



# HOLLY LETTER



PUBLISHED BY THE HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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25 Ames Road, Morristown, N.J. 07960

*More People Knowing and Growing More Holly*

HOLLY LETTER NO. 59

OCTOBER, 1977

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT 'GRANDPAPPY' HOLLY ARBORETUM

Chris S. Barker, Jr., of New Bern, North Carolina, a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, House of Representatives, informed the President of the Holly Society of America, Dorothy E. Hansell, that a bill concerning the 'Grandpappy' Holly Arboretum was passed by the General Assembly during the 1977 session.

Mr. Barker, who is a member of the Holly Society, furnished a copy of the bill, which is set forth here.

The bill, entitled "An act to appropriate funds for the maintenance of the site surrounding the oldest and largest American holly tree in the world", was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly. The bill reads:

"Whereas, in the community of Olympia in Pamlico County, North Carolina, there stands the oldest and largest American holly tree in the world: and

"Whereas, in 1964 the State of North Carolina purchased two and a half acres of land surrounding this ancient tree for the purpose of insuring its permanent preservation and care: and

"Whereas, in the same year the North Carolina Holly Arboretum Commission was established by the Governor to administer the affairs of the holly tree site: and

"Whereas, the holly tree is one of the rare and unique natural treasures of North Carolina and is visited yearly by thousands of interested Americans: and

"Whereas, the State of North Carolina, commensurate with its ownership, has not to date provided continuing support for the maintenance of the site and the care of the tree and has allowed the site to fall frequently into disrepair: Now, therefore,

"The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

"Section 1' There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of Archives and History Department of Cultural Resources for the 1977-1978 fiscal year the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and for the 1978-1979 fiscal year the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to be used for the maintenance of the site of the holly tree in Olympia, Pamlico County, to be used for the continuing care for the holly tree as needed, and to be used for any other purpose required to protect and preserve this unique American wonder.

"Section 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1977.

## PLANT FINDERS' GUIDE

The Trustees, at their meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, on May 27, 1977, decided that no formal schedule of holly sales through the Holly Society of America will be undertaken; but from time to time, the Society may proceed with holly sales if circumstances warrant such an endeavor.

In the meantime, Holly Society members may advise the Editor if they are interested in obtaining a certain holly, either cuttings or a small plant. An announcement will then be made in the

*Holly Letter*, giving the name and address of the member seeking the particular holly and the name of the holly. Any member, who has and is willing to furnish cuttings or a small plant of the particular holly, may communicate with the member seeking the holly.

## AN ADDITIONAL NOTE TO *ILEX CRENATA* 'NUMMULARIA' AND 'MARIESII'

Theodore R. Dudley, Ph.D. Research Botanist  
U.S. National Arboretum  
Washington, D.C.

After the paper entitled, "The Coin-leaved Japanese Hollies *Ilex crenata* 'Nummularia' Franchet & Savatier, *I. crenata* 'Mariesii' Veitch ex Dallimore, and the New Allied Cultivar 'Nakada' " was set into galley-proof in April 1977 as Holly Society of America Bulletin No. 16, a very intriguing herbarium specimen of *Ilex crenata*, which is directly pertinent to the history of these cultivated hollies, was uncovered in the research and reference collections of the Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under the name of *Ilex buxifolia* Hance. This specimen does not represent *I. buxifolia* in the sense of Hance at all, that name being regarded currently as a synonym of *I. hanceana* Maximowicz, a localized and endemic species to Hong Kong which demonstrates little or no affinity or resemblance to *I. crenata*. Rather, the Academy specimen, although quite small, is clearly identified as *I. crenata*, and more specifically it can be assigned to the coin-leaved group of plants within that species.

