

The Camellia Bulletin

Volume 12, Number 3

April, 1959

Camellia granthamiana



Courtesy RALPH S. PEER

Published by
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Walter H. Peterson (BEacon 3-3148)
 612 Marine St., Richmond

VICE-PRESIDENT

Howard E. Burnette (LUcerne 2-4304)
 18500 Center St., Castro Valley

SECRETARY

O. L. Davis (CLifford 4-4748)
 22 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda

TREASURER

R. N. Swope (ELgin 1- 4009)
 14823 Farnsworth St.
 San Leandro, California

DIRECTORS

John H. Beers

Louis J. Giomi

Arthur M. Patterson

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dan H. Roberts
 11422 Ruggiero Ave., San Fernando

VICE-PRESIDENT

Douglas G. Thompson
 3162 Lindo St., Los Angeles, 28

SECRETARY

Gene Boyd
 819 E. Valencia Ave., Burbank

TREASURER

Edward O. Morgan
 850 N. Lafayette Park Place, Los Angeles 26

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

PRESIDENT

Erwin E. Nowak
 3117 Bertis Drive, Sacramento, California

SECRETARY

Miss Beulah Capers
 7501 - 2nd St., Rt. 3, Rio Linda, Calif.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

D. Jackson Faustman, Mrs. Marie Erwin

TREASURER

Harold C. Rambath

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

PRESIDENT

Oscar E. Tomlinson
 1509 Camino Monde
 San Jose, California

SECRETARY-TREASURER

John J. Mendoza
 1170 Jefferson St.
 Santa Clara, California

VICE-PRESIDENT: Allen S. Eckendorf

BULLETIN EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

David L. Feathers
 1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Roy T. Thompson
 2723 Hermosita Drive, Glendale 8

ADVISORY BOARD

Woodford F. Harrison
 Harold L. Paige

Richard C. Brown
 1425-47th St., Sacramento

The Camellia Bulletin, in keeping with the fundamental concept of the amateur organizations it serves, is a non-profit enterprise published quarterly (Jan., Apr., July and Oct.) by the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. Its principal objects and purposes are furtherance of the enjoyment and benefits derived from the culture of camellias and the dissemination of knowledge related thereto. By special arrangement with, and through the co-operation of, the Pacific Camellia Society, The Camellia Society of Sacramento and The Camellia Society of Santa Clara County, this Bulletin is also available in conjunction with membership, which is open to the general public upon application to the Secretary of any of the societies mentioned, at the respective addresses shown above. For full membership in the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc., and with respect to all persons resident in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo, the annual dues are \$5.00—outside that area, limited membership privileges, including the right to all Society publications, are \$3.00 per year. MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of each month November through May, at 8 p.m. in the Claremont Junior High School Auditorium, Oakland, and include an informal flower display and refreshments. All matter regarding the content of the Bulletin should be addressed to the Editor. CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be reported promptly to your Secretary, as the Post Office will not forward periodicals. Remit dues to Treasurer.

CAMELLIA 'GUILIO NUCCIO' WINS ILLGES AWARD

Perhaps the most outstanding event in the camellia year just ending—at least insofar as California and awards are concerned—was the announcement at the March, 1959, Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society in Norfolk, Virginia, that the splendid, large, high-centered red camellia seedling developed by Nuccio Bros. Nursery of Altadena, California, and named for their father, 'GUILIO NUCCIO', was selected as the winner for 1958 of the John Illges Award as the most outstanding recent introduction.

Knowing the originators, of whom it can certainly be said that "it could not have happened to nicer people", and

knowing the flower, which has been excellent wherever seen throughout our fairly extensive camellia travels these past three years, it is a great pleasure to express the view that the committee made a wise and merited choice. Although one detects a slight tendency away from the gargantuan of the camellia world, (as witness the fact some of the more delicately beautiful blooms are beginning to win "best flower in the show" again) the new champ in the amateur societies' selections (it won the Margarete Hertrich Award in 1955-6 season, also) has a great deal more than size, the form, color and substance also being superior. The committee made no award for the previous year.

NCCS 1959 CAMELLIA SHOW

Mary L. Paige, Lafayette, California

Young in years but ripe in experience, the "teenage" Northern California Camellia Society staged its 14th Annual Camellia Show on March 14-15 in Walnut Creek.

Experience had demanded this move to larger quarters. With cheerful optimism, our young and enthusiastic officials, President Walter Petersen and Show Chairman A. M. Patterson, assumed the burdens involved in moving into the 50% larger Walnut Creek Armory with its greater problems and costs.

Past experience dictated a show theme. Without a qualm the scene shifted from "Camellias in the Home" (1958 theme) to "A World of Camellias" for 1959. The center of interest in the large auditorium was a giant globe of camellias, revolving slowly on its axis. Impressive as it was, one occasionally observed the amused smiles of spectators who noted a Western Hemisphere of massed *red* camellias and a U.S.S.R. of *purest white*, a switch necessitated by the quantity of colors available, and a tribute to our broad-mindedness.

An enlarged arrangement section covered the world from "Northern Lights" to "Southern Islands"; from Paris to the Taj Mahal; from "Majestic Mountains" to "Green Valleys"; all under the capable supervision of a non-member, officially accredited teacher of the art of flower

arrangements, Mrs. Milton Bell of Walnut Creek.

An ambitious Educational Section covered the world of camellia growing, from the seed in its pod to a four-year plant; from a newly taken cutting to a three-year plant; from a newly-made graft to a three-year established tree; from single varieties to whole varietal families—'Elegans', 'Herme' and 'Finlandia'.

Our landscape architect, Robert Graves of Walnut Creek, still young in heart, provided an approach under a canopy of gaily colored spiralled streamers, converging on the main entrance from a semi-circle of six-foot camellia cutouts. Inside, he pulled the exhibits together into an artistically attractive whole in which camellia hanging baskets, camellia standards, landscaped gardens, floriferous specimen plants, flower arrangement section and competitive blooms all enhanced and complemented each other.

An attractive bevy of real teenagers, under the direction of Mrs. Lenore Broze, Registration Chairman, handled the registration work with smiling efficiency. They appreciated the beautiful blooms as much as the officials and went home happy with their reward—lovely corsages made by the show's official corsage demonstrators, Mesdames Grimmelman and Sanders.

Fine attendance and spectator enthusiasm spelled financial success for the show and new members for the N.C.C.S., some of whom even remained to help with the work of the show.

"How can we thank you enough?" queried the "Thank You" card mailed to the too-numerous-to-mention workers who

made the show possible. And only Youth could have had the courage to depict the sagging, exhausted Show Committee member, bleakly looking at a drooping and wilted camellia, who typified the physical weariness but unquenchable good humor of those whose heroic efforts made this 1959 show so successful.

A list of the competitive awards follows:

Sweepstakes

CLIFTON W. LATTIN, Santa Cruz, Winner.
BARLOW W. S. HOLLINGSHEAD, Orinda, Runner-up.

