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CAMELLIAS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Alfred Stettler, San Francisco, California

San Francisco occupies the northern end of a peninsula, with an area of about 49 square miles. It is divided into fairly equal halves by a chain of hills running roughly north and south to a height of 900 feet maximum, with another smaller chain of hills north to south near the eastern shore line fronting the Bay.

The general climate is mild, the summers being quite cool and the winters moderate. Freezing temperatures are rare, and snow occurs perhaps once in 25 years and disappears the day it falls. The rainy season extends from October through May; there is no rain during the summer.

However, the topographic division results in two quite different climates within the relatively small area of the City. The western slope of the hills, facing the Pacific Ocean, is exposed to the trade winds which prevail during the summer season and bring the cooling fogs. The eastern protected slopes are fog free and can become quite hot during the summer. In addition, there is a myriad of microclimates, depending on the type of exposure and slope of each individual garden. A plant may thrive in one garden and not do at all well in a garden a very short distance away.

The soil is of a sandy nature and requires the addition of humus to give it moisture-retaining properties. Drainage is no problem.

I became acquainted with camellias in the early thirties, when the Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario, Calif. ran a special offer in their catalog of six varieties of camellias, liner size, for a small sum. The varieties were, if memory serves me right, Nobilissima, Purity, Pink Perfection, Cheerful, Eureka, and Peppermint Strick. About that time, camellias were coming out of a decline, and to me, a native of Switzerland, the name had a romantic sound. The plants were obtained, planted under lath, and thrived beautifully attaining a height of over eight feet within a few years. They bloomed nicely and generated a great deal of interest. The soil was rich, having previously been tilled as a commercial vegetable garden.

Partially decayed pine needles were used for a top dressing and cottonseed meal was applied during the summer months.

The plants loved overhead syringing, which helped to discourage insect pests. Whenever black aphids, mealy bugs, or scale were discovered, an oil spray would furnish certain control. Earwigs were a problem for a while, but the later-developed dieldrin and chlordane sprays eliminated them as well as ants. DDT* has been used very little, as it was soon found that an invasion of red spider would follow its use. Also, the old-fashioned method of controlling red spider by dousing the plants with a coarse spray of cold water from below, in early morning, furnished the best control of red spider, which are not too prevalent anyway in San Francisco due to the cool weather. However, once an invasion occurs, they can quickly do a great deal of damage even here.

All these original plants have been discarded to make room for more desirable varieties, as only a limited space is available in my garden due to the presence of roses, fuchsias, tuberous begonias and other plants. A garden limited to only one family of plants is not for me; in fact, one of the reasons for acquiring camellias was the desire to have some flowering plants in bloom every day of the year and this desire the winterblooming camellias have well fulfilled. Many a time they have provided the only splash of color and cheer in an otherwise dormant garden, in the middle of winter, and have repaid me generously for whatever time and energy was spent in their behalf.

As a matter of fact, camellias are a beautiful and practical companion and background plant for fuchsias and tuberous begonias, since their soil and cultural requirements are identical. All must be protected from wind and excessive sun. Just because the sun is hidden from view, sometimes for weeks at a time, in the summer, it does not follow that camellias

*DDT has been known to kill or severely damage camellias.—Ed.

will tolerate full sun in San Francisco; rather, the contrary is true. Because of the lack of sunshine, the plants are of less substance and if and when the sun does come out, the leaves will sunburn. Certainly, if the plants are in full sun, in the wintertime the flowers will turn brown much sooner than if they are partially protected.

It was recognized in the early forties that camellias were indeed staging a determined comeback. Camellia shows were visited in Sacramento and Southern California, the only camellia show staged annually in the Bay Area being in a small bank in San Rafael. The idea developed that a camellia show in San Francisco would not only serve to acquaint the general public with camellias, but would also tend to bring the local camellia growers together. There are excellent growing areas in the surrounding counties of Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Mateo, and a central camellia show might perhaps lead to the formation of a local camellia society with attendant proven benefits. The first Bay Area camellia show was therefore held in the San Francisco City Hall in March, 1945,** with participation of growers from all the counties mentioned. A fond remembrance of the show is the cooperation received from distant growers, such as Fred Peterson of Chico and Jerry Oelrich of the Capitol Grounds in Sacramento. It may well be that this first show furnished the needed impetus for the formation of the Northern California Camellia Society later in 1945, which society then organized and staged its own annual shows in the East Bay, beginning in 1946.

Two more shows were held in the San Francisco City Hall, with participants from all around the Bay Area except San Francisco. It became immediately obvious that blooms grown in San Francisco were of a different brood; they could not successfully compete with those grown in more favorable climates, i.e., warmer summers and colder winters. The blooms are smaller; the color is harsher and variegations disappear; the pompons do not de-

velop, and the anemone form becomes semi-double. No interest would be aroused in the sections of San Francisco where warmer summers prevail, as that section is now chiefly industrial. It is very probable that in this warmer section better flowers could be grown.

Many fine specimen plants of camellias can be found in Golden Gate Park, particularly in the Oriental Tea Garden and Strybing Arboretum. Plants thirty and more years old have developed into beautiful specimen trees fifteen feet high; but again, the flowers are small and of more uniform color. One fine donated collection of camellias has been planted in Strybing Arboretum, consisting of over one hundred old and new varieties of Japonicas, and a complete set of Reticulatas. However, they are not in a favorable location, being in dense overhead shade and on a cold, westerly slope. A bamboo 6-foot windbreak has been erected but the primary fault still exists and the plants are not doing very well.

Reticulatas pose a peculiar problem in San Francisco. Being naturally leggy plants, if they are growing in overhead shade, they will tend to become still rangier in reaching for light. It may be well to plant reticulatas in full sunlight and "pinch" the new growth to force more branching. The quality of reticulata flowers, particularly 'Captain Rawes,' grown in San Francisco, compares very favorably with that of reticulatas grown elsewhere, as to size, form and color.

Several plants of Williamsii and other hybrids can be found in Strybing Arboretum, some in shade and some in more sun and they are doing very well in either location, providing a splendid display of color in February and March.

What about the future of camellias in San Francisco? By tradition, the people of San Francisco are conservative and reluctant to change. Since the majority of gardens are limited in size, most of them being only 25 feet wide, and with so many new introductions of varieties and hybrids appearing on the market, the local gardeners will be hard put to test all of them, particularly since many varieties will be so much alike on account of the limited

**Due almost wholly to the efforts of Mr. Stettler.—Ed.

TWENTY-FIVE CAMELLIAS WORTH CONSIDERING

David L. Feathers, Lafayette, California

Another season has come and gone and we have about the usual number of new introductions, of which time and greater familiarity will take their toll, as always, leaving us with one or two that survive, if we are lucky! This is the way it goes, whether we are talking about camellias, roses, household detergents or a new brand of cigarettes. There just is not room for more, with the result that something has to give — and it is usually the case that the thoroughly proven and established are a bit difficult to dislodge.

Of course, all of us like to try new things. It helps to maintain interest and often results in an over-all improvement. But no truer statement has been made about the camellia hobbyist than the one to the effect that he often cuts off a better camellia than the new one he grafts on!

For the foregoing reasons, perhaps it might serve some useful purpose to discuss briefly a moderate number of well-established camellias believed to be outstanding but which, for some unknown reason, do not seem to be in the limelight to the extent deserved. It may also cast some light upon what one person's views may be as to what is "outstanding" based upon his own experience and growing conditions. The following were selected on an alphabetical basis from the 1964 issue of "Camellia Nomenclature" (japonicas only) and are not listed in the order of preference:

CELESTINE: This is a very old variety, originating in Pennsylvania in 1868, and the fact it has been with us for a century signifies something. It is one of the latest to bloom here, coming out with 'Blood of China,' 'Elena Nobile,' 'Florence Stratton' and such finalists. The plant is excellent, making a splendid, round shrub, vigorous though slow growing, with medium foliage. The flower is large for a formal to rose-form double, light rose pink usually spotted white and the mass blooming effect is exceptional. Morning sun only here.