The newly uncovered specimen is a solitary, flowering branch, five to eight cm. long and four cm. wide, collected from a "fragrant bush". It was collected from a plant bearing pistillate flowers on solitary and slender pedicels which are four to six mm. long. It has the broadly ovate to orbicular, apically tridentate leaves, one cm. long or less and five to six cm. wide, which are so typical and, in fact, diagnostic for 'Nummularia', 'Mariesii', and 'Nakada'. Unfortunately, there is no conclusive evidence to determine whether the specimen, collected in May-June, 1894, by an Ann Hartsborne (presumably a resident of Philadelphia) in Japan from Hakone and Tokyo, should be assigned either to 'Nummularia' or to 'Mariesii', particularly since both of these clones indisputably are females. Furthermore, it is not clear whether the specimen was collected from a wild and naturally occurring plant or from one cultivated as a tubbed objet d'art, such as a bonsai subject. Circumstantial evidence, particularly the size of the Hartsborne specimen and its densely congested foliage, is consistent, however, with the view that it was most probably of cultivated origin. Furthermore, the fact that the collector designated two different locations in Japan, Tokyo and Hakone, (at the time Hakone was a favored resort village about 60 miles southwest of Tokyo) indicates that she observed the plant at least twice. Accordingly, it is more than likely that any observation or collection from either location would have been from a plant under cultivation.

That this interesting specimen is feminine precludes its determination as the male cultivar 'Nakada', but the shape, dimensions, and orientation of its tridentate leaves and its conferted, fore-shortened growth-habit strongly suggest that it represents the plant that was formally recognized and described several years later, in 1902, as *I. crenata* var. *mariesii*, and now this name is correctly referred to as *I. crenata* cv. *Mariesii* or 'Mariesii'. (The abbreviation cv. and single quote ' ' designation are the only mutually exclusive typographical techniques specified by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, that may be used to designate cultivar which is derived from "cultivated variety.").

#### INTERNATIONAL HOLLY REGISTRATIONS

##### 3-77 *Ilex* (*x aquipernyi* *x cornuta*) 'Joe McDaniel' Male

J. Bon Hartline  
Hartline's Holly Nursery  
Rt. 1  
Anna, Illinois 62906  
Registered May 30, 1977

This male seedling originated 1964 from a controlled cross of *I. x aquipernyi* 'San Jose' *x I. cornuta* 'Cairo' made by Joseph C. McDaniel at Urbana, Illinois. The resulting selection, from a population of the cross, was grown outdoors at Anna, Illinois, by Hartline for 10 years. McDaniel and Hartline made the selection; Hartline then named this plant in 1976 in honor of the originator. The original plant is seven feet (2.1 m) tall, with a spread of 2½ feet (7.6 dm), upright and nearly fastigiate in habit. The leaves are 1-3/8 inches (3.5 cm) long and nearly as wide, with petioles 1/8 inches (3 mm) long. The blades are very thick and leathery, strongly curved, keeled, and twisted. The margins are thickened with two deeply indented spinal bases on each side, giving a pronounced quadrangular appearance to the leaf margin. Occasionally, a third, much smaller spine occurs near each side of the base. The base of the single tip-spine arches downward. The spine tips are of moderate size. Leaf color is dark green above with very good gloss. This selection is said to be more compact in habit and to have better leaf gloss than its female parent 'San Jose'. Propagation by cuttings is with the same ease as with the parents. Hardiness had been exceptionally good. The original plant has withstood -15°F (-20°C) without injury. Commercial production is in progress at Hartline's Holly Nursery.

##### 4-77 *Ilex decidua* 'Pocahontas' female

J. Bon Hartline  
Hartline's Holly Nursery  
Rt. 1  
Anna, Illinois 62906  
Registered May 30, 1977

'Pocahontas' originated as a chance selection made by Hartline from a garden in Pocahontas, Missouri. The original plant at 15 years old is 16 feet (5.9 m) tall and 12 feet (3.7 m) wide with an upright habit. The deciduous leaves are oblanceolate in shape, 3-1/8 inches (5.4 cm) long and 3/4 inches (1.9 cm) wide, with a long tapering cuneate base. The petioles are 3/8 inches (1 cm) long. The blade is slightly keeled and prominently crenate on the margin. The fruit

is bright red, good-sized, 7/16 inches (1.1 cm) in diameter, and elongated in shape, on average length pedicels. Selection and naming by Hartline were based on 10 years of evaluation at many sites, during which it was determined that 'Pocahontas' was outstanding and consistent in fruit size, color, and retention. Fruit retention is usually good until new growth starts in the spring. The upright habit and the silvery color of the bark are two more outstanding characteristics. Propagation by softwood and hardwood cuttings has been easy. 'Pocahontas' has been marketed for the last five years by the originator, who is still pleased with its performance.