Division 1 — Japonica

Best of Show — John M. August, Concord. (TOMORROW)
Second Best — S. Davi, Pittsburg. (LADY KAY)
Best Three — Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lattin, Santa Cruz.
(ADOLPH AUDUSSON SPECIAL)
Best Seven — Harold F. Clark, Sacramento. (JESSIE KATZ)
Best Twelve (1 variety) — Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Davis, Orinda. (HANA FUKI)
Best Twelve (12 varieties) — Newton Pratt, Sacramento.
Best Plant — Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Patterson, Concord. (SHIRO CHAN)

Division 2 — Reticulata

Best of Show — Roy W. Tess, Orinda. (LION HEAD)
Second Best — Barlow W. S. Hollingshead. (BUTTERFLY WINGS)
Best Three — Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Veigas, Sacramento. (LION HEAD)
Best Seven — Mrs. J. F. Smaha, Saratoga. (LION HEAD)
Best Twelve — Mrs. J. F. Smaha, Saratoga. (CHANGS TEMPLE)
Best Reticulata Plant — Jack Osegueda, Oakland. (CAPT. RAWES)

Division 5 — Seedling

Dr. and Mrs. John D. Lawson, Antioch.

Division 6 — Best plant under 36"

A. M. Patterson, Concord. (DONCKELARI)

Flower Arrangement Division

Best Arrangement in Show — Mrs. K. Tahira.
Division A — Beginners Jocelyn Reblin
Division B — Intermediate (#1) Geraldine Pember
Division C — Intermediate (#2) Mrs. Fred H. Dixon
Division D — Advanced Mrs. Julian Ramelli
Division E — Oriental Mrs. K. Tahira
Division F — Junior Joyce Bailey

This report would not be complete without due acknowledgments for:

Landscape Garden Exhibits

McDonnell Nursery, Walnut Creek.
Orchard Nursery, Lafayette.

"World of Camellias" Exhibit

Hillsdale Shopping Center, San Mateo — Revolving World on Platform.
Toichi Domoto, Hayward — Blooms for decorating Revolving World.
A. E. Evers, Lafayette — Labor and supervision of decorating Revolving World.

Plant Exhibits

Dr. Robert K. Cutter, Berkeley — Hanging Baskets and Standards.
Harold L. Paige, Lafayette — Specimen plants.

Flower Arrangement Section

Mrs. Milton Bell, Walnut Creek.

Flower Arrangement Table

Crystal Pool Nursery, Walnut Creek.

Educational Exhibit

A. M. Patterson, Concord.

Camellia Collections

Richard C. Brown, Sacramento.
Capitol Grounds, Sacramento (Jerry Oelrich).
Franklin Canyon Nursery, Martinez.
Dr. John D. Lawson (Camelliana Nursery), Antioch.
H. V. Mitchell, Walnut Creek.
Santa Clara Camellia Society.

Landscape and Show Design

Robert Graves, Walnut Creek.

*CAMELLIA BREEDING AT GLENN DALE PLANT INTRODUCTION CENTER (Part I)

John G. Worman, Baltimore, Md.

Many of you will recall Dr. John Creech's very interesting and highly informative talk given in February two years ago in which he described his plant exploration trip during the summer of 1955 to collect elite types of wild *C. japonica*, *sasanqua*, *rusticana*, and other ornamental plants found in Japan for the Agricultural Research Service, U.S.D.A.

This fascinating exploration was resumed by Dr. Creech in the fall of 1956. He obtained permission for a comprehensive survey of remote regions of southern Japan where extensive broadleaved forests are under imperial control. On Honshu, the principal island of Japan, he revisited subalpine forests. Many of the collecting areas had not been explored by foreign plant collectors since the tour in 1914 of E. H. Wilson of the Arnold Arboretum. In addition to collecting in the wild, he visited a number of small nurseries and plant breeding stations, Japanese nurserymen being past masters at the art of varietal selection.

The July 1956 "Rare Species and Hybrids" issue of the *Camellia Review* published by the Southern California Camellia Society lists only 20 camellia species in cultivation in the United States, and most of these arrived by way of English gardens since 1946. Various other species will become of increasing interest when breeding within the major species, *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*, reaches the limits of marked variation and attention is turned to developing interspecies hybrids. Unfortunately, most species yet to be introduced are either inaccessible because of the political situation in the Far East or because habitats are located in isolated areas where primitive methods of transportation and meager communications systems cause heavy losses of collected material.

The Plant Introduction Section under Dr. Creech's direction is attempting to bring in camellia stock as a part of the regular introduction and exchange activi-

ties. The introduction of camellia species is certain to be of benefit to American horticulture. The collecting areas being considered for a long range program include Japan, the Ryukyus, Taiwan, Hong Kong Territory, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and India. The plant introduction program covers not only the introduction but also the propagation of the plants, their distribution and testing. Rooted cuttings and seedlings started at Glenn Dale Plant Introduction Garden are not available to the general public; neither are they for sale. They are for testing purposes, primarily by qualified researchers in the Department of Agriculture, their counterparts at State Experiment Stations, other bona fide agricultural institutions, and some camellia specialists in the trade, both here and abroad. In due time these camellia varieties become available to the general public through the commercial nurseries. Best known example of now well established specialty plants which have graduated from the Section's program are the Glenn Dale hybrid azaleas.

Many persons are initially confused as to the exact functions of the Federal Plant Introduction Garden. It is neither botanical garden nor arboretum, nor is it a true experiment station, yet some of the work of each of these types of organizations is shared by this garden. The Introduction Garden has been called the "Ellis Island" of immigrant plants. The service receives introduced plants, quarantines them if necessary, and tests them to see if they are in any way suitable for more extensive trial among America's plant scientists. If so, they are increased and distributed. Many of the introductions to be seen at Glenn Dale have come from plant explorers sent out by the Agricultural Research Service. Other introductions have been received in the foreign seed exchange program or have come through correspondence with foreign sources as voluntary gifts.

*Reproduced courtesy of Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley 'Newsletter'.

Camellia Fraterna Testing

The scope of the Plant Introduction Garden program can best be illustrated by discussing some of the camellia species introductions made to date. *C. fraterna*, (Plant Introduction 162476) introduced to the nursery trade in 1951, originally came to the United States as seed in 1948 from the Lushan Botanic Garden, Kuling, China. Seedlings were raised at Glenn Dale, distributed, and are growing in a number of localities where they have flowered.

After these seedlings had been planted for four years, it was deemed desirable to check on their hardiness. The recipients were requested to evaluate their plants and submit reports that would give an overall preliminary picture of the ecological requirements of the species.

The distribution range had been deliberately selected to ascertain the plant's possible habitat in North America. A high mortality rate was anticipated at the temperature and humidity extremes. These expectations were realized. In Seattle, Washington, the grower said it didn't compare favorably with other camellias growing there. From Portland, Oregon came a more favorable report. There the plant is a profuse bloomer and has considerable fragrance. In agreement with the report from Seattle, the Portland grower believes the new introduction will never compete with the more spectacular japonicas but would make an interesting companion planting. He also sees the possibility of its use as a parent for hybridizing.