CABEZA DE VACA: This is a white-on-pink variegated form of the old variety, 'Quartette,' brought out some 30 years

ago by McIlhenny of Louisiana, semi-double of medium size, fairly high flower, holds well for its type. The plant is compact, rather slow growing, with medium to small foliage. Blooming season mid-to-late. Does well in fairly heavy shade. Charm of the flower is its lovely color and markings, reminding one somewhat of 'Monte Carlo Supreme,' though smaller and higher.

CASSANDRA: A well-known Australian variety, originating over a century ago in the MacArthur gardens at Camden Park near Sydney, Australia. Known also as 'Chandlerii Magniflora.' Rather unique, both as to foliage and flower, both of which are of unusually heavy texture. Form of bloom resembles 'Elegans' somewhat but tighter and slightly smaller. Opens as a rather deep red, fading slightly as flower ages. A fairly slow grower, that makes an attractive plant and is fine for container culture. Blooms about mid-season. Two blooms of this camellia that were gibbed here in mid-December were magnificent — larger, heavier and seemingly lasted for weeks on the plant.

EMMY BALCHEN: A lovely, white semi-double of good size substance and color, on the order of 'Finlandia' but with better stamens and golden yellow contrast. Rather slow growing, very bushy and stands considerable sun but blooms need protection from the weather, as with most whites. Blooms mid-season over a long period. Introduced about 20 years ago, and was our Cover Flower illustration on Vol. 7, No. 4 (July, 1964 issue).

FLAMINGO: This appropriately named, beautiful pale pink semi-double has some vertical petals and lovely stamens which set them off well, giving the bloom an ethereal quality that is outstanding. A vigorous, tall grower that blooms mid-season. One for the ladies, primarily, and quite worthwhile.

FRAGRANT STAR: Of local origin and introduced about 10 years ago, this is a very distinctive and unusual camellia, with notable scent. It is a large semi-double white having pointed petals, giving it a star effect and here the center is

so full as to appear almost double. It is a unique and heavy flower, that tends to hang face downward and, because of its spreading growth habit, would make an outstanding hanging basket or pendant specimen. Grown in the shade here it is fairly late but considered distinctive and desirable. Foliage a fine, deep green, medium size.

GENERAL LECLERC: This is an exceptionally fine, deep red camellia, having a very long blooming season, ranging almost from early to late. The flower form is variable and may, to some, leave something to be desired, as it will range from semi-double to a loose (sometimes a bit ragged) anemone form, always large. The plant has above average, deep green foliage and large, glossy leaves borne on a bushy structure. It has good vigor and takes the sun well.

GOSHOGURUMA: An old Japanese variety introduced into California about 30 years ago and one of the most brilliant reds we have today. This camellia has much in common with 'Kumasaka' (one of the best-known Japanese introductions), having the same superb plant form, similar foliage although darker, late in season, and a tremendous bloomer. The flower varies from almost single to a very loose anemoneform, medium large and of a distinctive, eye-catching orange-red color. Flower life is fairly short but it compensates by being a very heavy bloomer.

GREAT EASTERN: This is one of the oldest and best of the Australian camellias, having originated at Camden Park in 1873. Throughout, this fine camellia bears great resemblance to 'St. Andre' although it is not as high a flower and the red does not blue nearly as much. Growth habit is superb, as is the foliage and it makes a strong, handsome plant, well laden with large, attractive semi-double flowers with considerable height. Like 'St. Andre,' the flowers have excellent substance. It comes fairly early, blooming over a long period.

KITTY: This is an absolutely entrancing tiny formal double of almost miniature size, its delicate beauty reminding one of 'Lady Hume's Blush,' although this is a marginated (picote) flower, white with prominent lavender-pink edging. It

was introduced in the Deep South about ten years ago and has not yet attained the widespread popularity it deserves. The plant is about average, with small foliage. Reputed to be a mid-season bloomer, it is one of the latest here. Quite different and charming.

MARIE SHACKELFORD: This is large for a formal double and a white of great distinction. Young blooms hold a beautiful bud center but little is lost when the flower opens fully, when it becomes a finely-chiseled rose-form bloom. Lasting quality is exceptional and the blooming season quite long, commencing fairly early. The plant is excellent, with above-average foliage of good size. On the general style of 'Margarete Hertrich' but the flower is larger and holds better.

MATSUKASA: Another old Japanese variety introduced over 30 years ago. This is an absolutely unique flower, of the rare pine-cone type, beautifully tiered and with great relative height. The petals are symmetrically fluted and the markings, usually white spots on a light red background, are prominent and set off the flower well, there being an occasional solid red bloom. Foliage is small, light green that tends to variegate slightly, growth habit good but slow. It is difficult to understand why this distinctive, charming camellia is not more widely grown. Bloom size medium and adequate in relation to height.

MISS UNIVERSE: Not an old one by any means, having been introduced by a Southern California nursery only five years ago. While quite late, this is an outstanding camellia in many respects. The beautiful, medium-large white flower with a definitely yellow cast comes first as a bud-centered bloom, then opens into a tight-centered, petaleted flower in which many upright petals change its regular form. It bears heavily, is very vigorous, beautifully compact and has distinctive, glossy leaves. This is a patented camellia.

MRS. JOSEPHINE M. HEARN: It is a mystery to the writer how a camellia which "has everything" such as this, developed in this country over 30 years ago, can have seemingly become "lost in the shuffle." Based upon its performance here grown in the ground and in Oakland

(Continued on Page 16)

PRUNING CAMELLIAS

T. Savige, Canterbury, Victoria, Australia

(Notwithstanding that the subject has been covered rather extensively in camellia publications, the matter of pruning remains to some one of the profound mysteries of camellia culture—how, why, when and where to prune a camellia. The article which follows is by an acknowledged camellia authority and, while it appeared some time ago in the official publication of the Australian Camellia Research Society ("Camellia News Annual," December 1962), whom we wish to thank for the privilege of reproduction, it is as valid and valuable today as then. On our visit to Australia and New Zealand in that same year (1962) it was our privilege to see at first hand just how severely a camellia may be pruned, with benefit rather than injury, and to meet the author and visit his lovely home and garden.—Editor)

After seeing the results of drastic pruning of old camellia trees in New Zealand and also having recently had the realisation thrust upon me that camellias, planted at six-foot spacings on a suburban block, will rapidly outgrow their allotted space, it has become necessary to give whys of pruning.

The reasons for pruning, besides that of holding the physical dimensions of the plants to controllable limits, include the proper shaping of the plants to suit their desired purpose such as standard, espalier or specimen; to maintain the plant's well-being; and to assist in keeping it healthy and thereby improve the quality of its blooms. Pruning may also be required if garden-grown plants are transplanted, and in the process losing part of their root system, or to repair storm or other incidental damage.

In considering the first reason it is as well to bear in mind that in the camellia we have a plant that will outlive any human individual and, if unchecked, will grow into a tree up to 30 feet high and as many across. However, by the competent use of secateurs and saw, plants as close together as 5 feet can be kept to a reasonable size more or less indefinitely.

