donna.

Martha Brice.

Rainsford Cantelou.

VARIEGATED

Admiral Nimitz.

Milady.

Florence Stratton.

Margaret Walker.

Magnolia Queen or Priscilla Brooks.

Capt. Martin's Favorite.

Capt. John Sutter. Old California flower. Rose pink blotched white.

Jessica Variegated. Large semi-double.

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RANCHO DEL DESCANSO

LA CANADA, CALIF.

Growing Camellias in Containers

Before discussing the many advantages which the growing of camellias in containers has over growing them in the ground, it would seem appropriate to mention the more important disadvantages in order that at the conclusion of the discussion we may add up the score.

At the start it may be stated there is no doubt about the fact that camellias grown in containers require more careful and watchful attention than is required of camellias planted in the ground. This is particularly true as regards irrigation, because moisture in containers, especially in clay pots, is more quickly exhausted than that in the ground, although it is surprising the amount of drought which camellias in containers will withstand without detrimental effect on either vegetative growth or flower buds.

Moreover, plants in containers do not, as a rule, grow with the rapidity of well cared-for plants in the ground. This is, however, more than offset by the greater number of flower buds with which container plants are more frequently blessed. But why dwell on the few disadvantages when there are so many important benefits to be derived from container culture?

Approaching the subject from a purely aesthetic point of view it will be readily seen that the chief advantage lies in the ease with which the container plant can be displayed to the best advantage. All too frequently the pride of the householder's collection is firmly planted at some distant place in the yard, quite inaccessible or at least inconvenient due to inclement weather or the time of day, and often battered by the elements, when, if the plant were only in a container, it could be located at will in a sheltered and convenient place to be displayed and viewed under the most favorable conditions.

Moreover, the camellia planted in the ground, as a rule, contains plants not grouped for simultaneous blooming.

How convenient it is when one may bring out for display at one time all blooming plants, and hold back those varieties which will bloom together at a later day!

Then too, as container culture becomes more prevalent there is the possibility of utilizing the same choice display space for more or less continuous bloom throughout the entire year. Suppose we start with the early-blooming camellia varieties in November, and then swing into the midseason

varieties which bloom in January and February, and on through to the colorful azaleas and the epiphyllums, and then the later spring flowers, each succeeding the other throughout season after season, the bloomed-out plants being placed in a convenient location awaiting another year, or being used as a background for other plants in bloom. For this latter purpose the camellia shrub is most admirably suited, its lustrous, rich green foliage complementing and lending beauty to almost all other plants and their bloom.

It should be noted also that container culture is especially suitable in the city where from necessity the space available for ground planting is more restricted than in the country. It takes no imagination to see that the camellia-loving grower can thus multiply the number of plants which otherwise would be limited to relatively few because of the shade allowance necessary to be made for plants placed in the ground. It is an ideal method of enabling the city householder to have those many new and choice varieties for which his heart yearns.

Do not overlook the recognized fact that under ordinary conditions container plants have a tendency to bloom both earlier in the life of the plant and earlier in the season, and, also, more profusely than do the same varieties planted in the ground. This latter fact is particularly true of younger plants.

How welcome is the sight of that first Daikagura, or other early bloomer, as its petals unfold and disclose the beauty within! How gratifying this is to the bloom-hungry fan whose ego is justifiably stimulated by the satisfaction of beating his or her friend and neighbor in the race of competition! How delighted we are to witness the development of those buds on the small rare variety with which we had to content ourselves because of price! How interesting to see those small plants covered with more blossoms than our neighbor's larger plant! All this is available to the person who practices container culture. It is a common experience.

True, these small plants grow, but size is no handicap. We know of several very fine container collections which include many large plants, and at least one of approximately one hundred magnificent camellias of exquisite varieties, many of them five and six feet in height, which the proud owner moves from place to place with comparative ease by means of a hand truck.

Container culture has its champions for cultural reasons also. Some prefer pots and some wooden containers on account of lighter weight, less cost, and the fact that moisture is retained for longer periods, which is of great importance in the drier, hotter areas; but there seems to be uniformity of opinion that fertilization of camellias in containers, while requiring greater care against over-dosage, can be made with greater accuracy and more positive results.

At this point mention should be made of both drainage and soil composition. Important at all times, these subjects are of special moment, when considered in conjunction with fertilizing. The drainage must be excellent and the potting mix created to aid this. Opinions will differ as to the composition of an ideal soil mixture, but use of a considerable amount of coarse sand or pea gravel is definitely recommended. Enlarge the drain holes in the bottom of containers. Place over them curved pieces of broken pots, curved side up.