The report from Selma, California, proffered the opinion that *C. fraterna* has important possibilities. In the San Joaquin valley, where all camellias except *C. reticulata* do well, the new one is no exception. There the summers are hot (110° - 112°), freezing nights are common in the winter and the prevailing humidity is low. Growing in a lath house that affords slight protection from the summer sun, *C. fraterna* is a neat, compact, little bush, growing more wide than tall. It has small, very attractive foliage and is a prolific bloomer, blooming over a four to five month period, starting early in October and often having some blooms left into March and occasionally in April. Flowers

are single, being about the size of a quarter or slightly larger, white or pinkish. The species is quite fertile, bearing a number of seed pods on even young plants; and the seeds are viable.

A terse report from Los Angeles, California, compared *C. fraterna* unfavorably with *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*. The grower rated it as worthless except for its novelty value.

At Macon, Georgia, *C. fraterna* was planted in two different locations. Those that received no water during the drought of 1954 survived as well as those that were irrigated. All the plants are growing in high shade, and the largest one is now about ten feet tall. Although there was a heavy loss in established camellias from the November, 1950, freeze, all of the plants of P. I. 162476 pulled through. The opinion expressed in the grower's report was that *C. fraterna* is an interesting plant for gardeners who wish something different.

Although the comments indicated a diversity of opinion on the value of *C. fraterna*, they generally supported Glenn Dale observations. At Glenn Dale this camellia did not survive the winters outside. In a cool greenhouse, it grows very nicely as a pot plant and blooms profusely. Its relatively slow growth and graceful habit are indicative of its possible use as a house or conservatory plant in the North and as a garden specimen in the warmer climes. If compatible, this species, with its profusion of bloom should make an easy parent to work with and produce some interesting progeny.

There is a magnificent plant of *C. fraterna* growing in the camellia collection of the Municipal Gardens, Norfolk, Virginia. Plants are available from Toichi Domoto, James Rare Plant, Coolidge Gardens, and other nurseries as a result of the extensive distribution made by the Agricultural Research Service.

Camellia Oleifera Testing

Plants of *C. oleifera* collected by Dr. Creech came from the Sun Yat Sen Botanic Garden, Nanking, and the Kyoto University Experimental Forest, Oshima Island. Frequently it has been confused

(Continued on page 13)

CAMELLIA MANAGEMENT ON A SINGLE LOT

Roy T. Thompson, Glendale, California

If you started a camellia collection ten years ago on a single residential lot, you have by now discovered these surprising facts:

1. Your camellias have quadrupled in size.
2. Your lot has remained the same size.
3. Your appetite for camellia varieties has been very much increased by the advent of many superb new introductions.
4. You have caught yourself bringing home cans of camellias, and grafting others by the dozen, and have "temporarily" set them aside until you could find a place for them in the ground.
5. Your wife has made a count of these unplanted camellias and reported 135, many in decomposed cans with roots up to half an inch in diameter firmly in the ground.
6. In "digging up" these camellias you discover many varieties which you no longer wish to keep.

And if, by any chance, you have lived on this lot for 20 or 30 years, as sometimes happens, you are forced to search for a "philosophy," that is, a mental formula which will allow you to live in peace and keep right on collecting camellias. By this time, however, things have been complicated by a brand new factor; some of your older camellias have grown into fifteen foot trees which you admire for their novelty, and you brag to visiting camellia people that you "can put a table under this one and have tea."

But the greatest complicating factor of all is that the last dozen years have witnessed the greatest camellia boom in history: things have happened which have forever changed the project of growing camellias on a single lot. Here are some of these events:

1. A whole new tribe of camellias called *reticulatas* have made their appearance in America, and their startling blooms have seduced you into giving yard space to about a score of them.
2. Ralph Peer and others have been to England and brought back another tribe

called Hybrids, which, of course, have invaded your premises.

3. Every camellia enthusiast the country over has developed a secret desire to produce new varieties from seed — overwhelming sorts which have never been seen before — and first thing you know there are so many new varieties that you (who once thought you knew every variety by name) find yourself swamped by new names and have to ask Bill Woodroof what "so and so" is like. (Bill, "fighting for his life" in Sherman Oaks, receives a hundred or two new ones every year to try out.)

4. As if this weren't enough, somebody discovered that there are small camellias too, and a passion for "miniatures" sweeps all the camellia shows, and into your garden they come.

5. During these dozen years certain psychological changes have taken place in the camellia world which have removed one of the restraints which used to keep camellia collections down: the fashion for size. In the old days, say, from 1946 to 1953 size was the one great requirement for a camellia bloom; if it didn't have size it was out. But the grip of this fashion has been so loosened that people can now express public admiration for small flowers. This has, of course, opened the way for many varieties which were formerly taboo.

Now, to get down to business: What can the average camellia collector living on a medium sized lot do to prevent some of the chaos suggested above, and yet go on collecting camellias? Here are a few practical suggestions:

1. Cut down the big camellias and graft to new varieties. Adopt this as a regular practice so that you do not have to argue with yourself every time you get out the saw. Incidentally this will let more light into your windows.
2. Make it a practice not to acquire a new variety until you have seen the bloom. This practice will save much "camellia time" over the years.

(Continued on page 18)

SELECTING CAMELIAS . . . ONE OR ONE HUNDRED

David L. Feathers, Lafayette, California

Whether purchasing a single camellia or assembling a collection, there are a number of factors that should be considered. First on the list is the *purpose* or primary objective in acquiring the plant; is it desired for the beauty of its individual blooms for cut flowers or for its value as a garden plant—its mass blooming effect? While some camellias will meet both these requirements, this is a point for first consideration and the selection should be governed accordingly. This question is, of course, most important where there will be only one or a few camellias—obviously, in a large collection there is greater latitude. Many camellias having very beautiful individual flowers are lacking in plant and foliage beauty and symmetry and/or quantity and duration of bloom for a satisfactory mass effect. Thus they may be quite unsuited to any use except for the breath-taking beauty of the individual flower. This is largely true of the *reticulatas* as a class.

The following is a fairly complete check-list of the factors that should be taken into account when purchasing a camellia or camellias:

- (1) Purpose (or usage, as described above).
- (2) Performance (suitability to local climate).
- (3) Planting Method (whether ground or container culture).
- (4) Placement (suitability to immediate environment—this involves consideration of growth habit, shape, color, exposure, proximity to other plants and other matters hereinafter discussed).
- (5) Flower Type (form, size, color).
- (6) Time of blooming (season).

Purpose has already been briefly discussed and the distinction adequately drawn.

Performance: Having decided to what purpose the camellia will be primarily devoted, we should next consider whether it will perform properly in our own particular climate. There are camellias that do well anywhere—others that demand temperatures that are warm in summer, cold in winter. Most camellias will give outstanding performance in Contra Costa, Marin, Santa Clara, Solano, San Mateo and southern Alameda County (as well as the interior valley) but in the areas adjacent to San Francisco Bay one must be more selective. To assist in this regard, there is submitted following this article a list of camellias, classified as to form and color, which have been selected for their suitability and satisfactory performance in the two types of climate we have within about a 50-mile radius of San Francisco. This list is segregated as between the Warmer (Interior) Area and the Cooler (adjacent to the Bay) Area and those varieties which do well both where fog is a factor and where it is drier are shown in both lists.