Old trees that have become woody and sparsely furnished through neglect can be rejuvenated by being cut back. Usually, as the camellia plants become old and large in size, the quality of the individual blooms falls off. Heavy pruning will induce a vigorous flush of new growth which will again produce first-class flowers. In fact, the only way to restore old camellias to health is severe pruning, as old, uncared-for trees usually bear long,

knotty, virtually leafless branches which seem to lose the ability to initiate new growth. Examine these branches to try to find a reasonably vigorous shoot and cut back to this point. If such shoots are not evident, it is necessary to remove a large part of most of the branches, and watch for any consequent new growth and then cut back to this point. Where there is no response the limbs must be cut back flush with the trunk.

When transplanting large, old camellias a similar very drastic pruning is desirable. The writer has known old trees with trunks over nine inches across which when cut back to stumps, grubbed up and replanted at a new site, rapidly put out new growth and soon became large plants once more.

In the care of the usual run of garden camellias, where flower production is a prime consideration, the best time to prune them is as soon as the flowering season is over but before the new spring growth has started; otherwise camellias can be pruned at any time of the year. Indeed, it is recommended that the pruning and shaping of the plants be carried on, in some measure, through most of the year, and this includes cutting scions in the summer and blooms in the winter. If any pruning is done while the plants are in bud, consideration can be given to leaving healthy limbs with the best bud set, removing the weak, twiggy interior growth and opening up the plant where close-growing branches will later cause bloom damage and distortion. This can be done with any disbudding programme and it helps towards improved flower quality.

Later, when cutting flowers, cut with

long stems, particularly if on weak growth, and then, when the blooming season is over, go over the plants and complete the pruning job, cutting back to the main branches any stubs left by flower gathering.

The pruner needs to examine his plants with a critical eye, comparing the thin interior growth with the outer apical shoots; he will soon learn to differentiate between good, healthy wood and wood that is best removed. All interior-growing thin twigs with weak terminal buds should be removed, and branches that cross through the bush taken out. Low, ground-sweeping limbs and sufficient of the outer growth should be removed so that flower buds will be able to form and open undamaged by adjacent foliage.

Pest control is helped by proper pruning, as scale favours the dark, protected interiors of densely growing plants which, moreover, are difficult to cover properly with sprays.

The pruner should not worry about being over-enthusiastic, as new top growth will always restore the leaf-to-root balance. In fact, pruning can be used to assist in rehabilitating a root system damaged by transplanting, root-rot or drying out. The root system is insufficient to support the top and this is soon evidenced by leaf drop, dieback and short, weak new growth; it usually takes some years to recover if it ever does. The removal of sufficient of the top to restore some balance generally results in the production of improved new growth provided the underlying cause of the trouble is also corrected.

When pruning for reasons of appearance, such as to produce a certain shape, improve the form of leggy growers such as *Kelvingtoniana* or for training espaliers, the growth habits of the varieties to

be used should be carefully studied. Generally, mature specimens of camellia plants, when properly grown, develop a particular shape typical of the variety. This can be seen in the poplar-like growth of Alexander Hunter and Margaret Waterhouse; the upright habit of the Hikaru Genji group, and the spreading growth of Lady Clare and Chandler's Victory. It helps to select a variety to suit the shape in mind and then stake and prune the plant towards this shape as it grows.

Many varieties of camellias grown in crowded nursery conditions develop one tall vigorous growing leader that takes some years to fill out. If tall, upright growth is desired these can be kept symmetrical by staking and tying and the removal of branches that show a tendency to form a fork in the leader. If a bushy form is required, abundant side growth can be induced by repeated nipping out of the top shoots which will force growth from the buds in the leaf axils back from the tip.

When cutting flowers, scions or just pruning, remember to cut back to a lateral bud which will grow, or if there is no bud, cut back to the branch. In removing branches, do not leave a stub which can die back but cut flush at the main branch or trunk. By this means quicker healing of the cut areas reduces the possibility of disease and maintains the health of the plant. Large wounds are best coated with grafting mastic, roof paint or pitch. A plant in good health will grow over a two-inch diameter wound in about two years.

A final recommendation, not for the tidy gardener, is to cut up your pruning as you go and let them fall over the root area of the plants. What better mulch can a camellia have than camellia leaves? So sharpen up those shears and cut your way to healthier plants and better blooms; you can't lose by it.

CAMELLIAS IN SAN FRANCISCO (Continued from Page 4)

color range of San Francisco-grown camellias. Gibberellic acid has never been tested in San Francisco on camellias, but it may well be that it will prove beneficial here, since it seems to induce earlier and

larger blooms. A large field is open to anyone who has the time, inclination and know-how for experimenting. There is so much to be done and so little time to do it!

INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1965

J. T. Gallagher, Bovington, Herts, England

After the recent ICS Conference at Brighton, there can be little doubt about the enthusiasm of both amateur and professional camellia growers in Great Britain. Over 140 members and their friends attended the two days of lectures, discussions and social events at the Grand Hotel, either on a full-time or on a day to day basis.

The idea of a week-end conference originated a couple of years ago when I was lying in bed recovering from a virus infection. Charles Puddle, Secretary of the Society, had been investigating the possibility of visiting the United States to attend one of the American Camellia Society meetings and wrote to me for my opinion in view of the high cost of the trip. I suggested that before going off to America, it would be better if we got to know the people in this country first. This suggestion was put to our other members and led to our first Conference at Lyndhurst in the New Forest last year. At that stage we had not considered the possibility of the conference becoming an annual event and it is fair to say that this year's conference was definitely by "popular request."

After the opening address on Friday evening, the conference started with a display of slides of new varieties and scenes from New Zealand, Australia and America. Most impressive were some of the slides of Mr. Les. Jury's hybrids and Mr. Howard Asper's *Narumi-Gata* and *Buddha* crosses. Next followed an interesting lecture on camellia culture by Mr. Knight VMH Director of the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley, Surrey. Mr. Knight spent his gardening days in Cornwall with the late J. C. Williams and was responsible for germinating and growing on the original Forrest introductions some thirty years ago. With so many examples of his art in Cornwall and Wisley we could hardly have asked for a more experienced propagator. Needless to say, the "brain trust" which followed was very popular and we looked unlikely to get to bed that night at all!

I am quite sure that the psychiatrists have a list of standard nightmares for conference organisers. On the Saturday morning I woke up to find one of these was now a reality. The skies had opened and it was pouring with rain. One or two cars failed to stand up to the wet and their passengers were taken by friends. We arrived at Leonardslee where Sir Giles and Lady Loder were waiting to show us their lovely garden. Lady Loder invited us all into her beautiful home and provided steaming hot cups of coffee before the tour. One tip I noticed was a telescope in Sir Giles' drawing room, which enabled him to view some of the beautiful tree magnolias in comfort. In spite of the rain everyone toured the garden, ending up in a large, new greenhouse planted with some of the best new American varieties. *Betty Sheffield Supreme*, *Drama Girl*, *R. L. Wheeler*, *Mrs. D. W. Davis* really in wonderful flower. Outside the greenhouse one of our lady delegates was so overcome by the beauty of the flowers, that she stepped backwards into an ornamental pond. Fortunately she was not hurt and was fished out by other delegates using umbrellas and other implements to hand. To save time, we arranged to have a picnic lunch with hot drinks at a new secondary school at Haywards Heath. The governors of the school requested that one of our overseas delegates should plant a camellia in the grounds in memory of the occasion. Needless to say, with Dr. Wyman of your Arnold Arboretum doing the planting the success of the plant is guaranteed.

The county of Sussex has a wealth of beautiful gardens and as Stonehurst and Wakehurst Place are on opposite sides of the road to each other, we decided to visit both. The main collection of camellias at Stonehurst was started after Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peer visited Mr. Strauss in 1947. Since then, regular importations have been made from America, Australia, Belgium, Holland and Portugal. Many of these plants were in flower under glass and extensive plantings have been made

in the woodland garden and around the house.

