

# *The* *Camellia Bulletin*

Volume 10, Number 3

April, 1957



**MATHOTIANA SUPREME**

—*Courtesy Flowerwood Nursery, Mobile, Ala.,  
and Schwabacher-Frey Co., San Francisco*

Published by  
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## SOUTHERN JOURNEY

Although readily admitting a complete lack of tutoring in this sometimes complicated business of amateur journalism, it has always seemed to us the better part of good taste to keep oneself and one's personal affairs as far in the background as possible. The difficulty is that this is not always practicable, for it is no easy task to keep a steady flow of worthwhile material coming in from outside contributors and even our associate editors occasionally feel the need of a breathing spell. Consequently, like it or not, there will be times when we have no choice but to repair to this trusty typewriter and bang away. However, we have just had a most pleasant experience which, inasmuch as it concerned the person of the editor at least as much as that of the private individual, we feel impelled to tell you something about.

Unless one has visited the gardens of the Southern States, his camellia education is certainly incomplete. Consequently, after many years of "hoping", it was our good fortune to spend four weeks this season in and around Mobile, Natchez, New Orleans, Covington, Albany, Thomasville, Charleston, Summerville, Savannah, Sea Island, Macon and Jacksonville. It is our sincere regret that we were unable to get to the Dallas, Shreveport, Washington, D. C. and a number of other camellia centers, also, but we will have that to look forward to.

While it was extremely interesting to see the famous gardens, public and private, which are so well known as to require no comment here, and to meet for the first time many of the equally-famous camellia personalities as well as renew old friendships, the most vivid overall impression retained from this trip is the great friendliness and wonderful hospitality we encountered everywhere. To that must be added a certain indefinable charm and grace, as true of the people as it is of their homes and surroundings. This is, of course, the way we had always pictured the South but, in addition, we had an impression of what might be called serenity and quietude, which are, unfortunately, almost inevitably a casualty of expanding population and growth. Being steeped in tradition and history, the ties are stronger with the past and, of course, the smaller towns and rural areas are more conducive to peace and the good life. (This is getting a bit philosophical but, do you know, sometimes that isn't a bad idea!)

To get back to earth, that is exactly where you find almost all the camellias in the South—planted in the ground usually in raised mounds for better drainage—generally among sparse pine groves and in rather a fair amount of sun. Container-grown plants are quite a rarity. However, one envies the ease attending such culture, particularly in those favored areas where watering is never necessary. A corollary of this is, of course, that the uniformly-larger-size plants, having gotten their roots well down, can better take care of themselves. Another notable feature is the great number of large private plantings and the immensity of the grounds, comparatively speaking. Here in California, with our tremendous population, this is, of course, economically not so feasible, hence less common. There is also the important fact that we have not had sufficient time, in most cases, to develop such mature plantings.

As to the flowers, on the whole the tendency is for the irregular doubles and semi-doubles to be less high, and consequently somewhat larger, than is the case here; also, to show more stamens and less petals in the center. Full doubles are much less common.

It is with considerable regret that we close this narrative on a note of sorrow for, as this was being written, we received word of the sudden passing of Charles F. Holden of Alexandria, Va., following a heart attack suffered as he and Mrs. Holden were returning from their holidays spent largely in touring the camellia gardens and shows of the South. Mr. Holden was one of the founders of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley and a camellia enthusiast of the first water. While our acquaintance had been all too brief, we found ourselves with much in common and spent many pleasant hours together in and around Sea Island on the camera trail. Our deepest sympathy and that of this Society is extended to Mr. Holden's family in their bereavement.

## DID THE "GLASS SLIPPER" REALLY FIT?

All of us remember vividly the story of Cinderella and the Glass Slipper which, because she had the only foot in town it would fit, eventually resulted in her rising from a scullery maid to attainment of her highest goal—capture of Prince Charming. Now comes another great beauty, which has also captured the highest possible prize: "Cinderella", the All-America Camellia Selection for 1956.

They say that one swallow does not make a summer and neither should one year's experience make (or break) a camellia, but, on the strength of the first year's performance of "Cinderella" many of the amateurs, and some of the professionals, too, are beginning to wonder whether the Selections got off on the wrong foot. Particularly is this true in the case of camellia enthusiasts in the Deep South where, in the six Southern States the writer visited in January-February, the experience with this celebrated mutation of "Tricolor Siebold" and close relative of "Fred Sander", has been almost uniformly unsatisfactory. Many blooms were seen which were flat, undersized and without any fimbriation whatsoever—in fact, they were wholly unrecognizable. Actually, only two at-all-typical blooms were seen in a four weeks' tour. Furthermore, it is reliably reported that, in at least one instance, reversions of these grafted plants have been as high as 60%!

It is, of course, extremely unfortunate that the All-America Selections Committee made the decision to market as their first award winner a camellia that was not a new seedling but a sport which, in the case of its near-relative ("Fred Sander") at least, is a highly questionable variety for broad dissemination among the general public. Actually, the writer does not recall seeing a single plant of "Fred Sander" in bloom in the South nor a flower of it in any of the several camellia shows attended. Consequently, one wonders on what basis this decision was reached.

Insofar as the policy of making such awards to mutations is concerned, we are also reliably informed that this will be discontinued beginning with the 1960 award. This, we feel, is a very wise and constructive step; however, much prestige and good-will probably will have been lost meanwhile by reason of the tricky nature of most sports. It would seem that, if no worthwhile seedlings were available, a selection might be withheld for a given year, thus clearly demonstrating the Committee's rigid adherence to principle. We understand that this commendable policy has been followed by the All-America Rose Selection people, who do not necessarily make an award every year.

This is not intended to in any way question the good faith of the Committee and certainly we are completely sympathetic with the nurserymen, many of whom have been heard to express the identical criticism set forth here, and who would give a great deal to undo the damage done to their hard-earned good reputations. Furthermore, we would caution those who have been disappointed with the performance of "Cinderella" not to be too hasty in their judgment, for it sometimes takes two years for a "migrated" camellia to adapt itself to its new environment. On the Pacific Coast, we saw a number of satisfactory blooms at the shows at San Jose, Sacramento and Walnut Creek, as well as at the Southern California Camellia Society's meeting in San Marino on March 12th. So, it is possible the "Glass Slipper" may fit yet, although it is certainly pinching a bit right now. In any event, let us be completely fair and exercise that degree of patience which if often so rewarding.

—D.L.F.

## THE "SPANISH MOSS TRICK"

Famed in the Southland for its feathery plumes suspended from oak and cypress, unknown to most of us "Spanish Moss" (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is not a moss but an air-plant, and it belongs to the same family as the pineapple!

It may be of interest to note that this remarkable material, often used in the place of sphagnum in packing plants for shipment, is also used commercially as upholstery padding and, more to the point, as "lath-house" shading for small camellias when strung on overhead wires and in protecting grafts by draping it over the jars.

## THE SHACKELFORD SEEDLINGS

(Mrs.) Ernestine W. Sherman, Albany, Georgia

Hugh Shackelford, attorney, real-estate developer and former Justice of the Peace, is well known among camellia enthusiasts, being recognized as an authority on and expert grower of these marvelous plants as well as an originator of new varieties. Mr. Shackelford was an organizer of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, is a former president of that organization and presently editor of its bulletin: "THE GARDEN SPOTTER". He is also a member of the American Camellia Society and an experienced and accredited flower-show judge under the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

An enthusiastic gardener, Mr. Shackelford's interest in beautifying his own home grounds with camellias developed into a hobby which now occupies much of his spare time. Having approached camellias in a rather scientific manner, the splendid growth of his plants and the selection of those seedlings worthy of further propagation has not been chance or accidental, for he has made a thorough study, begun 18 years ago, of the handling, growing and propagation of camellias. So it was not "just luck" that brought him good results but an understanding of the related subjects and observation, which finally led to his successful introductions.

In the effort to assemble a choice group of camellias for his gardens, Mr. Shackelford has made numerous trips throughout the South and has also collected many of the finest varieties elsewhere in this country. Consequently, of the 1,500 named camellia plants in the Shackelford gardens, there are six or seven hundred different varieties which were selected for their superior qualities.