Gene K. Eisenbeiss  
Theodore R. Dudley, Ph.D.

#### BOOK REVIEW

*Hortus Third*: by Staff of the Bailey Hortorium and selected collaborators. Macmillan Co., N.Y. pp. 1,304. 1976.

This very large volume, released in fall 1976, is a major contribution to American horticulture. It was originally planned as a revision to *Hortus Second* shortly after the publication of the latter in 1941. The result, after this lengthy period, was a complete rewrite with essentially the same goal, but with considerable expansion and added features. Among the new features are an expanded glossary, many illustrations, author citations to botanical names, an appendix of common names, a list of botanical authors, hardiness zone ratings, and a hardiness zone map.

A great deal has happened in American horticulture during the interim between the two editions of *Hortus*. Worth particular notice is the worldwide adoption of the cultivar nomenclatural concept, which clearly separates botanical varieties or varietates from horticultural or cultivated varieties. *Hortus Third* is the first major comprehensive American reference work to use the cultivar concept and the Horticultural Code of Nomenclature since their adoption in 1961. Considerable emphasis and explanation of this Code is given in the introduction. There are 23,979 entries with descriptions for families, genera, species, botanical varieties, and cultivars.

*Ilex* (pp. 589-593) is given a generous treatment of about 4½ pages compared with slightly over one page in *Hortus Second*, which had larger type. There are 206 entries of *Ilex* as opposed to only 92 in *Hortus Second*. The Holly Society is acknowledged as the best source of holly information and the *Holly Handbook* and the *Ilex opaca Checklist* are mentioned, which is an excellent advertisement for the Society.

Of special interest to holly enthusiasts are errors in the text of the *Ilex* section. On page 589, the parentage of 'Shin Nien' is erroneously given as *I. opaca x aquifolium*; it should be *I. opaca x cornuta*. Also, 'Byam K. Stevens' is misspelled as 'Brian K. Stevens'. From time to time, both "cv." and single quotes are encountered together for designation of a single cultivar name. This is not intended to include a similar apparent situation where "Cv." is used as a subhead for listing selected cultivar names. While either designation is acceptable, the simultaneous use of both is redundant, except where "Cv." has been used as a subhead.

Considerable updating of taxonomic name changes and rank is evident, and a copious increase of newer hybrids is also evident in many genera. However, there are signs that the manuscript for the *Ilex* section was several years old. This is reflected by synonymy and epithet validity. Because of this, the account of *Ilex* is not so

current as some Holly Society publications. Considering that this volume was 20 years or more in production, it is almost impossible to upgrade all genera to the date of publication in a volume of this size. *Ilex canariensis* is listed as having black fruit. However, the authors are convinced it is red. This is in contrast to most botanical and horticultural literature. On p. xiii of the introduction, *Ilex* 'Maplehurst' is given as an example of how an epithet of a cultivar or hybrid of unknown parental species origin can be formulated. On p. 589 in the text, 'Maplehurst' is given its correct parental species origin. It is puzzling why 'Maplehurst' was used as an example, and it could result in confusion. Further distinction could have been shown to separate cultivars of undesignated species origin and undesignated interspecific hybrid origin by the illustration of a multiplication sign between, *Ilex* and 'Maplehurst' as in *Ilex* x 'Maplehurst'. This distinguishes a cultivar as not just of undesignated species origin, but of undesignated interspecific hybrid origin.

The hardiness zone map on the inside front and back cover is not identified as to origin. This could be the cause of some confusion in that three major zone map systems are in use in North America; the Arnold Arboretum Hardiness Zone Map, the Hardiness Zone Map of Canada, and the U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone Map. It appears that the map used is the latter of these three, probably because it has the greatest geographical range. On pp. 592 and 593, subzone b is attached to hardiness zone 7. Nowhere could we find any indication as to what these subzones are. They are not indicated on the map in the volume. Probably they refer to the subzones as used in the U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone Map. The zone map given does not include Alaska or all of Canada. Yet the "Geographical focus", as stated on p. ix, is continental North America. While no map exists for Alaska, there is one for all Canada.