Mr. Geoffrey Wakefield demonstrated propagation and potting of camellias and explained and elaborated some of the points he has made in his recent book. The weather still held and Mr. Strauss invited the delegates to a delightful afternoon tea which was served on the terrace overlooking the garden. Like all the gardens we visited, Stonehurst was not only noted for its camellias, but has a very extensive collection of shrubs and trees and a major orchid collection.

Since Sir Henry Price died, Wakehurst Place has been given over to the care of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. Mr. Wallis, head gardener for over twenty years, rightly decided to let the delegates look for themselves as many knew the gardens already and made little pilgrimages to their favourite plants.

Most impressive in this garden and at Leonardslee were the plants of *C. Barbara Hillier*. Its elongated, pear-shaped pink flowers were very distinctive and of real garden merit. My own plant has performed very badly under glass and another plant outside Windsor which I have been watching, has also been disappointing. Perhaps this near London we are too cold to do this *reticulata* hybrid full justice.

We had taken the precaution of arranging a banquet on the Saturday evening to sustain our delegates for more lectures and slides. The Countess and Lord Rosse, Lady Clarke, Sir Giles and Lady Loder were guests of the Society, together with the head gardeners and their wives of the various gardens we were visiting. After proposing the toast to Her Majesty the Queen, Mr. Harold Hillier, Director of the Society, read a message from Professor Waterhouse, the Society's President. Sir Giles Loder then gave a little talk about his American travels which he illustrated with some beautiful slides of your new varieties and plantings. There were no complaints of insomnia on the next morning, which was dry and sunny.

Our visit was to Borde Hill, the beautiful home of Sir Ralph and Lady Clarke. Apart from its great camellia interest as being the birthplace of *C. DONATION*

and *C. SALUTATION*, the garden is remarkable for its collection of trees and shrubs. The first planting began in 1890 and from there on plants and seeds from all the major collections were added, which makes the garden now a sort of living horticultural history book—E. H. WILSON (China 1900), FARRER (Upper Burma 1919), FORREST (Upper Burma and S.W. China 1921-25) and KINGDON WARD (S.E. Tiber and Upper Burma 1921-25), together with several interesting plants raised from seed collected by Comber in Southern Chile and Tasmania. The original plant of *DO-NATION* is in a walled garden at the side of the house and looks remarkably well in spite of all the cuttings which have been taken during its lifetime. *C. SALUTATION* is nearby against a wall, but although this plant is also flowering well it does not compare with a 15-foot-high plant at Windsor which again this year was smothered with blossoms perhaps even more than *C. DONATION*.

There was really too much to see in this garden for the time we had available and Lady Clarke threw open her house to the delegates in which to eat their packed lunches, surrounded by a priceless collection of china and glass and very wonderful pictures. Reluctantly we tore ourselves away to journey on to Nymans.

At Nymans, Lady and Lord Rosse were waiting to greet us and to conduct us around the gardens. As well as very many camellias, the magnolias were also in flower and judging from the amount of interest Dr. Wyman was taking in *MAG-NOLIA LEONARD MESSEL*, which is a cross between *M. STELLATA* and *M. KOBUS*. I have a feeling that Americans will be hearing a lot more about this beautiful hybrid. *C. LEONARD MESSEL* was just in flower and even more interesting was a sister seedling from the same seed pod. This seedling has not been named or propagated, which is a mistake we hope will be soon rectified. It seems to be slightly darker in colour than *C. LEONARD MESSEL* and was covered solid with perfect blooms, perhaps the most spectacular sight we saw throughout the whole conference. With two such ex-

(Continued on Page 19)

N.C.C.S. 1965 TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CAMELLIA SHOW

Mrs. Kenneth C. (Kay) Hallstone, Lafayette, California

Camellia "buffs" grow in number and diversity with each annual Northern California Show. Topping all previous records, 142 exhibitors entered flowers this year.

In addition to greater expertise in camellia culture, exhibitors were advantaged by the weather preceding which provided more than the usual cold and rain to prolong the blooming season to match the late dates of March 20, 21. The weather man topped this advantage by turning on sparkling sunny days for the show. Diablo Valley College in Concord was the locale for the third consecutive year.

Flower arrangements were moved this year to the attractive student trophy lounge which provided a gracious and restful background, with furniture in conversational groupings, for the many displays. Mrs. Evalyn K. Bell, the competent and practiced director, was assisted by Mrs. Alma Davies and by Mrs. Jane David and her daughter. Viewers commented on the number and excellence of arrangements, with special delight in the work of Juniors. All arrangers expressed amazed appreciation for the profusion of lovely blooms to work with, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Paige and by Mr. and Mrs. David L. Feathers. A new touch was added by Mr. Ben Green, an electrical engineer with the Concord P. G. & E., who donated his services in special lighting effects to set off the arrangements, as well as outside lights. His help was a welcome innovation.

Lectures on Camellia Culture and Research, Use of Camellias in Flower Arranging and Role of Seedlings in Research were scheduled in the student snack and study lounge, while the large Multi-purpose Room provided space for exhibitors, corsage making, books and pamphlets, camellia note paper and displays of trophies with listed winners. Commercial growers covered side tables with labelled, choice varieties. The background was enhanced by the many large camellia trees in tubs and by blooming camellia baskets overhead, loaned and placed by the hard-working show committee.

Tickets, programs and door prizes were dispensed in the foyer whose artistic background was designed and provided by McDonnell's Nursery.

Next to the trophy table was a spectacular display of flowers in the Court of Honor, such as: *Single Japonicas*—Adolphe Audusson, Carter's Sunburst, Edelweiss, Kramer's Supreme, Margaret Ratcliffe, Mrs. D. W. Davis Peony, Julia France, Mathotiana, Nagasaki, New Horizons, Reg Ragland, Sawada's Dream, Tiffany, Tomorrow's Dawn, Tinsley Smith, and Vulcan Variegated; *Three Japonicas*—Yours Truly, R. L. Wheeler, Mathotiana, La Peppermint, and Pink Perfection; *Single Reticulatas*—Lionhead, Crimson Robe, Purple Gown, and Moutancha; *Three Reticulatas*—Noble Pearl; *Seven Reticulatas*—Willow Wand; *Miniature Japonicas*—Snow Nymph, and Bon Bon; *Hybrid*—E. G. Waterhouse.

Trophies included bowls, plates, pitchers and other lovely pieces departing from the traditional cups.

Mrs. Dorothy McAdams, a recent newcomer to Northern California Camellia Society, took charge of the Corsage Booth. She was assisted by Mrs. Bonnie Starkweather, Miss Barbara Poertner and Miss Jean Hallstone.

Credit for the outstanding success of our largest show must be divided among the total members and their families for one hundred per cent cooperation, and the skilled direction of publicity by Mary Paige, who succeeded in placing stories and a number of pictures in the Lafayette and Orinda Suns, the Contra Costa Times, The Berkeley Gazette, the Oakland Tribune, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Frequency, variety and excellence tops any previous news coverage.

Sweepstakes Trophy, based on the number of blue ribbons, went to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson of Bakersfield, with Sweepstakes Runner-up Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Patterson of Livermore.

Coveted trophy for "Best Flower of the Show" went to Jack L. Mandarich of Menlo Park.

Results of first-place winners in each

division are listed below, both for camellia displays and for flower arrangements.

BLOOM COMPETITION

Sweepstakes winner: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, Bakersfield.

Sweepstakes, Runner-up: Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Patterson, Livermore.

Best Japonica: 'Ecclefield,' Jack L. Mandarich, Menlo Park.

Best Miniature: 'Fleurette,' Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman, Sacramento.

Best 3 Japonicas: 'Lady Kay,' Mary and Irving Nair, West Sacramento.