During the past 18 years, Mr. Shackelford has probably grown between twenty and twenty-five thousand seedlings, but, as is usually the case, most of them have been used for understock. However, he always waits for them to bloom first. Many that were cut down have been thought by some to be lovely camellias, but he sets his standards very high. He obtained three or four thousand seed from his plants last year and it seems very likely that the seed Mr. Shackelford will gather in future years from his six-acre gardens, surrounding the magnificent Classic (or Greek) Revival home, will result in the development of many more fine seedlings.

At present, there are about four thousand seedlings under observation and quite a number of them have been segregated as showing promise. These Mr. Shackelford transfers to that part of his grounds where he can give them special attention and observation. There are now twenty or thirty unusually good unnamed seedlings at his place, of which he believes two or three have exceptional prospects. However, the past few years have not afforded a favorable evaluation of their potentialities, as the weather has prevented normal blooming seasons, making it difficult to tell exactly what to expect of them. These are not being registered this year to permit watching them somewhat longer in order to be certain they measure up to Mr. Shackelford's standards.

Many points are to be taken into consideration in judging a seedling, Mr. Shackelford believes — not just its flower alone, but its growth habits, its usefulness as a shrub or ornamental plant in the garden, how it withstands adverse weather and whether it is unusually susceptible to the various camellia diseases. Some of his seedlings, deemed not worth registering, he feels are still worth keeping because of exceptional blooming habits or other unusual qualities. Mr. Shackelford says he is more interested in camellias than in other flowers because he considers them "more distinctive and personalized." "They are unpredictable", he adds, "in producing all types of flowers and then there is always the chance of developing a fine new variety. This lure leads most propagators on and keeps them working toward combinations of the best varieties in the hope of creating a flower more beautiful than any yet discovered." Camellias are all so lovely, he says, that he finds it difficult to pick favorites. Some seasons certain ones seem better than the year before, as the weather affects the performance of different varieties. There-

fore, a tender plant with beautiful flowers may not be as useful to some gardeners as a hardy bush with more ordinary blossoms.

Camellia enthusiasts with large collections of plants can afford to pamper a few temperamental varieties that perform well only under optimum conditions or at certain times. However, the average amateur gardener, who is able to have only a few plants, doesn't want a camellia that demands more attention than others, preferring those that can be depended upon to do their best under all conditions. For this reason, an established "old favorite" is sometimes more desirable than a glamorous, much-advertised "starlet". Proven performance year in and year out is a wonderful trait in camellias for, in the garden, too, "the show must go on."

Of his previously registered seedlings Mr. Shackelford is especially partial to "King Cotton" for its beautiful formation and pure whiteness without color deviation in the peraloids like many of that type, also because it is early. This has won first place in the seedling class in several flower shows. He also likes "King Size" because it produces such large blooms. One of his first registrations was "Snow Princess", a very pretty white, which Mr. Shackelford still favors.

As devoted parents usually show partiality toward their own offspring, so do camellia lovers feel a special interest and pleasure in their camellia progeny. Thus it is with both Hugh and Marie Shackelford—they like all camellias but both readily admit an excusable pride in the lovely creations they have developed. Where camellias are concerned, Mrs. Shackelford admits that their seedlings are her favorites but thinks she must be rather fickle, seeming to "like best whichever one happens to be in bloom" at the time she is asked about them, although admitting a slight partiality to singles or semi-doubles, similar to the "Imura" form, rather than the doubles. Her preference, she says, is definitely toward flowers of larger size, although recognizing the need for the smaller varieties for corsages, especially for young girls—also for the boutonniere type, such as her husband's two seedlings in this category: "Little Man" and "Miss Georgia". She likes the whites but prefers the deeper pinks or rosy pinks to delicate tints. Understandably, her namesake camellia and the one named for her daughter are her favorites above all, but she adds that "King Cotton" is not just a good camellia, it is an exceptional one!

Among the new varieties which Hugh Shackelford plans to introduce by name this year are several which he considers very fine. The seedling which he feels is his most beautiful has been named for his very lovely wife:



APPLE QUEEN

SHACKELFORD NO. 156

**MARIE SHACKELFORD.** This is a very beautiful large white. Blooms formal at first, then becoming peony type, resembling Joshua Youtz.

Another of his favorites he has named after his daughter:

**ANNE SHACKELFORD.** A real beauty, light clear pink of very large size and good form.

Two others, which have been named for his brother's two young daughters, are:

**RENEE CLAIRE.** A very early, large pink with full peony center.

**ELIZABETH CAROL.** A semi-double white, prized because of its free blooming qualities and earliness. (See American Camellia Society Yearbook—1954—Reg. No. 135.)

Also to be introduced by name for the first time this year are the following varieties which until now have been identified only by number:

**HIGH SOCIETY (formerly Shackelford No. 138).** Large pink, stands up well in middle, large loose peony type.

**RUFFLED PRINCESS (formerly Shackelford No. 217).** Large, very ruffled, serrated petals—resembles Captain Rawes Reticulata.

**INDIAN CHIEF (Reg. No. 143).** Large, peony red.

**NICK ADAMS (Reg. No. 144).** Dark red, very large.

### Previously Registered Shackelford Seedlings\*

**APPLE QUEEN (No. 184):** Feb. 22, 1954. A 10-year-old seedling, which flowered for the first time in 1950. Type of growth average, and rapid. Leaves medium in size and rather pointed. The flower buds rather long, white, with blush pink edges. The incomplete double flowers, white with pink edges, have 18 to 25 petals with "rabbit-ears" in the center, and from 4 to 5 inches in size. (This is said to be a very pretty late-blooming flower of apple-blossom coloration.)

**ATOMIC RED (No. 158):** July 13, 1953. A 9-year-old seedling which first bloomed in 1950. Plant growth open and slow. Leaves small, narrow, dark green. Flowers semi-double, brilliant red, 4 to 6 inches in diameter with round buds. Mid-season. (Similar to Red Donckelarii, and Flame, but in the opinion of some, superior to these.)

**KING COTTON (No. 159):** July 13, 1953. A 9-year-old seedling which flowered first in 1949. Plant growth average and compact, leaves small to medium in size, dark green.

\*See the American Camellia Society Yearbook, 1954 Edition—date shown is Date of Application—all are chance seedlings.



RED WINGS

KING COTTON

White flower with long buds—incomplete double with small petaloids having three rows of petals with a powder puff of very compact petaloids. Size  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches. Number of petals 25. Early. Exceptional. Beautiful formation.

**KING SIZE (No. 181):** Feb. 22, 1954. A 7-year-old seedling which first bloomed in 1952 and was introduced in the fall of 1954. Plant growth is average and rapid, the medium sized leaves are smooth without serrations. Flowers dark red; complete double—irregular similar to Professor C. S. Sargent, with 35-plus petals; size ranges from 5 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches. A mid-season, free bloomer.

**LAURA CAMP (No. 192):** Jan. 28, 1954. A 12-year-old seedling which first bloomed in 1949 and was introduced in 1951. Plant growth average and compact, rather pyramidal. The pink flowers are incomplete double, with mixed petaloids, similar to Pink Star,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches in diameter, and appear early through midseason. (Named for Mrs. Shackelford's mother, the late Mrs. Camp.)

**LITTLE MAN (No. 191):** June 22, 1953. A 9-year-old chance seedling having first bloom in 1953. Plant growth upright, rapid, with rather small, round, smooth leaves. Flowers white, shading to pink, complete double, imbricated similar to Alba Plena, 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Blooms in midseason. A wonderful boutonniere camellia, similar in color to Mary Charlotte, but more formal.

**MAID OF THE MIST (No. 170):** Aug. 5, 1953. An 11-year-old seedling introduced in 1952 and first flowered in 1948. Plant growth slow and compact. Leaves large, rounded, dark green. Flower buds very large, 5 to 6 inches, white. Flowers incomplete double with small petaloids, similar to Elegans, and has 50 to 60 petals. Early. Blooms remain on plant for days.

**MISS GEORGIA (No. 176):** Aug. 3, 1953. A 10-year-old seedling which flowered first in 1951. Plant growth average, compact and rapid. Leaves medium rounded and light green. Flowers are single, 5 petals and 2 petaloids,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches in diameter. Color light pink with white edges. Mid-season. (Color of Claudia Phelps, single with puff of white petaloids in middle.)

**PINK LASSIE (Sasanqua) (No. 162):** July 13, 1953. A 12-year-old seedling which first flowered in 1949. Plant growth upright and rapid. Leaves small and pointed. Buds similar to a rosebud, medium pink in color. Flower 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, 50 or more petals, similar to Mine-no-yuki (Snow-on-the-Mountain). Color light pink. Season early.