An explanation for this problem is deserved. The absence of a discussion of the three major hardiness zone maps could be a source of confusion -- not only because of the lack of source, but because basis for the zones in these three maps is different. Since hardiness is a horticultural topic comparable in importance to such topics as soil, which are covered, and because of the large geographical range of *Hortus Third*, we feel that there should have been a special section in the text for it.

When the expanded scope of *Hortus Third* is considered, the editors were quite modest in retaining the qualifying note from the first edition "concise dictionary," because this work comes closer to being an encyclopedia than a dictionary. The weight of this volume and the list price, \$99.50, is staggering, but in line as a sign of our times. The only consoling factor is that there will be many years before the next edition.

Theodore R. Dudley, Ph.D.  
Gene K. Eisenbeiss

Walker Egbert: *Flora of Okinawa and the Southern Ryukyu Islands*. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 1976. 1159 pages, illustrated, \$34.00.

Two thousand species, covering ferns and higher plants, are enumerated, colloquial and Japanese names are given where they exist, with the English translation. This is the first time that a full flora of this region has been produced in the English language. LI: *Woody Flora of Taiwan* in English and Ohwi: *Flora of Japan*, English ed., both fairly recent, along with Walker's work, now provide modern treatments of the temperate and subtropical in-

sular plants of East Asia. *Woody Trees of Korea* and *Flora Sinensis* give us modern treatments of most of mainland eastern Asia. Each is in its native language: the first Korea; the second Chinese. Twelve native species of *Ilex* are listed in the latter flora, only two of which are known in cultivation. These are *I. rotunda* and *I. mutchagara*. The *Ilex* section was contributed by Shiu-Ying Hu.

Dr. Walker, who spent over 20 years in the preparation of his book, conducted part of the work for the National Arboretum. Okinawa of World War II fame is the largest part of this island group, which forms a continuous chain from Formosa to Japan. The climate is mild; citrus is grown on Okinawa. The area from Formosa to southern Japan is still a source of new ornamental plant material for southeastern United States, and it has not been fully exploited. Probably many desirable plants from this area could be hybridized for suitable hardiness in middle Atlantic States.

Theodore R. Dudley, Ph.D.  
Gene K. Eisenbeiss

### "HEIGH-HO, THE HOLLY!"

That's what Shakespeare wrote in *As You Like It*, and who doesn't like holly? Down through the ages, holly with red berries and lustrous evergreen leaves (often spiny) has been steeped in folklore. Legends of medicinal magic, superstition, and Christmas customs trace back some 2,000 years to the Druids of ancient Britain.

We no longer believe that holly repels evil spirits, that it was in Christ's crown of thorns, that a cane of holly wood will tame savage beasts. But our hearts sympathize with those old tales, when we see the enchanting beauty of berry-laden holly boughs graced with puffs of snow.

Of the some 400 species of holly (*Ilex*) native to Asia, Europe, and North America, only a few are reliably hardy here. Hollies are dioecious, which means that some plants have only male (staminate) flowers, others only female (pistillate) flowers. Thus, to obtain berries of a given species, one needs both a male and female plant, the latter producing berries if bees and other insects transfer pollen.

Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*) with small, evergreen leaves and inconspicuous, black berries, has a number of cultivars, both vigorous and slow-growing, which are popular in formal style landscape plantings. They generally look more like boxwood than holly.

Used similarly is inkberry, *Ilex glabra*, also with black berries (yes, with inky juice). Inkberry is very hardy and is tolerant of wet conditions.

Several deciduous hollies which do well in Ohio are: possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*), a 20-foot bush with orange-red berries on female plants; black-alder (*Ilex verticillata*) which grows to about 9 feet and bears bright red berries; and smooth winterberry (*Ilex laevis*) 10 feet, with berries scarlet or orangish or hinting of coral. It can produce fruit (but no viable seeds) without pollen.