Best 7 Japonicas: 'Lady Kay,' Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Rusher, Lodi.

Best 12 Different Japonicas: Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman, Sacramento.

Best Reticulata: 'Butterfly Wings,' Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley.

Best 3 Reticulatas: 'Lionhead,' Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart, Sacramento.

Best 7 Reticulatas: 'Purple Gown,' Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley.

Best Hybrid: 'Howard Asper,' Thomas H. Stull, Bakersfield.

Best Seedling: (not named), Dr. C. C. Wright, Sacramento.

(Provisional A.C.S. Highly Commended Certificate)

Second Best Seedling: (not named), Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Ehrhart, Walnut Creek.

Most Outstanding Plant in Container: 'Ville De Nantes,' Lloyd F. Smith, Martinez.

Best Group of 12 Judges' Flowers: Dr. Ralph Gladen, Modesto.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

SECTION AWARDS

DIVISION A, American Camellia Society

Classes

Class I

- A. Early American
Nadine O'Connor, Antioch
- B. Spanish Colonial
Geraldine Pember, Walnut Creek

Class II

- A. Williamsburg Period
Geraldine Pember, Walnut Creek
- B. Victorian Period
Barbara Livingston, Martinez

Class III

- A. French Period (BEST OF SHOW
—certificate from American Camellia Society)
Geraldine Pember, Walnut Creek

Class IV

- A. Oriental
Mrs. George Toriyama, Martinez
- B. Contemporary (TROPHY — Best in Division)
Mrs. Vernon Schworm, Pleasant Hill

Class V

- A. Informal Luncheon
Grace Grayson, Pleasant Hill
- B. Formal Luncheon
Geraldine Pember, Walnut Creek

Class VI

- B. Victorian Vignette
Geraldine Pember, Walnut Creek
- E. Modern Vignette
Grace Grayson, Pleasant Hill

DIVISION B, Those Who Have Never Before Entered a Show

Class VII

- Garden Decor
Virginia Coyle, Concord

Class VIII

- It's Spring (Trophy, Best in Division)
Dalma Archibald, Pleasant Hill

DIVISION C, Those Who Have Never Before Won a Blue Ribbon

Class IX

- For the Buffer (Trophy, Best in Division)
Rosemary Jaklich, Pleasant Hill

DIVISION D, Those Who Have Won One or More Blue Ribbons

Class XI

- Contemporary Flair
Bettye Jo Burnette, Castro Valley

Class XII

- Elegance (Trophy, Best in Division)
Mrs. O. B. Tiffin, Concord

DIVISION F, Youthful Approach

Class XVI

- A. (For Girls, Age 6 to 10)
Book Title — Trophy
Ann Catherine Morton, Lafayette
- B. (For Boys, Age 6 to 10)
Book Title — Trophy
Brian Burnette, Castro Valley

Class XVII

- A. For Girls, Age 11 to 15 — Trophy
Debbie Pember, Walnut Creek
- B. For Boys, Age 11 to 15 — Trophy
Carl West, Concord

Class XVIII

- A. For Girls, Age 16 to 19 — Trophy
Debbie Press, Concord

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO HAS 41st SHOW

Helen and Carroll Reiners, Sacramento, California

1965 was a "big show" year in Sacramento. Weather was favorable for the production of many early, middle and late season blooms and the contributing public responded with another high total of flowers, registrants and viewers. The Show is never less than a spectacle, because its size is very impressive and the floor plan, by Mr. Erwin Nowak, showed the flowers to their best advantage.

President Clifton Royston appointed Show Chairman Dr. D. Jackson Faustman and his command of the Show was perfection. Faustman was ably assisted by Martha Sager Derr and 18 sub-chairmen who had under them another one hundred or more persons well trained to carry out regular committee chores. Mrs. Iva Gard Shepard was in charge of the Flower Arrangement Division, always an outstanding attraction and always well planned. Winners of trophies and other scheduled events are listed at the conclusion of this article.

The writers feel that CAMELLIA BULLETIN readers will want to know in what ways the Sacramento Show differed from others of the 1965 season nation-wide. Possibly in number of blooms our Show may excel — 8,988 blooms were exhibited. Of these, 6,712 were flowers entered in the sections of singles, trays of three, trays of six, and trays of twelve. Eight cultivars were most popular: C. M. WILSON, 177 blooms; ELEGANS, 144; ELEGANS PINK, 153; HERME, 147; LADY CLARE, 175; MATHOTIANA, 163; PINK PERFECTION, 157; PURITY, 171. Certainly, a blue ribbon in any of these classes would be well earned, as opposed to one from any of 410 single-entry classes in the 1965 Show.

The Section for showing trays of one each of four varieties, (red, white, pink, and variegated) is becoming a more popular addition to our Show; it is a real challenge to the exhibitor.

The public showed added interest in viewing the courtesy exhibits presented by the judges. The very large named collection shown by the State Capitol Park under the sponsorship of Mr. Jerry Olrich,

State Gardener, was viewed with much appreciation.

Each year a tabulation shows the number of new cultivars never before entered in a Sacramento Show. The total this year dropped to a low of 53. In 1963, the number of new cultivars was 120, in 1964 the number was 76. The further drop does not seem to indicate a lack of interest in the exhibition, since the total showing is very high; it may be that the new introductions are not all acceptable to the camellia fancier and that he is more selective in his purchases.

Interest in the new hybrids is remarkably static. Total hybrids shown here each year of the last four years varied only four from a previously set average. Apparently, exhibitors express displeasure where there is a lack of substance, shattering of certain varieties, appearance of brown stamens, lack of variation, and, generally, poor saturation of color.

All varieties of camellias remained in excellent condition for the duration of the Show. It will be understood, by other Show Committees, that this is of great importance in a Show with many thousands of blooms. Congratulations to all who worked and exhibited in Sacramento's 41st Annual Camellia Show, presented by the Camellia Society of Sacramento!

Trophy winners:

SECTION I — Single Japonica

H. K. Miller, Sr., ANGEL (best in show)

Ray Parshall, BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME (2nd best)

SECTION II — Tray of 3 Japonicas

Harold Studt, WHITE NUN

SECTION III — Tray of 6 Japonicas

Beulah Capers, MATHOTIANA

SECTION IV — Tray of 12 Japonicas

John K. Bennett, IMURA

SECTION V — Single Reticulata

Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart, CRIMSON ROBE (best)

W. O. Addicott, NOBLE PEARL (runner-up)

SECTION VI — Tray of 3 Reticulatas

Rosina Bradley, BUDDHA

SECTION VII—Best Hybrid

Harold Rambath, DANUBE

SECTION VIII—Group of 4 Japonicas

Dr. D. Jackson Faustman

SECTION IX—Miniature Japonica

S. B. Davi, KITTY

SECTION X—Collection of 15 Japonicas

Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr.

SECTION XI—Collection of 30 to 40 Japonicas

Dr. D. Jackson Faustman

SECTION XII—Outstanding Japonica

Seedling, H. L. Paige

Outstanding Hybrid Seedling

H. L. Paige

(Mr. Paige also won the Provisional

Highly Recommended Seedling Certificate awarded by the American Camellia Society)

OTHER AWARDS:

. A.C.S. Certificates went to the winners in Section I, in Section V, to the Sweepstakes winner and to the runner-up to the Sweepstakes, and to the most outstanding arrangement in the Show.

2. SWEEPSTAKES

Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart
(41 blue ribbons)

3. Sweepstakes Runner-up

A. M. Patterson (27 blue ribbons)

4. Most Outstanding Flower Arrangement

Mrs. William J. Kinney

REPORT ON THE ACS MEETING IN TALLAHASSEE

Woodford F. Harrison, Berkeley, California

For the readers of the Bulletin who are also American Camellia Society members, a report on the Tallahassee meeting is old news. The meeting was held January 14 through 16, and was attended by nearly 400 members, making it one of the largest annual meetings ever held.