**QUEEN OF THE SOUTH (No. 183):** Feb. 22, 1954. An 8-year-old seedling. First flowered in 1953. Plant growth thick and upright, compact. Leaves rather light green, smooth and medium large. Flowers  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches, complete double, irregular form, similar to Professor C. S. Sargent, with 50 to 60 petals. Blush pink, early.

**RAGGED ROBIN (No. 175):** June 22, 1953. A 1953 introduction which first flowered in 1950. Plant growth average and compact. Leaves rather pointed. Flowers semi-double with large petaloids springing from the center, giving the large flowers an unusual, ragged effect,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches in diameter with 14 to 15 petals. Red. Mid-season.

**RED GIANT (No. 182):** Feb. 22, 1954. 6-year-old seedling which first flowered in 1953. Plant growth average and medium. Leaves large, medium green, serrated. Flowers  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, incomplete double, with many large petaloids, having 30 plus petals. Red, early through mid-season.

**RED WINGS (No. 160):** July 13, 1953. A 12-year-old seedling which first flowered in 1949. Plant growth average and compact. Leaves pointed, dark green in color. Flowers semi-double. (Somewhat resembles Ville de Nantes),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches in diameter, 22 petals, with several rabbit-ears in the center which gives it a winged effect. Red. Mid-season.

**SNOW PRINCESS (No. 161):** July 13, 1953. A 7-year-old seedling. First flowered in 1949, introduced in 1950. Plant growth upright, rapid and compact. Rather small, dark green leaves. Flower size  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 inches, with 40-plus petals. Opens like Alba Plena but petals do not lie back. White. Late bloomer.



## TO COLLECT OR NOT IS NOT THE QUESTION

Helen Dobson Brown, Sacramento, California

The finest collection of anything from salt shakers to Picasso reflects knowledge, avoidance of hit and miss buying, and a proper sense of value, to the collector, of each addition. The camellia collector must, in addition, form some sort of long range plan if he would keep on collecting camellias and at the same time maintain order in his garden. For unlike a pair of salt shakers on a shelf, or a painting on a wall, each camellia plant keeps growing. Knowing all this to be good advice, the enthusiastic camellia fancier often goes right on doing just the opposite, and is therefore in an excellent position to give advice. At least his inconsistencies and even mistakes, if you will, may prove of valuable assistance to someone else.

Once having fallen victim to the charms of these fabulous flowers, a collector and hobbyist sometimes finds it easier to move to the country for more room than to part with favorites in his garden. Not only does each plant in his collection keep growing, but so does the list of available new and tempting varieties appearing on the camellia horizon each season. Like the Walrus in "Alice In Wonderland," a camellia hobbyist often decides, to paraphrase the verse, "the time has come to get rid of many things," and to streamline his collection. Just about then, a new season arrives and he is too busy tracking down new beauties to get around to this already distasteful chore. Seriously speaking, while the camellia collector invariably has a space problem, the fact remains he is also invariably a successful grower of camellias—with mistakes adding up to valuable experience.

For instance, among the things the collector learns, often the hard way, are:

How much water is too little.

How much fertilizer is too much.

How much sun is harmful to certain varieties.

How much shade retards bud set.

Interest, study, careful attention to the known and proven needs of camellias in general, and the characteristics of varieties in particular, gives the collector a basis for experimentation. So eventually, he has on hand a fund of information which may be of value to anyone who grows camellias—particularly in the same locality.

Many camellia hobbyists, having acquired a sizable collection, have turned to hybridizing, seedling, sport and mutation propagation, and experiments with soil, fertilizer, and light. Continually searching for more knowledge, they help to develop better plants and flowers, as well as interesting hybrids; and often bring to light new, hitherto undiscovered facts of interest to all camellia enthusiasts. Of course, not everyone is a camellia collector or wants to be one. Many people are enthusiastic *about* camellias without collecting them as a hobby. And many people, interested only in beautifying their gardens have found in camellias a perfect answer.

Largely due to the ideal climatic conditions in this section of the country, camellias have grown in popularity and use in almost every landscape effect. Looking around we find them used for screening, espalier, flower, color and texture contrast, height accent, or as a featured specimen plant. The following list should be helpful to anyone in doubt about varieties which do well in this locality. These varieties represent many personal favorites, but no effort has been made to list them in order of preference:

### WHITE

Joshua Youtz  
Julia Stafford  
Frosty Morn  
Masterpiece  
Emmett Barnes  
White Empress  
Clowers White  
Shiro Chan

### WHITE VARIEGATED

Masquerade  
Finlandia  
Dainty  
Paeoniaeflora  
Magnolia Queen  
Helen K

**PINK VARIEGATED**

Nagasaki  
Daikagura  
Elegans  
C. M. Wilson  
Cinderella  
Pink Clouds  
Charlotte Bradford  
Margaret McCown

**RED**

Glen 40  
Mrs. Charles Cobb  
Beau Harp  
Adolphe Audusson  
Flame  
Tomorrow

**RETICULATAS**

Crimson Robe  
Chang's Temple  
Moutancha  
Noble Pearl  
Purple Gown  
Captain Rawes  
Shot Silk

**PINK**

Louise Maclay  
Debutante  
Lady Clare  
R. L. Wheeler  
Elizabeth Lebey  
Mattie O'Reilly  
Thelma Dale  
Nina Avery  
Guillio Nuccio  
Flamingo

Lady Mary Cromartie  
Guest of Honor

**RED VARIEGATED**

Glen 40 Var.  
Ville de Nantes Var.  
Donckelari  
Dr. John D. Bell  
Reg Ragland  
Gigantea

Adolphe Audusson Var.  
James Allen Var.

**HYBRIDS**

Iwane  
Donation

The experienced collector could, and perhaps should, offer the following advice to the beginning enthusiast:

Avoid haphazard, hit and miss buying. It can be expensive as well as disappointing.

Buy when in flower unless you are familiar with the variety.

Remember, each variety has an individual growing and blooming habit.

Choose the particular variety which will consistently reflect the picture you have in mind; and also be at home in the location you have chosen.

Plant color along with arrangement of plants.

Plant in redwood boxes or other containers for variety, and sometimes better exposure.

Investigate the essential growing requirements of camellias and adhere to them.

They are simple but necessary.

On the other hand, it could be you should go out and buy that camellia you have been wanting, regardless of rules and someone's else experience. You might enjoy making a few of your own valuable mistakes!

The fascination of camellias goes much deeper than mere ownership of one plant or many. It is doubtful if anyone started out to be a camellia collector, although the acquisition of one plant makes you a collector potentially. Humbly conscious of his own comparatively small bit of knowledge, the experienced collector joins the beginner when each season he looks with delight and surprise at exotically beautiful blossoms growing and blooming outside in the dead of winter; marvels at the glory of their color; and wonders at the mystery of ever appearing new forms, colors, and varieties.

So,—“to collect or not is not the question.” The question is,—“aren't they wonderful?”

(Reprinted courtesy Camellia Society of Sacramento—1957 Show Program)

**SPOTTING OF CAMELLIA BLOOMS**

One of the more common complaints heard about white camellias, in particular, is the spotting or staining of the blooms when grown outdoors without overhead protection. This is generally the result of the effect of the sun in combination with moisture on the bloom, which causes a mild sunburn or spotting. If the plant is in a container, the solution is simple. By moving it under the protection of a roof overhang or porch, the rain and dew will not fall upon the blooms and, of course, the watering will be directed into the container, not on the plant. Therefore, with such protection even a white camellia may be placed in almost any exposure.

On the other hand, a camellia planted in the ground that has flowers which spot easily should be placed where it will not receive the early morning sun in winter, so that

## 1957 CAMELLIA SHOW — CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

Richard C. Brown, Sacramento, California

Once again old man weather played a mean trick on Northern California camellia growers when for a week before our show the rains came and the wind blew; but in spite of Jupiter Pluvius the show was its usual outstanding success.

The weather taking its toll reduced the quantity of blooms from previous years, but the quality was particularly outstanding. Such was the opinion of the Judges—who certainly know quality.