Planting Method: As a general rule, most camellias which do well in the ground in a given area will also be found satisfactory when grown in containers. However, there are special factors to consider in the latter type of culture due to the artificiality of this method, particularly its limitation of the soil area. The best container subjects are bushy, compact, slow-growing types that have a handsome shape and do not soon outgrow their tub or pot. Because of their character as potted plants, a fairly good mass-blooming effect is desirable. The more vigorous camellias demand and consume greater amounts of water and

fertilizer, lacking which they are usually poor performers. Tall-growing types are subject to being knocked over by strong winds and either the plant or container may thus suffer damage; in addition, they soon become unsuited to the ceiling limitation imposed by a covered porch or patio. A fairly heavy-blooming camellia that comes out all at once, that is compact (round) and slow-growing is the type that will give many years of undisturbed, satisfactory container culture, demanding the least attention to watering, feeding and pruning. This kind of culture is now being widened by the development of types (particularly hybrids) that are spreading, with delicate foliage and blooms—ideal for hanging baskets, pendant usage over walls, etc.

Placement: In some respects, this involves as great discrimination as any other factor. If the camellia is to be against the house under a window, it should be of the low-growing, slow-growing, spreading type; if in a corner, at the side of a doorway, or wherever there is limited lateral space, the "Slim Jims"—tall and slender, columnar or "fastigiated" types are best, especially if height is desired. As most whites spot from the effects of morning dew or rain followed by sunshine, it is best to place them elsewhere than in an exposure open to the east. If you are sensitive about "color clashes", the reds having a purple cast must be watched as to placement. Camellias should not be planted under surface-rooting trees such as maples and bay (California laurel), nor near plants with invasive root systems such as privet, because their competition is too severe. They should not be placed under evergreen trees with too heavy shade, such as magnolia, bay (and redwood, to a lesser extent) as they will become spindly and yield few blooms due to lack of sun and light. Neither should container-grown camellias be kept in a dark corner of a porch, for the same reason. The fact the camellia serves admirably as an evergreen shrub for a much longer period than as a blooming plant should also be taken into account in choosing as to form and foliage of the plant.

Flower Type: This is primarily a matter for individual taste as to color, form and size, aside from the question of compatibility with the surroundings. Considerable interest is beginning to be shown in the miniatures of all forms for their novelty and versatility, while the grace and simplicity of some of the better singles and the pleasing informality of irregular blooms of the larger size, including the *reticulatas*, seems to be meeting with increasing popularity—in Western homes, at least. There are now beginning to appear some charming new soft orchid tones in the *Williamsii* and other hybrids, which promise to broaden the usage of camellias materially. These hybrids are a source of entirely new delicate, entrancing beauty, in flower, foliage and plant and contribute an ethereal quality heretofore generally lacking. The choice in this respect is being widened each year, and the greatest developments unquestionably lie ahead of us.

Time of Blooming: Depending upon the species, camellias may be purchased which will cover a range of blooming season running from about September to May. This would permit of continuous blooms of one kind or another for three-fourths of the year, provided space were available to accommodate the number of plants that would be required. There are so many factors that dictate the choice in regard to time of blooming that we may speak only in generalities, and this must also be deemed largely a matter of individual preference and requirement. Generally speaking, one may say, however, that because our gardens are normally barest in the late fall and winter, camellias which bloom during that period fill the greatest need. This is also the time of year when camellia flowers hold on best and have the greatest substance. The late-blooming kinds (March and April) often run into the azalea and rhododendron seasons, which may or may not be desirable. From the standpoint of the camellia solely, the warm

days we have then often cause short flower life and color fading. On the other hand, if a great show of bloom is desired simultaneously, camellias which flower then would complement the others. On the whole, one of the most important functions of the camellia is its ability to bloom when other plants will not, thus filling the flower void of the cold season, and its greatest value unquestionably lies at that time of blooming.

The two separate classified lists of dependable varieties follow. Where more than one variety of a kind is shown, it is because there are color shade, form, blooming habit or seasonal differences, or else there is so little to choose from a performance standpoint that a choice is provided.

CAMELLIAS FOR IMMEDIATE BAY (COASTAL) AREA

<i>Single</i>	<i>Semi-Double</i>	<i>Irregular Double</i>	<i>Peony or Ball Form</i>	<i>Rose-Form Double</i>	<i>Formal Double</i>
WHITE:					
Amabilis Fairest Day	White Empress Finlandia Haku-Rakuten Lotus Frizzle White	Frosty Morn Bride's Bouquet Joshua Youtz		Chastity Purity	Alba Plena Pax Fimbriata
BLUSH:					
My Darling	Flamingo Cho-Cho-San Magnoliaeflora Sweet Sixteen Berenice Boddy	C. M. Wilson	Pink Ball	Lena Jackson Cho-no- Hanagata	Eleanor Hagood Otome Pink Ecstasy (Ore.) Pr. Frederick William
PINK:					
Claudia Lee	Hana Fuki Mme. Hahn Monte Carlo Hishi Karaito*	Thelma Dale	Debutante		Mrs. Tingley
ROSE-PINK:					
Daitairin	Grandiflora Rosea	Kumasaka Gov. Earl Warren R. L. Wheeler	Lady Mary Cromartie		Lallarook
ROSE & SALMON:					
	Lady Clare Grandiflora Rosea	Guest of Honor Mrs. F. Weiss		Rose Dawn	Rosea Plena
RED:					
Kimberley	Flame Yosemite	Blood of China	Paulette Goddard	R. H. Folk	Glen 40 C M. Hovey
VARIEGATED:					
Amabilis Var.	Adolphe Audusson Destiny Lady Van Sittart King Lear Donckelarii	Colonial Lady Charlotte Bradford Finlandia Var. Tinsie* Daikagura	Eugene Lize' Little Bit* Helenor		Alex. Nowlin Princess Bachinachi
PICOTEE:					
	Claudia Phelps Dr. Tinsley Shin-Shioko Yours Truly Dainty (Cal.)	Spring Sonnet Herme Look Away			