To those of us from California, it was at first blush a disappointment to learn that during the week end preceding the meeting, freezing weather had destroyed the camellia blooms in outdoor plantings.

However, this disappointment was soon dispelled by the beautiful flowers that were on display in the greenhouses of Payne Midyette, Mr. Hjort in Thomasville, Spencer Walden and Hugh Shackelford in Albany, and Mr. Wilkes in Moultrie. The camellia blooms in these collections were certainly as fine as ever grown.

Nelson Carter, President of the Men's Camellia Club of Tallahassee, with Payne Midyette as Chairman, had things perfectly organized for the pleasure of the visitors. We were most royally treated, with a visit to Killearn Gardens as well as

the greenhouses mentioned above, and a reception at the Governor's mansion. The fitting finale to the meeting was the annual banquet with its special entertainment. "Tallahassee's Tumbling Tots," a group of lovely and talented little girls ranging in age from 5 to 14 years, trained by a local recreation director, presented a succession of acrobatic acts that held the large audience spellbound by their grace, precision and agility. They were followed by three splendid musicians, a soprano, tenor and pianist, from the Florida University faculty.

Meetings like this one certainly sharpen the desire to attend many more.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Governors President Charles R. Butler of Mobile, Alabama, was re-elected, as was Senior Vice-President Aubrey Harris of Shreveport, Louisiana. The other Vice-Presidents are Albert H. Dekker, Glendale, California; Payne Midyette of Tallahassee, Florida, and William P. Kemp of Goldsboro, North Carolina. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith of McRae, Georgia.

COVER FLOWER

KATE SMITH is one of the more recent sports of MATHOTIANA and the flower depicted is of the beautiful variegated form. It is red shading to light lavender and is of loose peony form, the flower illustrated being variegated in the desirable moire pattern.

The reproductions are from offset color separations (acetate proofs) made from a color transparency taken by Joseph Pyron.

GROWING AMERICAN CAMELLIAS IN AUSTRALIA

A. W. Jessep, Melbourne, Australia

During the past 20 years several of the best new American-raised varieties of camellia japonica have been obtained. They have been selected on the advice of American camellia friends or from plates and descriptions in American literature. By "new" is meant new to Australia, although they may have been known in America for many years. Plants which give excellent results in one country may not be a success in another. Some camellia varieties which have received high awards in America have not lived up to their reputation under our environmental conditions. However, the majority have been satisfactory and a few remarks are given on their behaviour in this district.

All are grown under practically the same conditions in a well-drained soil of about PH 5 to 6. The temperature varies from around 40° with an occasional light frost in mid-winter to around 80°F. in the summer with a few days about the century mark. The annual rainfall is within the limits of 22 to 30 inches. It is spread more or less evenly throughout the year with the maximum around the months of June and October. Most of the plants are given some shelter from the hot summer afternoon sun by means of deciduous trees or buildings. Artificial watering is given as required. With the annual mulch weeds are no trouble and the main feeding consists of animal manures such as cow, sheep and fowl. Diseases and pests are of little concern although occasionally aphid and mites may have to be controlled and for this white oil emulsion and malathion give good results. There is no camellia flower blight in Australia and if dieback or root rot occurs it is usually due to local soil conditions or improper cultural treatment.

When I visited America in 1960 and saw some of the camellia shows and collections the size and quality of the blooms were outstanding and much better than had been seen in Europe or in Australia. With the assistance of improved American varieties and more experience in their cultural requirements, the standard of the blooms staged in Australia now compares

favorably with those seen in other countries. It would not be possible to discuss all those imported so a general review of some japonica varieties will be given. The ELEGANS family—which is very popular in Australia—including C. M. WILSON, BARBARA WOODROOF, SHIRO CHAN and SNOW CHAN, have performed very well.

DRAMA GIRL and R. L. WHEELER are very vigorous growers and produce extra large blooms. CORONATION, LAURA WALKER, PINK CLOUDS, KRAMER'S SUPREME, GUILIO NUCIO, MATHOTIANA SUPREME, TOMORROW and its sports have been very satisfactory. BALLET DANCER, MARGARET HERTRICH, SPRING SONNET, COQUETTI, DEBUTANTE, MRS. TINGLEY, DR. TINSLEY and MARTHA BRICE are very good decorative varieties and they are popular for floral arrangements. LADY KAY and VILLE DE NANTES are the two most popular fimbriated petal varieties and are reasonably constant for the fimbriation. CINDERELLA has been very disappointing and has almost been discarded. CORAL PINK LOTUS, GUEST OF HONOR, MRS. D. W. DAVIS and ONETIA HOLLAND are vigorous and produce large beautiful flowers but they lack quality of petal when grown, as all these plants are, without artificial cover. BRIDE'S BOUQUET is an early and long bloomer but the uninteresting, dull-green leaves and habit of growth makes it a doubtful subject. BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME is doing reasonably well but it will have to improve to live up to its American reputation. CRUSSELLE, CAROLYN TUTTLE, MASQUERADE, MASTERPIECE, PRINCESS ELIZABETH, WILDWOOD, CLIFF HARRIS, LOOKAWAY, MRS. LYMAN CLARKE and DR. JOHN D. BELL have given some good blooms but they are not quite up to the standard required for exhibition purposes. FIREBRAND, CREPE ROSETTE, PATRICIAN, LADY NANCY ADARE, ELEANOR HAGOOD and MARY CHAR-

LOTTE have been disappointing and could be put into a "just a camellia" class. FAITH, TOMORROW'S DAWN and

some hybrids such as FLUTED ORCHID and DEMURE have not been cultivated long enough to evaluate them.

TWENTY-FIVE CAMELLIAS WORTH CONSIDERING (Continued from Page 6)

grown in a container, over a period of several years, this must rank as one of the finest garden display camellias ever. Our plant is situated under a large live oak which died suddenly, exposing the dozen or so camellias under neath to all the elements almost overnight. Some suffered terribly, defoliating, having inferior bloom, even dying, but this camellia actually got better, taking all the direct sun without visible damage to the foliage, while the plant grew more dense and put out more and better flowers. The blooms are deep pink, somewhat resembling 'Kumasaka,' but darker, of rose shade, are medium large with good height, the petals being beautifully fluted and having faint margination. Plant form is superb, growth medium to slow.

MY DARLING: A name that is most appropriate. A two-tone, single flower of small size, shaded delicate pink, rather tall growth, blooms mid-season. If you want a lovely, small single that is altogether charming, this is it.

PETER PAN: This is to anemoneform camellias what 'My Darling' is to the singles. Introduced from Virginia about 15 years ago, this is almost the perfect camellia for container culture, being compact and relatively slow growing. The medium-sized blooms are full and long lasting and vary delightfully in their shadings of color, from the palest pink petaloid center to luscious cerise pink or orchid pink at the petal and petaloid edges, always beautiful and always interesting. A superb corsage flower. Blooms mid-season to late, over a long period.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM: Another Australian variety of high quality. This is a formal double pink of good size and great beauty, borne on a first-class plant possessing fine foliage and of considerable vigor and excellent form. It blooms mid-season here. Another fine corsage flower.

PRINCESS LAVENDER: If you have no objection to lavender hues in a camel-

lia this one should interest you, for it seems to have everything otherwise — good grower, compact and vigorous plant, ample amount of large, deeply lavender-pink flowers of semi-double form that have considerable substance. The foliage is good and it blooms over a long period around mid-season.