Speaking of Judges, one may always count on a Judge to pick a winner, and Judge Sherrill Halbert, the President of the Sacramento Camellia Society, really did so when he appointed Ferd Scheid as show chairman. Ferd did a wonderful job in the organization and staging of the show, and lots of credit should be given to him and Judge Halbert for a job well done.

The sweepstakes was won by Pearl Blauth who has been a fine contributor for many years.

The runner-up in the sweepstakes was a newcomer to Sacramento shows—in fact, a man who had never exhibited in a camellia show before this year. He is Dr. Ralph G. Gladen of Modesto. No doubt with this success we will see Dr. Gladen again at our shows.

The best Japonica in the show was a fabulous Variegated Rosea Superba, exhibited by S. B. Davi of Pittsburg who also had the best collection of named varieties.

The best tray of three named varieties was won by F. M. Rowles with outstanding blooms of Elegans. It is hard to beat this one in *any* class.

Once again the best seedling was by our good friend and Editor Dave Feathers. His seedlings are always excellent.

The tray of six named varieties was won by Mrs. E. Lillienthal, with the finest "Fred Sander" blooms you can imagine. If we all could grow this variety like Mrs. Lillienthal!

Barbara Cooper's tray of eleven Debutantes had everything—color—form—uniformity—and condition. They were especially good for such an early bloomer.

While there were not many plants in containers (and may we have more in the future) the "Shiro-Chan" exhibited by Mrs. Donald Benson was a beauty. The blooms were well placed on the plant, and its condition was excellent.

The best Reticulata was a tremendous "Noble Pearl" exhibited by Mrs. Phil Daube. It seems to me that Mrs. Daube always has outstanding Retics in the show.

In the Flower arrangements an unusual thing occurred. Mrs. Ellis Sadides of Vacaville won the most outstanding flower arrangement and also the best flower arrangement. Congratulations, Mrs. Sadides!

In the Junior Arrangements, ages 5 to 10, Janet Aldrich won the best arrangement of "Kingdom by the Sea."

In the Juniors ages 11 to 16, Philip Peek won first for his arrangement entitled "Radiant."

The Novice class was titled "Pick Your Queen" and was won by John C. Kintsler.

One of the nicest things about the show was the number of people who contributed courtesy exhibits, which added greatly to the interest due to the many named varieties, a number of which are recent introductions which the majority had not seen heretofore.

May all of the Sacramento Camellia Shows be as good as that of 1957!

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the moisture falling during the night will have had a chance to evaporate before the sun hits it. Primarily, this applies to the whites and delicate shades but moisture followed by sun has a tendency to dehydrate the outer petals of most flowers and will sometimes cause the extremely double flowers to tighten up and fail to open. Consequently, early morning sun in winter is to be avoided also as to many of the doubles, particularly those having petals that are rather delicate in texture, such as "Lotus" (Sode-Gakushi).

## PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS

Harold L. Paige, Lafayette, California

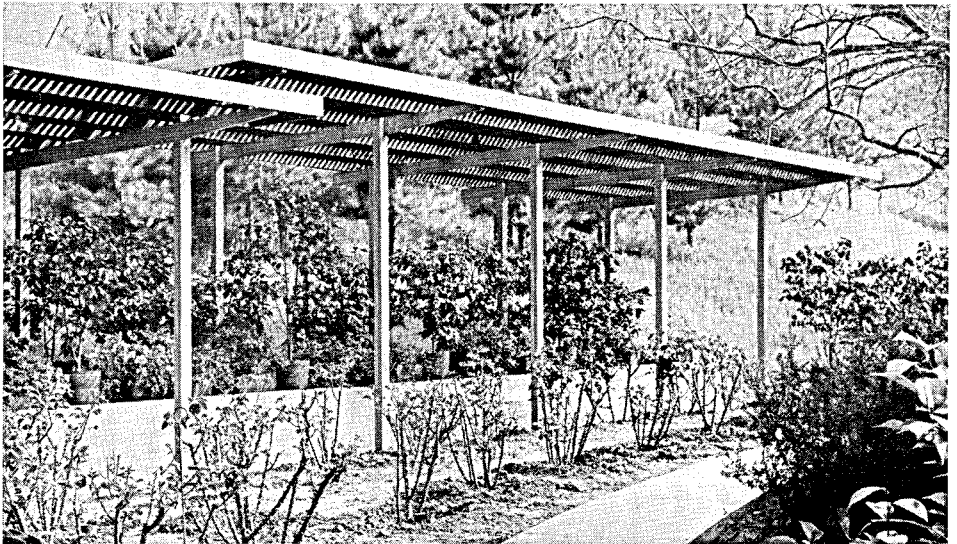
My own experience in growing camellias in two areas differing widely in climate and in observing camellias grown throughout California, leads me to the conviction that under most climatic conditions camellias need protection from exposure to the full sun.

It is understandable that in some areas such as Portland, Oregon, which have a high percentage of overcast days, many fine flowers may be gathered from plants in the open. In the interior areas, however, overcast weather or rain is usually followed very quickly by bright sun, with the result that almost all the blooms are immediately lost — most certainly the light pinks and whites. Even the reds are damaged, although not so noticeably. This necessitates a clean-up of all damaged flowers and removal of petals from the ground. For a person with a large collection, considerable labor is involved. Also, it is discouraging to find that with plants unprotected from frosts, wind, heavy rain and sun, one can never be sure of flowers at show time or for any other event when a large supply of good blooms may be needed.

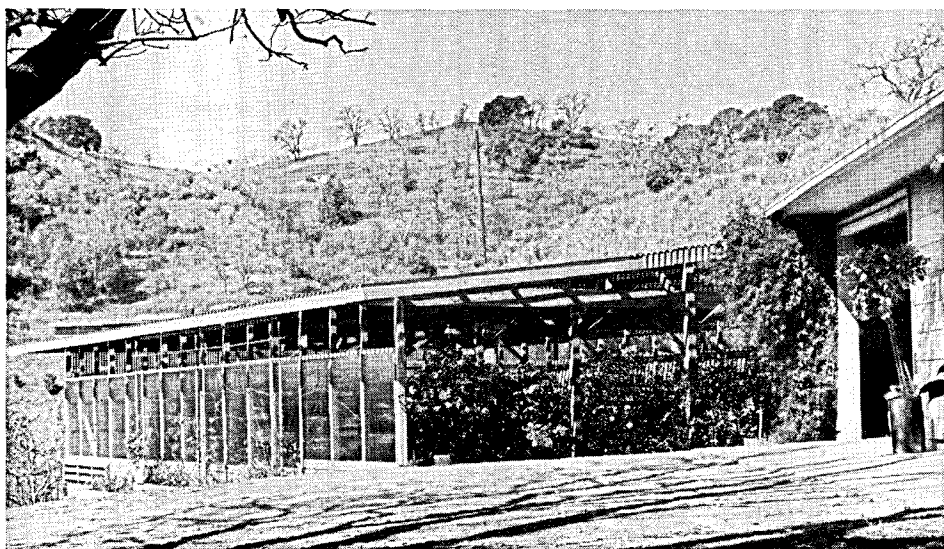
The protection from the elements needed by camellias may be provided in several ways. Planting in the filtered sunlight of tall pines or oaks provides excellent natural protection. The lovely gardens of the southern states owe much of their beauty to the pine trees which prevent damage by the wind and sun to the low-growing plants beneath them. In the western states, however, one must know something about tree species, as some of our western pines have an invasive root system — so much so that some growers have found their camellias could not compete with the tree roots and have been forced to remove the plants from beneath the trees.

The small collector and the city dweller have learned that their best chance of securing fine flowers lies in planting under roof overhangs on the north and east sides of their homes. If plants are grown in containers, further protection may be obtained on porches and other sheltered areas.

Another source of protection — perhaps the best — is the greenhouse. Here we have complete protection from all the elements, certainly during the blooming season. Throughout the summer months the sun's heat may be hard to control without plenty of ventilation and additional shading. However, the chief objection to a greenhouse is usually



(Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)

the cost. A house large enough to hold one hundred 6 ft. plants, properly equipped with automatic ventilation, humidity and heat control, runs into so much money that it is beyond the reach of the family of modest means.

Still another source of protection is the lath house. The name "lath house" may bring to mind a picture of a dismal, run-down structure, hastily constructed, sagging because the roof spans are too long and suffering from the effects of sun and rain. While these structures may give good protection, they should not be built in close proximity to the home. However, if one is willing to add just a little to the cost of a lath house, it is possible to produce a structure which is both ornamental and efficient. It can then be kept close to the dwelling so that it may be of easy access for the owners and for their guests.