* miniature camellias

CAMELLIAS FOR SEMI-INTERIOR (WARMER) AREAS

<i>Single</i>	<i>Semi-Double</i>	<i>Irregular Double</i>	<i>Peony or Ball Form</i>	<i>Rose-Form Double</i>	<i>Formal Double</i>
WHITE:					
Amabilis Fairest Day	Finlandia Frizzle White White Empress Coronation†	Shiro Chan Joshua Youtz	Edelweiss† Anemoneflora Alba Dessa Thompson†	Purity Chastity	Alba Plena Candidissima Pax Elizabeth
BLUSH PINK:					
My Darling	Magnoliaeflora Berenice Boddy Mrs. B. Harms Toki-no-Hagasane	C. M. Wilson Virgin's Blush	Pink Ball	Cho-no- Hanagata	Eleanor Hagood Otome Pink Mrs. H. Boyce
PINK:					
Shin Akebono	Hana Fuki Mme. Hahn Monte Carlo Hishi Karaito*	Rosemary Kinzer† Thelma Dale	Debutante	Lena Jackson	Ecstasy (Ore.) Ave Maria† Pr. Fred. William
ROSE-PINK:					
Daitairin	Rosary	Kumasaka Gov. Earl Warren Guilio Nuccio† R. L. Wheeler	Ann Miller† Elizabeth Le Bey Lady Mary Cromartie		Lallarook Celestine
ROSE - SALMON:					
Lady Clare		Mrs. Freeman Weiss Guest of Honor†	Sharon Lee Salmon Beauty	Rose Dawn	Rosea Plena Salmon Queen
RED:					
Kimberley Benten	Flame Yosemite Reg Ragland California	Blood of China Tomorrow† Letitia Schrader	Kramer's Supreme† Dr. John*	E. H. Folk	Glen 40 Climax
VARIEGATED:					
Dr. Max Amabilis Var.	Adolphe- Audusson Nagasaki Ville de Nantes Emperor of Russia Iwane Matsukasa Sierra Spring	Daikagura Tinsie* Charlotte Bradford Elegans Gigantea	Peoniaeflora Eugene Lize† Colletti Emmett Pfungstl Little Bit* Helenor Tick Tock†		Glen 40 Var. Alex. Nowlin
PICOTEE:					
	Dr. Tinsley Shin Shiko Yours Truly Claudia Phelps Dainty (Cal.)	Herme Spring Sonnet Helen K Nina Avery Pearl Marginata			

* miniatures

† based on limited experience

SAN JOSE SHOW

The 17th Annual Camellia Show of the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County was held in the Civic Auditorium, San Jose, the first Sunday in March (1st). Once again this show, the only one in Northern California the writer had an opportunity to attend this year, was characterized by its numbers of excellent blooms and an overall pleasing artistic effect.

It is the general impression that it is quite difficult to maintain as high standards of horticultural exhibits in a non-competitive show such as this as the average competitive show enjoys. However that may be, the fact remains that there were many fine collections of camellia blooms at this show, most of which were embellished by a flower arrangement in

(Continued on page 18)

DESCANSO SHOW (Southern California)

All sorts of records were broken this year at the Descanso Camellia Show — the fourth annual combined show of the six camellia societies in the Los Angeles area. Many factors contributed to the show's record attendance: the weather was warm and perfect, the admission charge was abolished, and the cumulative effect of three successful shows in the same place in the last three years. On Sunday afternoon, March 1, second day of the cut flower show, the large parking area inside the grounds was filled and cars were parked on surrounding streets as far north as Foothill Blvd. Attendance on that day was 24,000. Combined attendance of this and the Arrangements Show on March 7-8, was 51,200. This record attendance revealed not only a gratifying public interest in camellias, but also demonstrated the wisdom of staging a combined show.

The physical lay-out of the show was improved this year in several ways: the ground area occupied by the exhibits was enlarged so that there was little crowding; the show tables were protected by plastic canopies which permitted a great deal more light to reach the flowers, and the designation of each exhibit was conspicuously marked. There was no crowding of flowers on the tables. The prize-winning flowers were enthroned in specially constructed stands so that viewers could get closer to them than before. A most pleasant surprise this year was the new tram service which carried passengers all about the grounds.

Statistics of this show reveal some interesting trends. A total of 2,321 blooms were entered competitively, not counting the Hybrids. These were classified as follows:

Number	Species	Varieties
2136	Japonicas	480
124	Reticulatas	19
61	Miniatures	26
2321	Total	525

One of the first items of interest which any "old-timer" would notice is that the prizes did not go to the Audussons, the Villes, and the Giganteas as they most likely would have a dozen years ago, but to the relatively new Reg Ragland Varie-

gated. For this remarkable camellia won all three prizes in Division 1, Japonicas: best single bloom, best display of three, best display of five. This sweep of all the prizes open to amateurs was the most noteworthy news item of the show, and probably of a good many other shows in other seasons. Eleven Reg Ragland Variegated flowers were entered; nine of them were trophy winners.

It was to be expected that the old established varieties would appear in greater numbers than the newer ones. Top score, numerically, was made by the Audussons with 59 blooms; Elegans (pink and variegated) had 44; Finlandia (white and variegated) 43; the Mathotiana group numbered 41, of which only four were Supremes. Of the newer varieties R. L. Wheeler (solid and variegated) there were 28; Reg Ragland (ditto) 23; Tomorrow 17; Guilio Nuccio 16; Shiro Chan 15; Flowerwood 15; Emmett Pfingstl 15. It was surprising to see only 7 Beau Harps, although there were 10 Dr. John D. Bells.

Although miniatures have occupied an increasing place in camellia shows the past few years, it was surprising to find 61 individual entries representing 25 varieties. (However, two of these, Hishi Karaito and Marchioness of Salisbury are of doubtful standing as miniatures.)

List of Awards

Sweepstakes: Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman; Runner-up, Dr. E. Clark Hubbs.

Japonicas: Best Single Bloom: Amos Kleinsasser; Best Display of Three: Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman; Best Display of Five: Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman.

Reticulatas: Best Single Bloom: Frank L. Storment; Best Display of Three: Frank L. Storment; Best Display of Five: Frank L. Storment.

Miniatures: Best Single Bloom: John Robinson.

Hybrids: Best Single Bloom: Dr. E. Clark Hubbs.

New Introductions: Best Japonica: H. H. Collier.

Professionals: Best Japonica: Nuccio's Nurseries. Best Reticulata: Les Marshall.

R.T.T.

CAMELLIA BREEDING AT GLENN DALE (Cont. from page 6)

with *C. sasanqua*, from which it differs in its dull green leaves (similar to Mine-no-Yuki but a little larger) and flower with erect stamens united for some distance above its base. Distinctly, *C. oleifera* is a Chinese camellia, while *C. sasanqua* belongs to Japan. The growth habit is quite drooping. The flowers are usually in clusters of three or more, single white with fluted petals and golden stamens, 1 to 1½ inches across. There may be a fragrance.

Planted in semi-shade, *C. oleifera* has endured temperatures down to -6° F. without injury. It also is remarkably drought tolerant. Seeds are produced in abundance in the South and they should be useful in breeding with other hexaploid species such as *sasanqua*, *reticulata*, and *pitardii*.

C. oleifera has been regarded as inferior to *C. sasanqua* by some. Mr. Hohman, Kingsville Nursery, on the other hand reports favorably, considering it as competitive with most of the sasanquas he grows. At Kingsville, Maryland, it begins to bloom at the end of September and continues until December. Most notable

among species at the United States National Arboretum is the collection of several hundred *Camellia oleifera* plants. The original plants, now 5 to 6 feet tall, were received from Glenn Dale in 1949. In 1953 these plants set a heavy crop of seed and the resultant seedlings, now ranging from 2 to 3 feet in height, cover a steep southeasterly slope in the camellia planting. Flowering with the early sasanquas, they are sufficiently floriferous to be moderately showy. Slight browning of the foliage occurred during the winter of 1955-56, when the temperature went as low as 1° F., but there was no killing back of twigs or branches.

Although there are no improved strains in cultivation in this country at present, semi-double and double forms were reportedly introduced into England during the 1800's. Presumably such varieties still could be found in Chinese gardens. Possibly *C. var. Jaune* is a selection of *C. oleifera*. More about Fortune's "Yellow Camellia," *Jaune* later — Species *C. oleifera* is obtainable from Abbott's Nursery, Mobile, Alabama.