RED GIANT: Another of Hugh Shackelford's many good seedlings, this was introduced about 10 years ago. While one might wish that the red had less blue in it and was more vivid, this one leaves little to desire otherwise. The plant is tall and extremely vigorous, the flower very large and heavy, with considerable height due to irregular vertical petals. Has good foliage. Blooms about mid-season but occasionally a bit earlier.

SATELLITE: Brought out about five years ago by Caesar Breschini in this part of the state, who has developed a number of outstanding seedlings. The original is a large, ball peonyform red of excellent form and habit, but the preference seems to be for the variegated form, which is a bloom with strikingly contrasting markings. The plant and foliage are good, and it blooms fairly early in the season. Rather unique.

SUNSET GLORY: When grown in the proper environment, this can be one of the handsomest camellias, with a great deal of style and size. It seems to be particularly outstanding in fairly heavy shade and blooms over a very long period, early to late. It is a large anemoneform red of a most unusual shade, the beauty of the bloom being accentuated by long and gracefully undulating and flaring guard petals. The growth is vigorous, somewhat spreading and open, the foliage superb, dark green and very large leaves.

VICTORY: Not a sensational camellia but one that gives satisfaction, especially for a fairly late bloomer. A light red, semi-double bloom that twists and twirls its large petals almost into a loose peonyform. Plant vigor and habit are superb

and the flower has remarkable substance. This one came from Japan a half century ago. It is a fairly good seeder.

VIRGINIA DAVIS: An exceptionally good formal double white, that tiers frequently. Has good size and substance and blooms over a very long period. Our plant is open to the morning sun but completely shaded in the afternoon. It is slightly open in growth, extremely vigorous, starts blooming about mid-season. Foliage is medium green and normal in size. Well worth trying although, like most formals, it shatters. Long season.

VEDRINE: The fact that there are eight separate synonyms listed for this old-timer speaks for itself. A completely satisfactory variety that seems to do well wherever it is planted. Color, a good ruby red; Form, anemone to loose peony; Size,

medium large; Season, almost the first and last to bloom here; Growth habit, superb, quite vigorous and may be pruned and trained into a low or high plant; Foliage, dark green and quite large leaves that tend to turn a bright red in the fall. Only fault is a minor one—the blooms could last longer but it sets a terrific amount of buds and this tends to counterbalance. What more could one ask?

YOSEMITE: Last but definitely not least, this is a locally developed semi-double deep red, of quite good size and much substance, that was introduced about 15 years ago. The flower is medium large and it blooms mid-season to late. The plant is very vigorous, foliage medium green, and it is being grown in almost full sun here with good results. Regarded as definitely a "sleeper."

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY 1965 SHOW RESULTS

SWEEPSTAKES WINNER: George A. Stewart, Sacramento (32 first awards)

SWEEPSTAKES RUNNER-UP: Glen M. Stillens, Los Altos

BEST JAPONICA (LARGE): "Kick-off," Mr. and Mrs. Sal Davi, Pittsburg (awarded A.C.S. certificate for Best Japonica in Show)

BEST JAPONICA (MEDIUM): Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Ehrhart, Walnut Creek

BEST JAPONICA (SMALL): 'Kitty,' Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria

BEST 'SPECIAL CULTURE' CAMELLIA: 'Lady Kay,' Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley

JAPONICAS SENT TO HONOR TABLE: 'Extravaganza,' 'Oneria Holland,' 'Spring Sonnet,' 'Carter's Sunburst,' 'Lady Kay,' 'Reg Ragland Var.,' 'Richard Nixon,' 'Silver Chalice,' 'Touchdown,' 'C. M. Wilson'

BEST GROUP OF 3 JAPONICAS: 'China Doll,' Tom Sertich, Sacramento. Others on Honor Table: 'Shiro Chan,' 'Kramer's Supreme,' 'Guilio Nuccio Var.'

BEST TRAY OF 12 BLOOMS: Brian Burnette, Castro Valley

BEST RETICULATA: 'Crimson Robe,' Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Val-

ley. Others on Honor Table: 'Pagoda,' 'Purple Gown,' 'Buddha,' 'Butterfly Wings'

BEST GROUP OF 3 RETICULATAS: 'Crimson Robe,' Roy W. Tess, Orinda. Others on Honor Table: 'Buddha,' 'Noble Pearl'

BEST HYBRID: 'Howard Asper,' Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Hamilton, Santa Maria

BEST JUDGE'S BLOOM: 'Buddha,' Harold L. Paige, Lafayette

BEST SEEDLING: Japonica No. 6147, Harold L. Paige, Lafayette

BEST PLANT IN CONTAINER: 'C. M. Wilson,' Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Addicott, Portola Valley

BEST ARRANGEMENT IN SHOW: 'Elegans,' Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley (this was also judged the best arrangement by a member)

NUMBER OF BLOOMS DISPLAYED: 3,749. **ATTENDANCE:** 6,187.

In submitting the above report, Mr. Howard E. Burnette, Show Chairman, comments:

"After seeing the amount of petal blight around this year I think it would be timely to encourage everyone to write to the State to appropriate funds with which to work out some means of effective control."

MODESTO 'CAMELLIA CONVENTION' AND ANNUAL SHOW

(as reported by Dr. J. Holtzman, Crows Landing, California)

The "Camellia Convention" held at Modesto, California, on February 1st was attended by 80 cammeliaphiles representing all the camellia societies in Northern California. A representative from each Society informed the meeting in regard to its show plans.

Dr. and Mrs. John D. Lawson, Dr. Lynn Fawns and Mr. William Johnston judged the bloom display, giving comments into a roving microphone while everyone looked on. The Best of Show was a DEBUTANTE by the Lawsons. While hesitant about giving this award to their own flower, this was a case where the judges were coerced by the bystanders. The Runner-Up was a SHIRO CHAN grown by Richard Ray of Sacramento. Howard Burnette of Castro Valley graciously accepted the "booby prize" for a "Castro Valley Comet." This, of course, was rigged but Howard did not find the "Comet" pill too bitter to swallow since three of the ten flowers on the honor table were his.

This show was completely unofficial and relatively unimportant. What was important was that we did meet and exchange ideas. All present agreed that this informal council or convention should continue as a focal point for Northern California camellia society activities.

A month later, on the week end of March 13-14, 1965, the Camellia Society of Modesto held its Fourth Annual Camellia Show, which attracted exhibitors from all over the state and was again an outstanding success, with attendance of 5,925 and a total of 5,950 blooms on display. Following are the results of the bloom competition, as reported by Dr. J. Holtzman president:

SWEEPSTAKES: Winner — Newton Pratt, Sacramento (57 blue ribbons). Runner-up: Warren Addicott, Portola Valley (43 blue ribbons).

NOTICE AND CORRECTION — SORRY, SOUTH GEORGIA!

We regret that, in our last (February) issue, credit was inadvertently given to South Carolina instead of South GEORGIA Camellia Society for use of the cover color plates. To set the record straight, the South Georgia society obtained the Gerbing books and all color plates and gave the latter to American Camellia Society, who kindly loaned the L'AVENIRE plates to us. The excellent Gerbing books are now obtainable at the bargain price of \$5 each from the SOUTH GEORGIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, 809 Hancock Drive, Americus, Georgia.

BEST JAPONICA: 'D. W. Davis Penny,' Thos. H. Stull, Bakersfield. Runner-up—'Guilio Nuccio Var.,' Sal Davi, Pittsburg.

BEST 3 JAPONICAS: 'Ballet Dancer,' Mrs. Geo. McKee, Sacramento.

BEST 6 JAPONICAS: 'White Nun,' Tom Sertich, Sacramento.