Such a lath house should be built of redwood strips rather than laths. Strips  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " are much easier to keep straight and in line with each other if they are nailed to roof stringers spaced not over 32" apart. The stringers may be of 2" x 4" redwood or pine and may span up to nine feet between supports if of good quality. Additional strength may be gained by using 20' lengths over two 9' spans and lapping the stringers 2' at the ends. When well spiked together the extra strength and stiffness of a continuous girder is gained. The main roof beams which are usually supported on 4" x 4" posts may be of 2" material of a depth suitable to the span needed. The size and shape of a lath house is governed chiefly by local conditions, so that design becomes a matter of fitting the site.

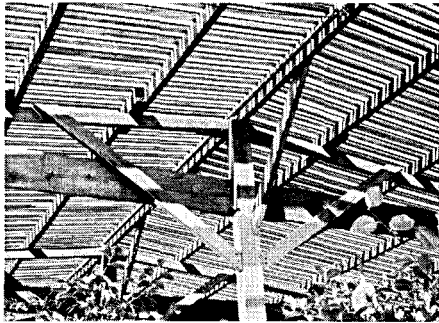
The writer has built two types of lath structures at his home in Lafayette. One of these could more properly be termed a trellis, since it has no side enclosures but rather a heavy overhang on the south side to give protection from the low winter sun (see Fig. 1). Such a trellis would have to run east and west to be at all efficient and can best be used in conjunction with other structures or with large shade trees. One means of giving a feeling of solidity and strength to what would otherwise be a flimsy-looking structure is a fascia of 1" x 6" redwood run all around the exterior line of the roof. If this fascia, the 4" x 4" posts and the main supporting beams are kept well painted, the appearance of the structure will be very acceptable, even if paint is not applied to the stringers and strips above. Those being well above the eye level are hardly noticed and can be allowed to take on a weathered look similar to that attained by shingles or

shakes. This means a considerable saving in the cost of painting. Of course the strips could be painted on the ground very easily but a renewal of the paint in future years would be quite a laborious task.

Our main lath house is 32' wide with a 3' overhang on each side (see Fig. 2). The roof is supported by a series of beams at 9'4" intervals. These beams or trusses (for the roof has a slight pitch of 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " in 12") are supported by 4" x 4" posts at the exterior walls and a line of 4" x 6" posts down the middle of the house. The outside wall originally had intermediate 2" x 4" posts at 3' intervals running to a plate at the top. Surrounded as we were by hills on three sides, we expected to have some protection from high winds. Such did not prove to be the case. The early winter storms promptly bowled over the container-grown plants by the dozen. We then covered the south side with fluted glass up to about the 7' level. The clear height from floor to lower side of the truss is about 8'8". The other sides are covered either with redwood slats 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $\frac{3}{8}$ " applied vertically 1" apart or, as on the north side, with a "Kaiser" aluminum shade screen in 36" widths to the same 7' level. This material, which makes an excellent wind-break, consists of tiny louvres pressed into an aluminum sheet. It completely blocks off noonday sun and admits about half sunlight at horizon level. We used it upside down on the north side to bring in the north light.

The spacing of the lath on the roof of the house depends on the maximum summer heat which will be encountered. The ceiling height above the tops of the plants also has some bearing upon how long the sun's rays will be concentrated upon any given leaf. Obviously if a leaf is close to the ceiling level, it will get longer intervals of shade and sun with a greater chance of leaf burn than if it is down three or four feet.

We started with rather wide ( $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick) redwood strips cupped on the upper side to shed water. These strips were 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide spaced 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart, as this spacing had proven adequate in our former location closer to the San Francisco Bay with its much cooler summer weather. We soon found that our spacing was too wide for our new interior location and remedied the situation by putting  $\frac{3}{4}$ " strips in the center of each space making the proportions of light and shade 35% and 65% respectively. This spacing has proved to be very satisfactory for our climate. Incidentally, were we ever to build another lath house we would repeat the alternate wide and narrow strips as they have made a very interesting roof pattern (see Fig. 3 below).



(Fig. 3)

We have never regretted the use of glass on the windward side as we now have very little thrashing about of the plants even in the most severe storms, with a consequent saving of blooms. Any glass used should be of a translucent type, such as "Factrolite" so that cleaning becomes a matter of washing it down with the spray from a hose. Also a translucent glass adds materially to the appearance of the house.

A system of 3' and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' walkways was installed to make possible the movement of container-grown plants on a rubber-wheeled carrier. These walks were made in a "do-it-

*(Continued on Page 17)*

## NOMENCLATURE CHAOS

Charles Puddle, Bodnant Gardens, North Wales

The present confusion in camellia names is a problem which has received serious attention in recent years and I doubt whether any other genus offers such an interesting or rewarding field to students of nomenclature. I do not propose to dwell upon the reasons for today's situation, but not the least of these is the amazing variation of camellias under cultivation and the great influence of climatic and cultural factors. They defy all efforts of precise classification and can be relied upon to break most man-made rules.

What then can be done to improve camellia nomenclature? I feel that we must approach this huge problem in two ways. Firstly, in order to avoid adding to the confusion, there must be a more rigid control of the names of new seedlings and some agreement should be reached regarding the registration of variegated forms and mutations of new varieties. Secondly, that the older names should be subject to a complete revision at International level with the view to the eventual publication of a camellia nomenclature list which would be acceptable in all parts of the camellia world. In both cases I am certain the common basis must be the general adoption of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

In the registration of new varieties two points recommended by the Code are often overlooked. One is the continued use of forms of address such as Mr., Mrs., Dr., etc., and the other is the use of initials instead of a christian name when the variety is named for a particular person.

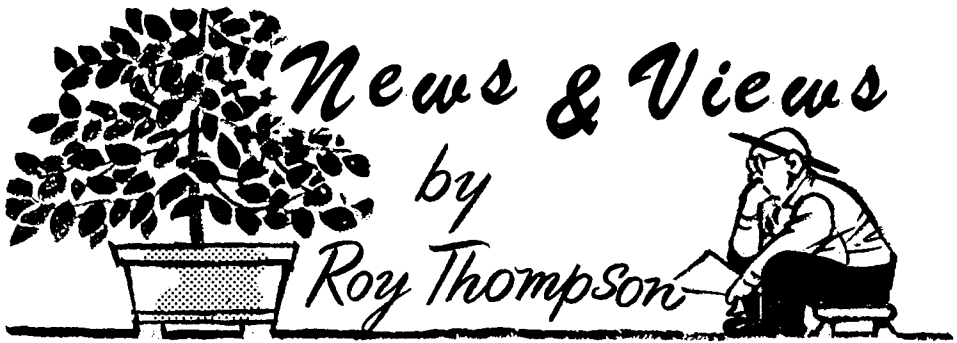
Variegation of both flower and leaf is common in camellias but only that of the former is greatly favoured in the Western World. This condition, however, is not always constant and can be induced by grafting and other factors, so that I do not believe such varieties are worthy of a distinct name. For this reason I entirely support the proposal made by Mr. Feathers in the July 1956 Bulletin that the word "variegated" be added to the original name in such cases and trust this will get world-wide support. It is interesting to note that the Japanese have used the word "Shibori" meaning "variegated" followed or preceded by the parent variety, for some time.

Regarding the naming of mutants or "sports" as they are commonly called, the Code recommends that as far as possible there should be a link between the mutant and the parent cultivar. Although there are difficulties in applying this to camellias which sport so freely, I do feel it would be well worth-while. Many "sports" which are thought to be constant do revert even after a number of years, unless each appearance of the original variety is ruthlessly removed. How often does "Fred Sander" become "Lady de Saumarez" and how much simpler it would be if the names were "Fringed Tricolor" and "Red Tricolor" showing their common origin. In these days of greater camellia knowledge, I cannot see there is any commercial value in giving a more "glamorous" name to variegated forms and sports of established cultivars and there are surely sufficient new seedlings to name "Marilyn Monroe" or "Foster Dulles"! If these two proposals were accepted, it would help to reduce the ever-increasing number of camellia names.

The revision of established camellia names on an international basis would be a long term policy. It is true that several nomenclature lists are already published at national or society level, but their use outside the country or district of origin is severely restricted by the almost complete disregard of the provisions of the International Code. What is wanted is a "World List" which could be used in all countries, and would not be subjected to either national, society or commercial interests.