(Part II Follows in Our July Issue)

L. C. WANNAMAKER ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF A. C. S.

Mr. L. Caston Wannamaker, longtime Director of the American Camellia Society from South Carolina, residing at Cheraw, was elected the new President of the Society, succeeding Ralph S. Peer, retired after serving two terms, who was honored by being named the sixth President Emeritus, thus rightfully taking his place with such famous camellia personages as H. Harold Hume and Judge Arthur W. Solomon.

Reg W. Ragland of Orange was elected the new Vice-President for the Pacific Coast, succeeding Milo E. Rowell of Fresno, who also served two years in office with great credit to himself and the Society.

Among the more important matters of business transacted at the Annual Meeting was the unanimous decision to adopt and inaugurate Camellia Rating according to the plan worked out by Messrs. Charles Puddle and David L. Feathers in conjunction with Mr. Walter Hazlewood, who conceived the idea. Funds were voted to launch the project and the Chairman (your Editor) is now engaged in the work of getting together the necessary organization.

Owing to the continued impact of increased costs, the Governing Board reluctantly voted to increase the annual dues of the American Camellia Society to \$6.00, effective next year.

NOTES FROM CRITIQUE ON JUDGING CAMELIAS

January 30, 1959

A meeting was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dekker on the evening of January 30, 1959 to discuss points which should be considered in judging camellias at camellia shows. Present at the meeting were all accredited judges in the Los Angeles area who were able to attend, some thirty in number. Alton B. Parker, chairman of judges for the 1959 Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens, acted as chairman during the discussion.

Mr. Parker opened the meeting by reviewing the characteristics of the flower which are considered in judging; namely, form, color, condition, size, substance and texture, and distinctive characteristics. He stated that discussion would be by these subtitles and the meeting proceeded accordingly. The significance of the discussion under the different characteristics will be better understood if at the outset of this memorandum a general consensus of the group should be stated, as follows:

In judging a camellia do not take any one factor by itself and reach a conclusion on the basis of this single factor. Consider every factor in relation to all other factors. It is difficult to dissect a camellia. In most cases the blue-ribbon flower in a variety will stand out and it will be unnecessary for the judges to consider the factors individually in selecting the winner. When, however, competition within a variety is close, the judge should break down the points to substantiate that his over-all judgment is sound.

Form

Form should be judged against the normal form of the variety. When a judge does not know the normal form, he should inquire from others on the team. If none of the judges is familiar with the variety, the chairman of judges should be called in.

If a variety has several forms such as, for example, Mattie O'Reilly, each form should be judged against perfection for that form. In other words, a peony form should be judged against perfection for

the peony form and a semi-double should be judged against perfection for the semi-double. Personal preferences should be avoided.

A named sport that is not true to the form of the sport, but has reverted, should be placed in and judged with the variety whose form it is. For example, a non-peony form flower from a Lady Kay plant should be judged with Ville de Nantes or Donckelarii as appropriate.

In some cases, such as Mathotiana and Glen 40, which produce both bud and open centers, the judges should be practical and accept the principle that the ideal form is the bud center. Under such conditions, if all other factors are equal, a bud center flower would get the blue ribbon.

Weather conditions can be a factor in determining form.

While the Nomenclature Book states the normal form of all varieties, this book should not be used as the final word in judging as to form. The book should not be referred to unless the judges or chairman are not familiar with the variety and have no other method of determining what the normal form would be.

It was suggested for discussion that separate competition should be set up for all the forms of a variety with blue ribbons awarded for all forms. It was the consensus that such action would precipitate more problems than are now encountered and that such a system should not be used.

It was the general feeling that there are few cases where there has been a real problem in judging form against normal and perfection for the variety. The chief purpose of considering form is to eliminate from further consideration any flower that does not have top form.

Color

Color varies within a variety due to where grown, water, weather, etc. Freshness of a flower has a bearing on color. Color is acceptable, therefore, if within the range of usual color for the variety. The judge should not concern himself with how a flower got the color it pos-

esses. He should give the award to the flower that has the sparkle. The blue ribbon should go to the flower (on color) that stands out in this manner to two of the three judges.

There was some discussion on "When is a flower variegated." A flower is variegated when it has a speck of white on the petals. White petaloids do not make a flower variegated.

Condition

The flower should be judged according to its condition while being judged—not according to what the judge thinks will be the condition the next day.¹ The point was made that the judges have a responsibility to the public not to give a blue ribbon to a flower that will become deteriorated on the second day of the show. It was the consensus that this should not be a factor in judging. It is the responsibility of the Show Committee to remove any flower that has deteriorated to the point that its condition is out of line with the decision of the judges. If proper attention is given to condition on this basis, situations will largely take care of themselves.

Condition should be judged in relation to weather preceding the show. The Show Committee should decide whether allowance for weather will be made by the judges.

The judge should start taking away points when the flower starts to recede from its peak condition.¹ The judge therefore should know the flower. One point for attention here is the condition of the stamens which are an indication of age. No flower past its peak should get a blue ribbon.

Condition should be conclusive in awarding ribbons only when the flower is equal in all other characteristics. A flower with a spot, for example, should not cause the flower to lose out unless this is the single factor of difference. Judges should not look first at condition and eliminate from further consideration all flowers with spot or blemish. Condition of the flower because of age is different from condition because of blemishes. The former may eliminate a flower entirely, whereas as previously stated, a

blemish in itself should not eliminate a flower from competition.

Substance and Texture

Substance is thickness of the petals. Texture is the surface characteristic of the petals, such as sheen.² Since these characteristics would ordinarily be common to all flowers within a variety, they would be considered in judging mostly, if not entirely, when judging between varieties. Any variation within a variety would be due to differences in condition of the flower.

Size

Size is judged against normal for the variety itself. Question was raised as to whether points should be taken off when size is larger than normal on the basis "we take off points if size is below normal, why not take points off if size is above normal." It was the consensus that points should not be taken off just because the size is larger than normal.

Indication of size in the Nomenclature Book should be used only as a guide for judging size. The designation in the Nomenclature Book is indicated by the originator of the variety as grown in the area of origin. Normal size elsewhere may differ from that of the point of origin.

Size is significant only if the flower has all other qualifications in comparison with other flowers. Size alone does not have sufficient weight to offset superiority of another flower in one or more of the other characteristics. A good large flower, however, will always win over a smaller bloom of the same variety.

Distinctive Characteristics

Distinctive characteristics ordinarily is not a factor for consideration when judging within a variety, because in judging by variety we start with an assumed perfection for that variety.

Distinctiveness always applies when judging between varieties. A flower with style should always win over one without style. A judge should be clear as to where "distinctive characteristics" goes beyond normal or perfection in "form" for the variety. When a flower has the best of everything, it can be said to have dis-

(Continued on page 20)

REPORT ON SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SHOW

March 7th - 8th, 1959

Helen Dobson Brown, Sacramento

Demonstrating that neither size of bloom nor age of variety necessarily are the criteria of award-winning blossoms, a number of old favorites graced the Award Table at the 1959 Sacramento Camellia Show.