BEST RETICULATA: 'Purple Gown,' Howard E. Burnette, Castro Valley. Runner-up: 'Tali Queen,' Herbert Martin, Sacramento.

BEST 3 RETICULATAS: 'Moutancha,' Richard Roggia, San Jose.

BEST HYBRID: 'Brigadoon,' Dr. J. Holtzman, Crows Landing.

BEST MINIATURE: 'Hopkins Pink,' Jack Hansen, Sacramento.

BEST COLLECTION OF 30-40 BLOOMS: Dr. D. J. Faustman, Sacramento.

BEST COLLECTION OF 15 BLOOMS: Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Jr., Sacramento.

BEST SEEDLING: Harold L. Paige, Lafayette.

JUDGES' COMPETITION, 10 BLOOMS: Dr. F. E. Heitman, Lafayette.

BLOOMS IN THE COURT OF HONOR:

Single Japonica: 'Clarise Carlton,' 'Country Doctor,' 'Kramer's Supreme,' 'Lady Kay,' 'Lady Loch,' 'Moonlight Sonata,' 'Silver Anniversary,' 'Spring Sonnet,' 'Tiffany,' 'Tomorrow Supreme,' 'Margaret Short.'

Three Japonicas: 'Carter's Sunburst,' 'C. M. Wilson,' 'Edelweiss,' 'Fred Sander Var.,' 'Gigantea,' 'Guilio Nuccio Var.,' 'Guilio Nuccio,' 'Glamour Girl,' 'Mrs. D. W. Davis,' 'Geisha Girl,' 'Silver Anniversary,' 'Spring Sonnet.'

Six Japonicas: 'Fred Sander Var.,' 'Geisha Girl,' 'Spring Sonnet.'

Single Reticulata: 'Crimson Robe,' 'Wm. Hertrich.'

Hybrid: 'E. G. Waterhouse,' 'Howard Asper.'

THE 'GREAT SOCIETY'

Russel Gainer, Newberg, Oregon

The Great Society really does exist. The writer traveled from Oregon to Tallahassee, Florida, to find this out. The American Camellia Society annual convention held in that city January 21, 22, 23, 1965, proved to the writer that the people who grow camellias, joined at the national level by A. C. S., are the finest people in the world — truly the Great Society. Here was exhibited the finest in traditional Southern hospitality. There were no strangers — everyone was friendly — and nothing was spared to make our stay profitable and enjoyable.

January 21st — the first day — was spent as usual with registration and a business meeting in the morning. This being my second attendance at an A. C. S. annual meeting, I am pleased to report that the Governing Board of the Society is truly a remarkable body — what is best for camellias is the final determination of this board, not narrow politics. The afternoon was spent by most of the some 300 delegates in touring the famous Killlearn Gardens. Balmy summer weather, plus the extensive plantings of camellias, azaleas and other exotic plants made this a delightful trip. Here we viewed the original 'Aunt Jetty' camellia. On the return trip to the hotel, we visited Payne Midyette's new greenhouse, containing altogether something over 1,000 of the finest in new camellias. His wild life refuge, with quantities of water fowl, was a sight well worth seeing. That evening we enjoyed viewing a group of slides of many of the newer camellias.

January 22nd was spent for the most part in touring famous camellia nurseries in Georgia — Wilkes', Shackelford's, Walden's and Hjort's. There we leisurely viewed thousands of the most gorgeous camellias grown anywhere. That evening, in transferring my field notes to my camellia record book, I made the following entry: "This is probably the most exciting day of my life — I couldn't have enjoyed it more." This is a strong statement from me as I have been privileged to enjoy much of life's good things — even to a 'grand slam' in mountain sheep.

I would like to mention some of the varieties that impressed me most. Many of the really new things were not in bloom, however. Perhaps the one that rated highest of all with me was 'Miss Charleston Variegated,' grown at Hugh Shackelford's. 'Tomorrow,' 'Guilio Nuccio,' 'Ville de Nantes,' 'Mathotiana Supreme,' 'Annette Gehry,' 'Mrs. D. W. Davis,' 'King Size,' 'Marie Bracey' and others were grown in quantity everywhere.

January 23rd was Saturday morning and we toured the "Grove," the original Governor's mansion and then across the street to the modern Governor's Mansion. Governor Burns was in bed with the flu; however, Mrs. Burns and other dignitaries made us most welcome. The afternoon was spent, first, judging the large camellia show, then viewing it. That evening a banquet plus royal entertainment brought the convention to a close. Many delegates were heard to say "See you next March in Sacramento" (meaning 1966, of course).

INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1965

(Continued from Page 10)

cellent plants it is surprising that more effort has not been made by hybridisers to repeat this cross with different *reticulata* and *williamsii* forms. The afternoon turned to rain and Lady Rosse invited us in to afternoon tea in front of a blazing log fire. The rooms had been most beautifully decorated with bowls of flowers out of the garden.

Our conference had come to its end and looking around this beautiful room with all our delegates saying their farewells, I was struck with the thought that the camellia had triumphed again in making it possible for all these people from so many different walks of life to join together in friendship to study this remarkable plant.

BOOK REVIEW

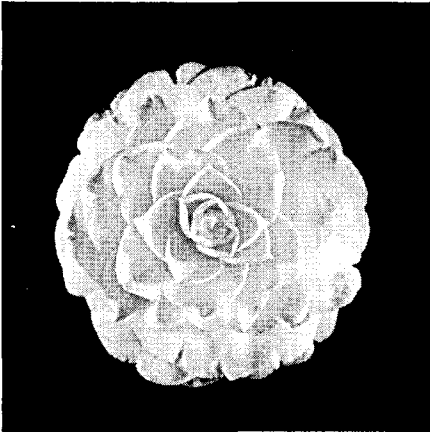
A MONOGRAPH ON THE GENUS CAMELLIA, by Samuel Curtis, *F. L. S.*, 1819.

Mr. Charles W. Traylen, Antiquarian Bookseller of Guildford, England, has had made a beautiful facsimile reproduction of the Curtis Monograph, the first of the great camellia books of the 19th century, and has been kind enough to send us a copy for review purposes.

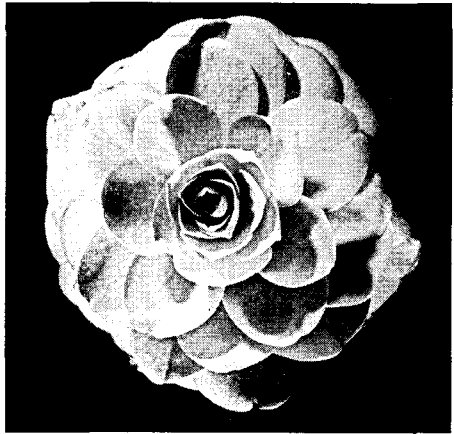
This must be regarded as one of the most interesting and beautiful items of camellia literature, the original copies of which are reputed to have a value today

of in excess of a thousand pounds (\$2,800). It is in the form of a large folio, 18 x 22 inches, and contains five magnificent color plates, reproduced in full size and all eight colors. These are from the original drawings of Clara Maria Pope, a famous flower painter of the period. These reproductions are suitable for mounting and will decorate the walls of many a camellia fancier's home. There is a descriptive text and sketches of these camellias as they were known at the time.

Orders or inquiries should be directed to Mr. Traylen, Castle House, 49-50 Quarry St., Guildford, England.



ALBA PLENA



GLEN 40 (*Coquetti*)

Two standard formal double japonicas

The Camellia Bulletin. in keeping with the fundamental concept of the amateur organizations it serves, is a non-profit enterprise published quarterly (Nov., Feb., May and Aug.) 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 the several collaborating Societies listed on Page 2, 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.