The principle of the International Code states that the correct name is the earliest legitimate name, that is the name which was first validly published in accordance with the provisions of the Code. These regulations have been universally accepted and if they were put into practice there is no theoretical reason why there should be more than one name for each distinct camellia variety.

*(Continued on Page 19)*



One way to thicken up the foliage of a scraggly or rangy plant such as "Frizzle White" or any of the *reticulatas* is to graft two scions instead of one on the understock, so that the resulting plant will have two main trunks instead of one. This has the effect of merging two plants into one. I haven't tried three trunks to a plant, but three might overdo it so that there wouldn't be enough light in the center of the plant.

\* \* \*

It is the regular practice of Julius Nuccio to investigate the growth habits and characteristics of a promising new seedling by making slips of it and growing it on its own roots. The usual practice of grafting scions from a new seedling on to "foreign" understock does not reveal what the seedling may do on its own roots. Sometimes this knowledge is valuable. A variety like "Mrs. D. W. Davis", which is thought to be very difficult to graft, might do very much better on its own roots.

\* \* \*

Mr. Perry W. Clark, for many years a member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Camellia Society, and a member of many important committees, died suddenly Nov. 10 at Los Gatos while he and Mrs. Clark were visiting the home of the Alex Payettes. He was 62. Born in Minnesota, he attended Pomona College, served in World War I in the Ambulance Corps, was with the Title Insurance and Trust Company for 37 years. At his death he was Senior Vice-President in charge of California operations, a position which required a great deal of travel. Perry Clark was a man who was universally liked and trusted and his contributions to the community and to the Society were of the most valuable type. The Society has fittingly made a contribution to the Memorial Library Fund of Pomona College in his honor.

\* \* \*

Mr. Lawrence Bryant, teacher in the Los Angeles Schools, died suddenly in his classroom Nov. 22. His age was 62. He had been a member of the Pacific Camellia Society for many years. Mr. Bryant was one of the best liked and most useful men in the community; he had been President of the Temple City Camellia Society, a member of the Board of the Southern California Camellia Society and of their Huntington Garden Committee, member of a bowling group and superintendent of a Sunday School. A month before his death he was appointed Show Chairman of this year's combined camellia show at Descanso Gardens. Perhaps his most outstanding contribution to the community was his very successful work with underprivileged boys.

\* \* \*

Bakersfield has a new municipal planting of camellias which, for excellent planning, distinction of varieties, well-kept appearance, and general over-all beauty, is far and away the best public camellia garden (excepting, of course, Descanso, which is not in the same class) in Southern California. It is situated in a public park, the central feature of which is a municipal art gallery which is, itself, a very attractive feature. The planting,



less than a year old, was sponsored by the Kern County Camellia Society and has been named the Adams Camellia Garden in honor of a former president of the society who lost his life last June. It is no exaggeration to say that most of the credit for the planning and speedy realization of this beautiful garden is due to Mrs. Emily Schweitzer, a woman whose enthusiasm for camellias and whose energy is well known up and down the Pacific Coast. This garden is only a few blocks west of Highway 99 and will richly reward camellia enthusiasts who stop to pay it a visit, especially in the blooming season.

\* \* \*

In an attempt to conserve prizes and awards for local members, instead of having them go out of town (as has been so often the case in past years), the Bakersfield show management set up a separate competition for outsiders and invited a large number of them (by special invitation) to participate in the annual camellia show, March 9. Special prizes were given the outsiders but they could not compete for the regular awards. It will be interesting to see if this practice spreads to other societies.

\* \* \*

If there were a sort of psychological, or aesthetic "ammeter" for the measurement of the esthetic pleasure which a camellia flower produces on an individual, it would afford us some startling surprises. For example, on a scale of 100, the needle would be moved powerfully toward the 100 mark by such a flower as "Jessie Katz", or "Mrs. Lyman Clarke". This would not be surprising, but when the needle is similarly moved by a small flower, say, one of the English hybrids, it would surprise many people to know that the *size* of the flower has nothing to do with its esthetic potency. Some day, perhaps, we camellia people may get over the idea that size is the chief consideration in the evaluation of flowers.

## PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS

(Continued from Page 14)

yourself" manner by pressing roofing gravel into the wet concrete after troweling smooth. This gave a non-skid surface which was quite acceptable in appearance.

One more hurdle for the man who owns a lath house is the matter of floor covering. Weeds must be shaded out for no one can afford to spend time on weed control. We solved the problem by using 16" x 16" x 3" concrete blocks for the tubbed plants to rest on. These have the same rough finish as the walks and keep the bottoms of the redwood containers from rotting out. The rest of the floor is covered with three inches of shavings. Continuous watering of the plants has turned the color of the shavings to a nice chocolate brown and it has disintegrated in three years to the point where stray seeds falling on the surface usually appear as seedlings the following summer. This may or may not be a blessing. Sometimes I feel sure that it is not.

There are a number of refinements which the lath house deserves but which it usually does not get, such as landscaping and night lighting. The south side of our lath house is covered with vines in the summer. The large-flowering Clematis of such varieties as *Henryii* and *Ramona* do very well and since they require cutting back in the fall no winter sun is sacrificed. For an attractive drapery of vine and flowers to soften the line of the fascia over the main entrance to the lath house we use *Cobaea scandens*. This too should be cut back in the fall, if it is not a natural victim to the frost, as it will grow from 20' to 40' in a single season if uncontrolled. It is a rapidly growing plant having no pests and is easily controlled with the pruning shears.

Summing up then, for eye appeal consider painting the larger structural members, including the fascia. To avoid sagging roof lines, stay well within the limits of the material you use. Finally, for good appearance, as well as for wind protection, use translucent glass on one or more sides, and your lath house will add to, rather than detract from, the over-all appearance of your home.

## THE N. C. C. S. SHOW — 1957

The past eleven shows of the Northern California Camellia Society having been held either in Berkeley or Oakland, this year it was decided that, out of consideration for the tremendous growth of both interest and population in Contra Costa County, the show would be moved to Walnut Creek as an experiment. It proved to be a wise decision, for the 1957 Show was a tremendous success in every way, including a 50% increase in attendance.

This year, the overall design was placed in the hands of a qualified landscape architect and the Society was extremely fortunate to have the complimentary services of Robert M. Graves of Walnut Creek, a man not only skilled in his profession but devoted to the task at hand. The show was held at the Festival Hall in the Recreation Center, the entrance and sides of which featured attractive garden plots installed by the nurserymen and commercial people, leading naturally into the auditorium. Inside, one was greeted by a striking exhibit of South Sea burls and tree galls backed by an immense tree fern, contributed by Skipper Kent of Walnut Creek. Proceeding into the auditorium, the arrangement of display tables was so well conceived that its many angles not only broke up the monotony of a staggering mass of bloom in a straight line but, at the same time, provided space for the many beautiful potted specimen plants contributed by Harold L. Paige and others. A magnificent overhead display of hanging-basket camellias from Dr. Robert K. Cutter's famous collection was suspended from the ceiling. A wing to the right contained numerous artistic flower arrangements—a distinctive feature of the show—planned and staged by Flower Show School Students of District 4A, California Garden Clubs, Inc.

The blooming season is somewhat later in this slightly less temperate area than that immediately adjacent to San Francisco Bay and, with a weather-retarded season generally, the two weeks later show date seemed to work out very well insofar as the number and quality of the blooms is concerned. Furthermore, because they are naturally later bloomers, mid-March proved to be a good time to get an excellent display of the *Reticulatas*, which, with the hybrids, were the best yet seen here.

The new site proved to be well adapted to easy setting up and dismantling and the lighting was excellent. Perhaps the very best indication of the Show's complete success artistically, operationally and financially was the enthusiastic spirit which prevailed from beginning to end among all who had anything to do with it.