According to newspaper headlines Sunday morning, March 8th, "Thousands Thrill To Dazzling Beauty, Color of Camellia Blossoms." This was certainly true; and part of the enjoyment was due to the expert advance planning and unusual diagonal arrangement of the display tables, worked out by the Society President, Erwin Nowak, who also designed the cover for the Show Program.

The Culture Corner, where various aspects of camellia culture were discussed and demonstrated by Roy Weigand, again stopped traffic at the show when in progress. Undoubtedly this popular feature will be continued.

A spirit of good fellowship prevailed and Ferd Scheid, General Chairman of the show, credits this attitude along with just plain old hard work on the part of everyone concerned, as being responsible for another successful Sacramento Camellia Show.

Trophy awards were as follows:

Sweepstakes Award: Won by Mr. and Mrs. K. O. Hester, Stockton, Calif.

Sweepstakes Runner-up Award: Won by Newton Pratt, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Japonica Flower in Show: 'Lady

Clare', entered by William H. Roeber, Winters, Calif.

Second Best Japonica in Show: 'J. J. Pringle Smith', entered by Newton Pratt, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Tray of Three Blooms of Japonicas: 'Mathotiana', entered by Charles Casey, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Tray of Six Blooms, Japonicas: 'Purity', entered by Mrs. S. Lawrence Bouque, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Reticulata Bloom: 'Chang's Temple', entered by Mrs. Charles Vanina, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Tray of Three Reticulata Blooms: 'Buddha', entered by Mrs. Myrtle A. Johnston, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Collection of 15 Named Varieties: Won by Harold F. Clark, Sacramento, Calif.

Best Collection of 25 to 40 Named Varieties: Won by Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Davi, Pittsburg, Calif.

Outstanding Seedling: Won by D. L. Feathers, Lafayette, Calif. (peonyform Hybrid).

Most Outstanding Flower Arrangement: Won by Mrs. George Morimoto, Sacramento, Calif.

Most Outstanding Flower Arrangement: State Fair Trophy—Won by Mrs. George Morimoto, Sacramento, Calif.

'Donation', entered by Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Viegas, Sacramento, won in the newly-established Hybrids class.

1958 AWARD OF THE RALPH PEER SASANQUA CUP

Emmett Barnes (General Chairman), Macon, Georgia

When Ralph S. Peer created an award to be made annually through the American Camellia Society (the Ralph Peer Sasanqua Cup) for the most outstanding sasanqua seedling, he offered the same incentive to the *sasanqua* growers of America that the *japonica* growers have in the award of the John Illges Medal.

The selection of the most outstanding sasanqua seedling was the responsibility of the Exhibitions and Awards Committee, but as this committee realized that

this important work could only be done by specialists in that line, it was thought best to have a Western Committee and a Southern Committee so that a search over the entire sasanqua growing territory could be made. The Western Committee, by a process of elimination, would select the most outstanding sasanqua in their section of the country and the Southern Committee do likewise in its territory.

The problem of selecting the best seed-

(Continued on page 18)

Culture Column

by Dick Brown



Some camellia enthusiasts have complained this year about one variety or another not performing normally. They have wanted to know what they could do to correct such malperformance, and whether during the past growing season they were responsible perhaps for incorrect culture that caused some varieties to be subnormal in some respect.

This has been the case where plants have been in the possession of the complaining owners for several years or more and the unusual blooming characteristics are not due to change of climate, water or environment, which often cause camellias to bloom differently until they have become established in their permanent situation.

The unusual performance this year of some of the varieties is, in my opinion, due to nothing more than a "bad crop year." We have heard the farmers complain about good and bad crop years, and I believe that camellias are subject to this also. Because of weather being wrong (as far as camellias are concerned) at a certain time, cycle of growth is often delayed, unseasonal or becomes meagre. When blooming time comes, the weather may be cold and retard bloom development, or it may be warm and dry and blooming is advanced, as was our experience in November and December 1958 with our "winter drought."

This thought, coupled with the fact that varieties of camellias bloom at different times, tends to exaggerate the form,

color, size and alter the time of bloom. For example, the 'Elegans' family this season has been prone to bloom with only a few petaloids or perhaps no center mass, which ordinarily gives this family its character of bloom. 'Gigantea', with its many variations of color and variegation, has been extremely small, almost to the point of being the boutonniere size. 'Judge Solomon', usually a full peony form, has bloomed formal double, even being imbricated.

One of the most popular varieties is 'Ville de Nantes', yet no one questions why it has that particular color, variegation, the rabbit-eared form and fimbriation. Yet of all the 'Ville de Nantes' seen this past season there has not been one bloom with real fimbriation, and many had no rabbit ears!

Many Japonicas have bloomed far out of their normal blooming period, both early and late, so as to cause a person to wonder if there is something wrong with the plants. As an example, we have several camellias that are budded well but which have not bloomed even at this late date (April 1). These varieties are usually finished blooming by this time. The location of the plants has not been changed nor has their cultural treatment varied.

The camellia is certainly variable in many respects. Even with the same situation and culture it will still do unusual things, and there is only one answer: it was a "poor crop year," for some varieties. Next year may bring a bumper crop.

1958 AWARD OF PEER SASANQUA CUP (Cont. from page 6)

ling grown in the United States was accentuated by the fact they are out of bloom at show time; furthermore, there is no practical means whereby each of the committees could view all of the contending blooms first-hand. It was decided that the best solution would be to have color transparencies submitted for the inspection of each committee which would be unable to view the bloom itself and the plant.

After the color transparencies submitted by the Western growers were judged by their regional committee they were sent to the Southern Committee and the same procedure was followed by the Southern Committee in sending their candidates to the Western Committee. The choice of both committees was "Chansonette," a seedling grown by Miss Marjorie Washburne of Port Arthur, Texas. As of December 19, 1958, this plant was not in commerce. The seedling is described on page 286 of the 1958 Year Book of the American Camellia Society and the de-

scription of it makes us realize what an asset it will be to our list of prize sasanquas.

Color transparencies of several other excellent seedlings were submitted and they will be in the competition for the 1959 award which closes on December 31st. The competitive year is the calendar year.

To the Western Committee composed of:

Mr. David L. Feathers (Chairman)
Mr. Toichi Domoto
Mr. Roy T. Thompson
Mr. Vern McCaskill

and the Southern Committee composed of:

Mrs. Sigmund Katz (Chairman)
Mr. Norwood Hastie
Mr. Hoyt Lee
Mr. C. M. Roberson

I wish to publicly express my appreciation for the careful work they did in this project. They were successful in setting up the procedure that will make the Ralph Peer Sasanqua Cup a much sought-after annual prize in the years to follow.

SAN JOSE SHOW (Cont. from page 11)

conjunction with the display of blooms, which gave a pleasing effect of height and diversity, and many of which embodied considerable ingenuity. Another improvement was the fine quality and legibility of the exhibitor's name cards, in gold on a black background.