A good but little-known evergreen with red berries on long stems is long-stalk holly (*Ilex pendunculosa*). It's vigorous, maturing at perhaps 25 feet. Glossy leaves, sans teeth or spines, look something like pear tree foliage.

Chinese (*I. cornuta*), English (*I. aquifolium*), and other exotic glossy-leaved, red-berried hollies and their many named selections can be grown here only with utmost protection. The Arboretum

continued on page 14

was give a Chinese holly which grew in town between two houses only about eight feet apart. Basement heat and protection from winter wind and sun provided an adequate microclimate. When moved here, even in a fairly protected site, it died the first winter. An exception is *Ilex x meserveae*, a hybrid with English holly as one parent. 'Blue Prince' is a male; 'Blue Angel' and 'Blue Princess' are females. They are showing great promise in trial plantings in Ohio.

The tried-and-true holly for central Ohio is American holly (*Ilex opaca*). There are an overwhelming 1,000 named varieties; most nurseries offer only a few.

At The Arboretum are more than 200 plants of 100-plus species and varieties of holly, mostly American hollies. Recently planted varieties are still small; but older ones, broadly cone-shaped and branched to the ground, are 15 feet tall. Cheery berries load the branches right now. So come stroll among the friendly greenery.

Cultivars performing admirably are 'Farage' (the best with us), 'Merry Christmas', 'Old Heavy Berry', 'Christmas Carol', (all with red berries), 'Goldie' and 'Canary' (yellow fruit), 'Kentucky Gentlemen' and 'Jersey Knight' (males).

*Newsletter, Dawes Arboretum, Newark Ohio*

Reprinted from *Tropical Trails*, newsletter of the Dade County (Florida) Park and Recreation Department's Outdoor Education and Interpretive Programs, Vol. 2, No. 11.

Hollies have been around since prehistoric times in North America. Some sixty million years ago, they grew on the shore of the great inland sea in Kansas. They also appear to have been here during much of Florida's checkered history of land emergences and subsidences, judging from the abundance of species and the variation observable within some of them. Now they stretch from the Tropics to Cape Cod in eastern North America, and Florida has 19 species of true hollies growing within its boundaries.

Here, in extreme southern Florida, we have two species in some abundance: Krug's holly (*Ilex krugiana* Loes.), a handsome tropical hardwood with milky, light gray, smooth bark and dark green pointed leaves, and black fruits in summer; and the dahoon holly, (*I. cassine* L.), a strikingly beautiful species bearing glossy red fruits in fall and winter, which ornament miles of canal banks and other suitable lowlands in the Everglades National Park and elsewhere. Its leaves tolerate moderate amounts of salt spray.

In Highlands County and northward, the sand-dune holly (*I.*

*cumulicola* Small or *I. arenciola* Ashe) which is a small-leaved tree with large, red fruits, joins the scrub jay and numerous other interesting plants and animals, which give the sand scrub of the ridge its fascinating unique biota.

Important in the ceremonial life of the eastern Indians was the black drink, cassena, a formidable brew they concocted from the leaves and twigs of the yaupon holly (*I. vomitoria* Ait.). Leaves of this holly are rich in an alkaloid allied to caffeine, which gives coffee its "kick," and theobromine, which gives cocoa "sconka." Yaupon grows from the eastern shore of Virginia, halfway down both coasts of Florida and around the Gulf to Texas. When the Seminoles moved outside their natural range and into the Everglades, they reputedly made do with the dahoon holly, but we have no proof that the leaves of this species (*I. cassine*) contain appreciable quantities of the desired alkaloid.

The South American species (*I. paraguariensis* St.Hil.) is the source of yerba mate, a stimulating tealike drink enjoyed in Argentina and neighboring countries.

### HOLLIES AS BONSAI

Reprinted from *Bonsai: Trees and Shrubs - A Guide to the Methods of Kyuzo Nurata*, 1964, with permission of the author, Lynn R. Perry, and the publisher, The Ronald Press Company, New York.