Barlow W. S. Hollingshead of Orinda carried off the honors of Sweepstakes Winner, with Clifton W. Lattin of Oakland runner-up and Dr. Fred E. Heitman of Lafayette in third place. A brief summation of the results in the cut flower and potted plant competition follows:

### CUT FLOWER COMPETITION — FIRST TEN AND TOTAL POINTS

1. Barlow W. S. Hollingshead, Orinda .....	322	points
2. Clifton W. Lattin, Oakland .....	285	"
3. Dr. Fred E. Heitman, Lafayette .....	164	"
4. L. P. Brooks, Concord .....	92	"
5. O. L. Davis, Lafayette .....	79	"
6. J. K. Kirby, Concord .....	73	"
7. L. J. Giomi, Redwood City .....	63	"
8. A. M. Patterson, Concord .....	46	"
9. C. A. Andrews, San Mateo .....	41	"
10. Lloyd F. Smith, Martinez .....	37	"

### TROPHY WINNERS

Barlow W. S. Hollingshead, Orinda:

N. C. C. S. Sweepstakes Trophy

R. F. Lewis, Walnut Creek:

H. L. Paige Trophy — Best *C. japonica* bloom (FINLANDIA VARIEGATED)

Dr. Fred E. Heitman, Lafayette:

C. W. Lattin Trophy — Best 7 *C. japonica* blooms of one variety (LOIS HILL)

Dr. G. M. Grismore Memorial Trophy — Best 12 one variety (CANDIDISSIMA)

Mary-Elizabeth Purcell Brown Memorial Trophy — Best *reticulata* (CAPT. RAWES)

Harold F. Clark, Sacramento:

B. W. S. Hollingshead Trophy — Best 3 *C. japonica* (CHARLOTTE BRADFORD)

Haig F. Ashuckian, Lafayette:

Certificate of Award — Best 12 different *japonicas*

Mrs. Herbert Teachout, Orinda:

Sylvia May Wells Trophy — Best potted specimen plant (C. M. WILSON)

David L. Feathers, Lafayette:

D. L. Feathers Trophy — Best *C. japonica* seedling (No. 101 — unnamed)

(a two-toned pink semi-double, similar to Berenice Boddy but larger)

In addition, Special Award ribbons were given to the following in recognition of their outstanding non-competitive contributions to the Show:

For artistic and decorative effects: Orchard Nursery, Lafayette; Franklin Canyon Nursery, Martinez; McDonnell Nursery, Walnut Creek and Henry Matsutani; Pleasant Hills Nursery; Le Jardin Nursery, Walnut Creek.

For exhibits of camellia collections: Richard C. Brown, Sacramento; Jerry Oelrich, Capitol Grounds, Sacramento; H. V. Mitchell, Walnut Creek; D. L. Feathers, Lafayette; Domoto Nursery, Hayward; James Rare Plant Nursery, Campbell; Dr. John D. Lawson (Camelliana Nursery), Antioch.

#### NOMENCLATURE CHAOS (Continued from Page 15)

It could be said that the acceptance of these proposals would result in even greater confusion due to the abolition of certain popular names and the changing of others. I am afraid however that if we are ever going to make any progress towards the standardization of names, there will have to be changes, especially where a perfectly legitimate foreign name has been changed on importation to another country. Once names are brought into line with the International Code, few further changes would be needed. Surely it is worth a little inconvenience if the result is a world stabilization of names.

It is usually the botanists who are blamed for nomenclature confusion, but the chaos in camellia cultivar names is essentially a task for horticulturists. In almost all camellia growing countries there are enthusiasts who have long realized the inadequacy of published lists and the need for international co-operation in the standardization of names. A great deal of valuable work has been accomplished by the mutual exchange of information and scions. If these experts could be brought together in one body so that their information and findings were pooled and circulated to other members, I feel sure we should have made a real beginning towards the enlightenment of camellia nomenclature. Within the framework of the Code, provision is made for the setting up of an International Registration Authority to deal with each extensive genus, and this body would be required to register names in accordance with the Code. It appears that the Authority dealing with camellias may be established in the United States and it is to be hoped that there will be close co-operation with international experts who have made a study of the position, before any world list is attempted.

It is the usual practice in botanical lists to give the authority for each name and I think it would be a great step forward if a similar scheme were adopted for the publication of an international camellia list. Each camellia name would be followed by the earliest valid reference located, this being regarded as the authority for retaining the name, rather than any synonyms listed below.

Camellia nomenclature is a challenge to everyone and can only be rectified by the acceptance and use of names which have been internationally approved. I have little doubt that the riddle of the older varieties can be solved and if the registration of future seedlings is controlled as regards quality and duplication of existing varieties, there could be more hope for camellia nomenclature in the future.

## THE LOS ANGELES SHOW — 1957

For the second successive year, four camellia societies in Southern California, the Pacific, the Southern California, the Temple City, and the Los Angeles Camellia Society, united under the name of Los Angeles Camellia Council to put on the camellia show. It was staged at Descanso Gardens with the valuable cooperation of the Los Angeles County operators of the Gardens. The cut flower show took place March 2-3, and the arrangement show March 9-10.

Descanso Gardens is, in itself, an exceptionally beautiful landscaped area under live oak trees, and, for a camellia show, a singularly appropriate place, for the chief plantings there are huge beds of camellias which seem to be a natural part of the landscape. This year these camellias were at the height of their bloom. The show was put on in a clearing in the oak forest and, after two seasons' experience, is clearly the ideal setting for a camellia show. No building, whatever its conveniences, could provide the expansive freshness of atmosphere and scenery which is provided by an outdoor setting.

This year the exhibits were protected by three large tents, a distinct improvement over last year. The larger commercial exhibits were placed outdoors in settings provided by native shrubbery. The lounge, where light refreshments were served, constituted a meeting place for show personnel, judges, and guests, and also as a welcome haven where comfortable chairs were available. All in all, the appointments this year were near perfect and would have been completely so if there had been better lighting under the tents. This defect will no doubt be remedied next year.

We haven't the exact figures, but by all reports, the attendance this year was, especially on the two Sundays, near capacity.

### AWARDS

Below is a summary of the trophies and awards won at the second annual Camellia show held at Descanso Gardens March 2 and 3, 1957:

- Sweepstakes—Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Ragland.
- Sweepstakes Runner-up—Dr. E. C. Hubbs.
- Best Japonica—Amateur "Onetia Holland"—J. A. Holland.
- Best Japonica Runner-up—"Adolphe Audusson"—Cecil H. Eshelman.
- Best Seedling or Sport—Earl Hudson.
- Best Three Japonicas—"Reg. Ragland"—Cecil H. Eshelman.
- Best Reticulata—Amateur—"Noble Pearl"—Dr. E. C. Hubbs.
- Best Reticulata Runner-up—"Confucius"—Dr. E. C. Hubbs.
- Best Miniature—Earl S. Gorton.
- Best Three Reticulatas—Dr. E. C. Hubbs.
- Best Display—Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon, Calif.
- Best Japonica—Professional—Kramer's Nursery.
- Best Reticulata—Professional—Coolidge Gardens.
- Best Miniature—Professional—McCaskill Gardens.
- Best Display—Professional—Nuccio's Nursery.
- Best Arrangement—Marjorie Senasac.
- Best Arrangement, Runner-up—May Walters.
- Best Men's Arrangement—Ray Senasac.

Other show data that might be interesting is the number of exhibitors and blooms entered. There were 102 registered exhibitors who entered a total of 3,062 blooms. In divisions 1 and 2, single blooms of Japonicas and Reticulatas, there were 2,214 blooms spread over 454 different varieties.

Caryll Pitkin was General Show Chairman, Rose Gish was Arrangement Show Chairman. These two and their various committee chairmen received much valuable help from Mr. John Threlkeld, Superintendent of Descanso Gardens, and from Mr. Al Parker, last year's Show Chairman.

R.T.T.

## MY YUNNAN RETICULATAS

Ronnie Carr, Tulare, California

New beauty is always appreciated and those interested in camellias look forward to creations developed by chance or by controlled hybridizing. These new varieties, either by seed or sport, must be different to attract and satisfy the buying public. Countless numbers of Japonicas are offered every season along with some outstanding and worthy Sasanqua varieties; however, it seems there are certain limitations on what can be produced from seed of the Japonica and Sasanqua species. Thus, it is obvious we must look to some other species of camellia to give the much needed "new look."

Some years ago it appeared that such an event had come about. Imported from Yunnan, China, by Ralph Peer and Descanso Gardens, were twenty or so varieties (or possibly hybrids)\* of the species fairly new to the camellia public known as "RETICULATA". These plants were produced in limited quantities and originally offered for sale at \$1,000.00 per collection of eighteen different varieties. Now, these Yunnan Retics are quite plentiful throughout the United States. From observation they do very well in the Los Angeles area and reports are that they are excellent in Northern California.