Specific mention of all the excellent exhibits is not possible, but Matt Talia's great mass of *reticulata* blooms, Caesar

Breschini's display of seedlings, James Nursery's beautiful background of azaleas and the Northern California Camellia Society's top quality collection of camellias were outstanding. A sad note in connection with the show was the sudden passing of Joseph Smaha, long-time, revered member, just a few days before the show, but it was a fine tribute to his memory that his beloved camellias were on display nevertheless.

CAMELLIA MANAGEMENT ON A SINGLE LOT (Cont. from page 7)

3. If there is some question whether the new variety will do well in your location, grow it first in a container before giving it garden room.

4. Rid yourself of the feeling that your own seedlings are worth propagating just because they are yours.

5. Each person has an individual predisposition to certain colors and forms. If you get thrills from a third-rate camellia because it has stripes, don't let any-

body argue you out of it. You are the one to be pleased, not the camellia experts.

6. Adopt as one of your collecting principles this idea: "In this day and age I can't possibly have all the good camellias." If you take this to heart you will have a camellia philosophy suitable to raising camellias on a small lot and be in line for some mature and satisfactory camellia happiness.

R.T.T.



At a recent meeting of the Pacific Camellia Society Bill Woodroof gave his findings on certain of the new varieties which he has grown and bloomed. His lath house is the unofficial testing laboratory for new varieties introduced into Southern California, and because these have now become so numerous as to embarrass the average collector, Bill is performing a real service in making the tests and in reporting on his findings. His position as editor of the Nomenclature Book has made him known throughout the camellia belt and so he receives about everything.

In making his report he divided the new varieties into the following classes:

Excellent: Colonial Dame, Dear Jenny, J. J. Whitfield (especially the variegated form), Tick Tock, Hazel Herrin.

Good: Aaron's Ruby, Ben Parker, Dixie Knight, David Wirth, Emmett Barnes, Emily Wilson, Eunice Butler, Laura Walker ("can be excellent, but good now"), Laurie Bray, Mathotiana Supreme, Mrs. D. W. Davis, Maid of the Mist, Margaret Turner, Margaret Radcliff, Queen of the South, Red Wings, Red Giant, Sally Herrold, Vulcan, Wm. H. Cutler, Mark Allan, Don Mack.

Fair: Eclatante, Evan Davis, Francis Rooney, Governor Kenyon, Queen Elizabeth, King Size ("fair to good"), King Cotton ("fair to good"), Linda Roberts.

No good: Dr. J. W. Knapp, Fay Wheeler, Louisiana Purchase, Sally Mays. He warned, however, that this report applied only to his own locality.

As a matter of general interest and entertainment, Bill asked fifteen camellia people to name their favorite camellia. This exercise, as usual, turned up some

surprises: Donckelaari, Virginia Robinson, Audusson, Gigantea, Jessie Katz, Lady in Red, Ville de Nantes, Debutante, Francine, Paeoniaeflora, Wildwood (2 votes), Alison Leigh Woodroof (2 votes), and Reg Ragland.

That the blooms of 480 japonica varieties were available for exhibition on the morning of February 28, 1959, in a season which, because of warm weather, was definitely past its peak of bloom, surely indicates a surprisingly large number of japonica varieties now growing in this area. Each exhibitor brought only a fraction of his flowers, nevertheless the total of varieties in the show was impressive.

This has been the warmest winter Southern California has ever had. The sasanquas were not much affected, but the japonicas responded with an early wave of bloom beginning in November and, at my locality in Glendale, reaching a peak in January. I had over forty varieties in bloom at Christmas, whereas I usually have a dozen. Like the sasanquas, the reticulatas were not much affected and bloomed at their normal time.

The Los Angeles Camellia Council has protested the avowed intention of some of the county supervisors to sell Descanso Gardens to the subdividers. Most of the horticultural organizations are now in the fight to preserve the gardens. Mr. Doug Thompson has been appointed to represent the Council in these efforts. The generous support given the recent camellia show by the public has already had salutary effects on the Board of Supervisors, reports the Los Angeles Times.

BOOK REVIEW

CAMELLIA CULTURE: By fifty-five camellia researchers and growers, edited by E. C. Tourje. New York. The Macmillan Co. 1958. 484 pp. \$11.50 postpaid.

As its title indicates, this handsome and important volume covers all phases of camellia interest and, with few exceptions, in language which can be readily understood by the layman. It was sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society and edited by their veteran camellia personage, Mr. E. C. Tourje. He exerted great effort to make this book readable and useful and did his best to have even the scientific articles written in simple language. To make sure that "no bets were missed" he included a 17-page glossary of terms, and to make the book completely useful, a comprehensive and carefully compiled index.

The articles were written by fifty-five experienced camellia people from all sec-

tions of the country and certain qualified scientists who have had camellia experience of one sort or another. In addition to the expected subjects, such as planting, soils, propagation, etc., there are articles on such subjects as shipping and handling camellias, increasing the life of cut flowers, hybridizing, radiation in plant breeding, to name only a few.

To take a random example of the book's thoroughness, the article on Soils is typical: its sub-headings run as follows: Functions of the Soil, The Water and Air Relationships of Soils, The Effect of Placing Soil in a Container, Growing Camellias in Containers or Shallow Soils, Growing Camellias in Deep Soils, Soil Mixes.

The book is well illustrated and, everything considered, a real landmark in camellia publication over the last hundred years.

CRITIQUE ON JUDGING CAMELLIAS (Cont. from page 15)

tinctiveness. Style may be a better word to use in such cases.

Rules for Judging New Introductions

Blue ribbons for new introductions should be awarded on the basis of whether or not the new variety adds something to varieties now on the market. In other words, is it distinctive, is it merchantable, does it have qualities not possessed by camellias now in the trade? Condition of the flower should not be considered, since the objective in judging new introductions is to award a new variety and not a particular flower. It is not sufficient that the flower has good form, color, substance and texture. These qualities are found in most good varieties and the purpose of judging within varieties is to select a particular flower of that variety which comes closest to perfection for the variety. In judging new varieties, however, the blue ribbon should be given to the flower that is distinctive to a high degree in comparison with the others.

It would be desirable that the team of judges be limited, say to 3 or 5, and that

the majority of the judging team be professionals. In a team of three, for example, two should be professionals and the third an amateur with sufficient knowledge of camellias to contribute to the judging. (*With respect to the judging of new introductions.*—Ed.)

EDITOR'S NOTES:

¹It is our belief that it is usually possible to distinguish an old flower from a fresh one and that, accordingly, one that has "passed its peak" should be downgraded because "condition" must mean just that—an athlete is not in condition when his muscles are flabby. Following this rule would largely eliminate those aged blooms which often begin to fade before the doors are open to the public.

²It is felt that the word "texture" somewhat confuses the issue and that "Substance" is sufficient to indicate what is meant. Actually, texture is not necessarily merely the surface indication—it is really the composition, as well. We question the propriety of taking sheen into consideration when judging between varieties—it is possible for a variety without sheen to have a better flower, of its kind, than one having sheen. Both "texture" and "sheen" seem to encroach somewhat on "Condition"—a different category. This raises the question whether it is wise to downgrade the scoring for Condition as compared with other factors as is done at some shows.—D.L.F.