Another cultural advantage: experimentation tends to show the fact that more warmth and sunshine plus abundant nutrition (frequent dosages of small quantities of a good grade of acid fertilizer administered in liquid form being preferred), during the earlier stages of bud formation and development, i.e., June and July, and cooler weather during the latter stages, i.e., October, November and December, make for better and more prolific bloom. Certainly climatic conditions greatly influence both the vegetative growth and the bloom of camellias. It is not always easy to regulate these conditions to benefit plants in the ground, but the one who practices container culture is prepared to take advantage of all the possibilities which climatic advantages hold for him. He can at least move his containers so that his plants will receive more sunshine, or less, as the seasons seem to dictate.

Yes, container culture has many advantages.

Here and There

ATTENDANCE AT THE JANUARY MEETING was 350, in spite of membership cards, guest cards, and what not. Folks were lined up around the back of the room just as in years gone by.

Prize winners were: Amateur Exhibitor's prize *Aspacia* won by G. R. Hagarty, Pasadena; Member's Door Prize *Cleopatra* won by Mrs. F. A. McKean; Los Angeles; Publication Fund Prize *Crimson Sunset* won by James C. Wright, San Marino; Test Garden Fund Prize *Anne Galli* won by J. A. McMorris, South Pasadena.

THE FIRST NAME DRAWN for the Member's Door Prize was that of U. P. Ford, Eugene, Oregon! Mr. Ford must have had tire trouble on the way, or something, because he was not present at the meeting to carry home the prize.

THE MEETING WAS A FINE ONE. William Woodroof gave a most interesting talk which appears in digest form elsewhere in this number of the Bulletin.

BACK COPIES OF THE BULLETIN are often requested by new members. Hereafter, a surplus of each issue will be printed, to create a backlog of back numbers. Meanwhile, such back issues as are available may be obtained from the secretary at nominal cost.

THE BULLETIN LOSES, with regret, Roy M. Bauer, as Business Manager. The addition of advertising to Bulletin activities and several additions to Roy's own personal activities, made a combination too tough for one person to cope with and he was obliged to resign. Our thanks and the thanks of the Society go to Roy Bauer for his services in behalf of the Bulletin, on the Board of Directors, and for the Society generally.

A. C. Thompson, of Rosemead, assumes the position of Advertising Manager of the Bulletin; this has suddenly become quite a busy position, and we are happy to have a man of Mr. Thompson's background and ability to fill it.

IF IN THE MIDST of one of your most scientific—and perhaps secret—horticultural operations you suddenly become aware of another presence, glance up and find a pair of eager eyes peering over your shoulder, think nothing of it. It is just **INTERESTED OBSERVER** sleuthing for this yere Galaxy of Gracious Arts. He is harmless, has never been known to bite. But he sho' gets around, in high circles and low—well, medium low—and is no mean horticulturist himself. In fact, we guarantee one thing: if you talk to him for three minutes he will impart more learning than he receives!

SAN DIEGO AFFILIATE SOCIETY reports a fine January meeting with large attendance and an exceptionally fine showing of flowers—to which William Woodroof attested when speaking to our own group. Bill gave San Diego the same talk and it was enthusiastically received. See elsewhere in this issue. Ye Ed will beg Bill, on bended knee, to write out his next talk. He talks fifty miles per hour; our capable reporter, Mrs. McDuffee, goes into galloping jitters; she's a fast galloper but Ye Ed tears his scanty locks for hours, trying to unscramble the resulting script. What Ho the life of an editor anyway! Why IS an editor and why does one?

.

GETTING BACK TO SAN DIEGO, as one always likes to do, Secretary Clarisse Carleton states that the San Diegans will be seen in considerable force at the coming Brookside Park Camellia Show, and will exhibit blooms. Attaboy! Bet those Southern blooms will cop a few ribbons, too.

.

DEADLINE for March Bulletin copy will be February 15.

TEST GARDEN REPORT, last month, dropped a phrase amidst the intricacies of the linotype machine. This one-man editor-business manager-advertising manager - proofreader - errand-boy failed to catch the omission. Reconstructed to completeness, the sentence reads, "It is hoped that in the future, the Test Garden can be opened to the general public during the flowering season, **ON EXHIBITION DAYS AND DURING EXHIBITION HOURS**, at a time when the plants are large enough to warrant doing so."

WE DON'T KNOW what the lost phrase did to the innards of the giant machine but it did damage a very important sentence. Our humblest editorial apologies to Chairman Bob Casamajor, Curator William Hertrich and every Gentle (Allah be praised!) Reader.

PLEASE MAKE A POINT of explaining whenever the Test Garden is mentioned to friends or acquaintances, this fact about public admission to the Garden. Read Bob Casamajor's article in this issue with special attention to the manner in which the general public sometimes treats exhibition plants. Obviously, it will take a considerable

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personnel to police and guide the hordes of people who will flock to see the garden when it is opened. Meanwhile, Mr. Hertrich is really pestered by people who drop in, at any old hour, to see the garden; they require considerable explanation as to why they can't just waltz through and see all!