Being a sincere admirer of beauty and of things new, I obtained the Yunnan Retic collection to see for myself if they were as choice a flower as reported and if they would produce the same quality flowers for me as elsewhere. Then too, would they survive our winters and summers a-la Tulare style? This year in Tulare has been truly unusual, to say the least. Actually it has been the best season for the undependable and temperamental varieties that we have had in some time. Thus the Yunnan Retics should have made a showing if they are ever to do so.

The first heart-breaking days came during the early frost when, as always, the buds fall from "Captain Rawes", but buds also dropped from "Osmanthus Leaf" and "Prof. Tsai." After two weeks of continuing 25 degree weather buds fell like rain. The least damage appeared on "Crimson Robe" and "Chang's Temple." Another two weeks of the same weather and buds finally fell from everything. "Confucius" put up a poor fight and is very tender. The same must be said of "Moutancha." Semi-tender are "Buddha", "Butterfly Wings Reticulate", "Robert Fortune", "Willow Wand" and "Pagoda." The hardier varieties are "Crimson Robe", "Chang's Temple" and "Butterfly Wings." Upon examining the fallen buds, they were to be found completely dehydrated. This was true even though the plants were well watered during the winter months. The buds that remained on some plants were picked from time to time and in most cases showed dryness and it is doubtful they would have opened into normal flowers. After mourning the fallen heroes who gave their lives so bravely, I took inventory of the remaining buds that I had hoped would some day be beautiful flowers. Only a few buds remained on "Crimson Robe", which is by far the strongest and most dependable of all the Yunnan Retics. One bud sat upon the top of "Chang's Temple" like an arrogant King. To my surprise the specimen plant of Forrest's Wild Retic showed absolute resistance to the frost and didn't shed a single bud. This was true of all the different forms of the Wild type Retics. Direct seedlings of the Forrest strain are very hardy to the frost. Something rather odd, to my way of thinking, was the fact that very little damage was done to the foliage of any of the Retics. Only some reddish leaves now and then.

Now we come to the tragic story of the type of blossoms that burst forth. Several of the small-type single Retics first opened and were nice for hybridizing as they set seed well; however, the flowers are much like small poppies and only can be called quaint. The Forrest's Wild Retic opened medium to semi-large flowers with beautiful golden stamens, single to semi-double of deep rose color. I can't say they were inspiring, only

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\* It is rather widely accepted that all the Reticulatas are hybrids, excepting the single, or wild, forms.—Ed.

nice. As for the Yunnan Retic varieties it can be said the remaining buds on "Crimson Robe", "Chang's Temple", "Willow Wand", "Pagoda" and others were doomed to be small, poorly shaped flowers consisting mostly of stamens. But it must also be said that they were not a true example of what their potentialities are. The buds that remained after the frost were damaged internally. The heat proved only to be the final blow of destruction.

At present the Yunnan Retics are in full new growth and doing very well. At least they will have plenty of stock for next year and from this perhaps another large bud set as was true this season. Contrary to most opinions, the Yunnan Retics are strong, fast growers and make nice specimen plants. You couldn't ask for a more hardy plant—only hardier flowers.

As time passes, the Yunnan Retics might possibly become fond of our weather in Tulare and there is a good chance they will become acclimatized. What is needed (from this season's observations) is larger and stronger flowers in the future. At present this species produces its buds too late in the season and frost damage results. The early and more mature buds sometimes survive the frost and even then they run into the heat by blooming too late. By being so late, flowers are forced open and are under-sized and fade quickly. This season did not produce a single bloom of size or deep color. The bloom life also was very poor.

The saving thing about my findings pertaining to these reticulatas is that it is for this year only and applicable only to this area. Next year could be different and I am looking forward to seeing Yunnan Retic flowers worthy of their species. I sincerely hope so, because there is nothing as breath-taking and beautiful, besides inspiring, as a full-blown flower of any of the reticulatas grown under ideal conditions.

### **RALPH PEER NEW PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

One of the most gratifying things that has happened in the affairs of the American Camellia Society, particularly to Westerners, was the unanimous election at the Annual Meeting on February 15, 1957, of the world-renowned camellia enthusiast, Mr. Ralph S. Peer of Los Angeles, as its new President. Mr. Peer brings to the national Society literally a world of experience and personal contacts, besides demonstrated executive ability and a temperament ideally suited to a job where the facility for resolving problems and harmonizing viewpoints is one of the prime requisites. The largest camellia organization in the world is extremely fortunate to have this capable and distinguished gentleman at its head.

On the other hand, this is one of the highest honors the camellia world can bestow and we may be sure Mr. Peer is duly appreciative of this fact. There is perhaps no single living individual who has done more by way of international exchange of information and plant material and, incidentally, creation of good will, than Ralph S. Peer. So, all in all, it may mutually be regarded as a very happy circumstance. Because of his conviction that the local societies and the national organization should work together more closely, it is anticipated that some constructive developments in this regard will result during Mr. Peer's regime. For many years past, Ralph Peer had served as State Director for California of the A. C. S. and, following his elevation to a higher office, David L. Feathers of Lafayette was elected his successor.

The annual convention at Macon was unusually well attended and the program of entertainment provided through the collaboration of the American Camellia Society and The Middle Georgia Camellia Society was most enjoyable and extremely interesting. Among the highlights were the conducted tours of the many famous gardens nearby, the excellent camellia show at the Macon city auditorium, the open forum panel discussion of questions and the magnificent closing banquet with local talent performing outstandingly in the field of music. For all this, we thank you, Macon!

## RATING CAMELLIAS — A SUGGESTION

Milo Rowell, Fresno, California

In 1947 "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature", 50 pages, single column, large print, listed the varieties or clones of *Camellia Japonica* then known to its highly skilled and knowledgeable editors to be in cultivation. Roughly, this included 620 varieties. Nine years later, in the 1956 issue, 73 pages, double column, smaller print was required to list approximately 1,900 varieties and rumor has it there are now in excess of 3,000 varieties.

As every camellia enthusiast knows, each year more homemakers are planting a few camellias and in a few years may become enthusiasts, of which many become society members. Even when advised by speakers at meetings, writers in Reviews or Annuals, conversation with enthusiasts and advice by nurserymen, it is difficult for the novice or advanced enthusiast to avoid acquiring an undue number of fine grafting stocks at substantial cost. Under such circumstances, any guide of assistance to all of us in selection of new acquisitions should be welcome.

One possible assistance could be based on a technique used by the Rhododendron Group of The Royal Horticultural Society. The members of the group are requested to rate the various species and hybrids grown by them into five classifications from no stars to four stars. In addition to the five classes so graded, a special list of those considered "no longer up to the standard worthy of growing" is included. Such a list would seriously discourage further propagation of such camellias. This could be done by including ballots in the various camellia publications to all their memberships, thus getting a very broad opinion. The compilation of answers by each society and again in averaging all the societies' results might be an excessive burden to place on our volunteers. One decided advantage, however, would be that each area would have a local preference list of those varieties thriving best in the area.

Should this broad coverage be too great an undertaking at the beginning, it would be possible to start the rating by a compilation of the opinions of the various show judges or a group selected by some other means. If this succeeds and assists in solving the problem, the demand of fanciers would soon cause the techniques of the survey to be improved and perhaps localized.

Various local societies have carried on limited surveys. One that readily comes to mind is the report of the Northern California Society in January 1955 under a committee headed by Harold L. Paige, where 100 camellias were reported on by twenty growers, both amateur and commercial, as to their satisfactory growth in Northern California and sun tolerance. This, however, did not cover the field which is becoming more important as the number of cultivars increases. Such a survey should include desirable growth characteristics, form, leafage, vigor, and similar classifications, perhaps a segregation as to desirability for various purposes, and where there is marked similarity in the flower, in color, form and season of bloom, the elimination of the poorer sorts would be helpful.

It may well be that the group listed in the classification "no longer up to the standard worthy of growing" would be the most valuable and personal taste would have considerable bearing on the selection of the more satisfactory varieties, of course.

## COVER FLOWER

*Mathotiana Supreme* is a sport of the universally popular camellia "Mathotiana" (Julia Drayton), having less regular form and a higher center but with all of the good characteristics of the latter including very large size. It is extremely popular in the Southern States.