.....

NOMENCLATURE will be the topic of a corner in this Bulletin just as often as our Nomenclature Research enthusiasts will provide us with news, rumors, verifications, comment, argument or what not. We hope this will become a lively corner of the Bulletin and through widely broadcast discussion, contribute to the clearing up of nomenclature tangles. So come on, you Nomenclature Bird Dogs! Who'll be the first to contribute? Amateur or Professional; no limitations and no holds barred. Just one requirement—state rumors as rumors and facts as facts; sources of information appreciated but not required; contributions must be signed and carry a return address.

.....

"WHAT ABOUT THAT PRUCHA LOTUS PROTECTOR?" asked the I. O. in his booming voice. You've built that thing up by two or three squibs in the Bulletin, until I'm in a dither of curiosity; I've worked on Prucha until he was actually pale; my best sleuthing can't track down his secret.

Well, we've worked on Henry ourselves; worked on him until after mid-

night recently—New Year's Eve—and he has finally broken down. In an early issue, this Beacon of Horticultural Luminescence will publish the secret. Don't let your subscription expire!

.....

WHY HAVE A PUBLICATIONS FUND if you are going to have ads in the Bulletin? asks John Skeptic. The Bulletin has grown rapidly both in size and circulation. It ate rapidly into the Publications Fund, especially during the prizeless summer months. If the Bulletin can be made as nearly self-supporting as possible, decided the Board of Directors, the Publications Fund will be able to carry the periodic Nomenclature Book, and any other publications which may seem desirable, without increasing the dues for the purpose. Wise old Board!

Help! Help!

HELP your nominating committee select the members of the next board of directors.

The rapid growth of the Society and the large number of new members emphasizes the necessity for the adoption of improved methods for reaching into the membership for representation on the board of directors. The nominating committee has, therefore, concluded to request members, both old and new, to suggest to it the names of persons considered qualified to serve as directors.

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Those suggestions will be held confidential, in fact may be made anonymously, and will be given careful consideration by the committee.

After all, the persons ultimately elected to the directorate are going to be **your** directors.

Address your suggestions to Robert A. Ward, Secretary, Nominating Committee, 4947 Hartwick, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, California.

Historical

At the February 3 meeting, 1942, the gavel of the Society, "beautifully finished and with silver plate engraved with the Camellia Society's initials on it" was presented to the Society by Henry Prucha.... Discussion of participation in the Brookside Park Flower Show to be held in March.... Highlights of the question and answer period: Q. Names of camellias as to their favoritism by members. A. White—Alba Plena; Pink—Pink Perfection; Red—Te Deum, Julia Drayton; Variegated—Emperor Wilhelm, Jordan's Pride.

Q. When do we start feeding camellias?

A. As soon as through blooming, usually in April.

On February 17, 1942, Mr. Lloyd Cosper of Altadena spoke on "Camellia Nutrition."

On March 4, 1942, Dr. F. W. Went of

California Institute of Technology spoke on "Camellia Propagation." A flower show committee was finally put in motion by President Barber, with Mrs. Carlo E. Galli as chairman of the cut-flower exhibit and Roy Carter as chairman of the outdoor exhibits.

"Our Society put on a very fine camellia exhibit at the Pasadena Spring Flower Show March 12, 13, 14 and 15. There were approximately 1000 blooms displayed in bowls backed by camellia branches furnished by Mrs. Verne McCaskill. There were approximately 200 camellia plants placed in the ground."

The Society closed the season with a meeting on March 17, completing the second year of its history.

AN ASSISTANT EDITOR was asked for by Ye Ed. Thor Petersen was elected to the office. The Editor congratulated himself. It was voted that an Advertising Manager be provided also, to lighten the Business Manager's burden.

Frequent requests for back issues of the Bulletin emphasized the fact that few back issues are available. It was decided that a larger surplus of future issues be provided; that back issues, while they last, be made available at twenty-five cents a copy.... Have you any back issues for which you have no further use? Don't throw them out. Secretary Peak would be happy to receive them for the benefit of future members who may wish them.

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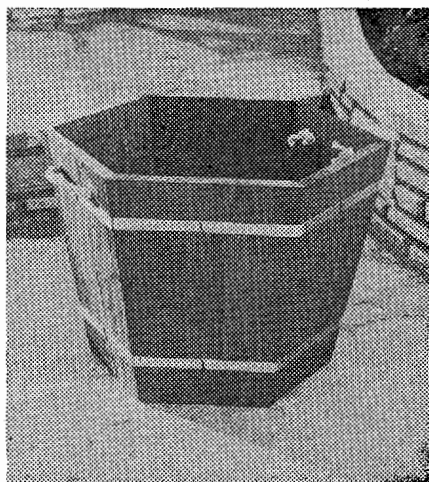
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