Hollies seem to have been created with bonsai in mind. Many have appropriately small leaves and are the showiest in the fall of the year when most species of plants are in a retiring stage. Of the hollies, both evergreen and deciduous, the latter present the most breathtaking aspect. Words can barely describe the exquisite beauty of one of these bonsai at the height of the fruiting season. The gray bark and red berries in a blue or gray-blue container with lush green moss surrounding its roots, is an unforgettable experience.

The following are some of the hollies which offer material for bonsai culture:

Chinese holly, *Ilex cornuta*. The leaf is a little large for bonsai, but good cultural practices could help this.

Long-stalk holly, *Ilex pedunculosa*. Berries are single on a long stalk, and the growth is pyramidal.

*Ilex yunnanensis*. The large fruits are attractive; the habit of growth is pyramidal.

Japanese holly, *Ilex crenata*. Berries are black, but the leaves are small and evergreen. [Two recent cultivars 'Dwarf Pagoda', female, and 'Green Dragon', male, are especially desirable plants for bonsai, having been developed for this purpose. Ed. Note]

Possumhaw, *Ilex decidua*. A native America holly, common in southeastern United States. It has gray bark and scarlet berries. It would make very good bonsai material. ['Byers Golden' is a desirable cultivar, and others are being selected and named. Ed. Note]

*Ilex pernyi*. The fruit is borne in clusters in early fall and is bright red. The species is evergreen and has small leaves.

Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*. While this tree is not hardy in northern United States, it can be grown on Long Island and in Philadelphia. It is deciduous and bears a heavy crop of fruit, so would make a good bonsai.

Black alder or winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*. This is hardy and deciduous. Its fruits are bright red and last long after the leaves fall. [There are desirable cultivars: 'Autumn Glow', 'Harvest Red', 'Christmas Gem', and 'Maryland Beauty'. Ed. Note]

### BONSAI HOLLIES

Excerpts from an article by George S. Avery, Jr., Ph.D., Director Emeritus

of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, in the *American Horticultural Magazine*, Fall, 1970.

A love of small things, coupled with a deep feeling for nature, led the Japanese centuries ago to catch in miniature the spirit of ancient trees growing in the forests and on the high mountains. These diminutive, container-grown replicas of nature's venerable specimens are called bonsai (singular or plural), the Japanese word that literally translates as a dwarfed potted tree or trees.

Such trees are kept small by rather simple cultural techniques, and may reach an age of several hundred years. They are frequently handed down from father to son, and are affairs of the spirit as well as tangible little, but old, trees. While grown and kept out-of-doors by the Japanese, they are brought into the almost unheated home on special occasions for exhibit and appreciation. Peaceful is the soul of the Japanese bonsai fancier who has fashioned in miniature a diminutive likeness of a spruce forest—or perhaps a single venerable mountain pine—a symbol of longevity.

In brief, the principal objective in shaping the life of a good bonsai specimen is to give it a natural look of great age, perhaps as if it has been exposed to the elements for a century or two. A large and often gnarled trunk, with sometimes twisted or drooping side branches, helps create this effect. Some specimens are trained to give a distorted appearance, as if they had grown in a remote mountain cranny.

Whether hollies will lend themselves to this type of training is for enterprising bonsai enthusiasts to discover, but whatever the form one works to achieve, the tree must be growing in a small and generally shallow container—not necessarily during the early training period, but certainly after it begins to attain the desired character.

The secret of growing hollies or other forest-sized species as bonsai is to root-prune, pinch back, or otherwise prune branches, and occasionally apply copper wire to young branches to train their growth for a year or two—to achieve the desired form. Large-leaved specimens of holly are not so desirable as those with smaller leaves, and if a berried specimen is chosen, remember that the berries as well as the leaves will be the same size as if the tree had been allowed to grow to its normal large size, thus producing another problem in artistic training.

One short-cut is to transplant and retransplant small holly plants in the nursery. This should be done in early spring and makes for a compact and shallow root-system. During these same years, selective pruning of branches can also be done. They may then be moved to the small, authentic Japanese-style containers after pruning the root-system to fit the container.

A bit of information worth remembering is that bonsai are dwarfed, but not by starving. It is important to apply fertilizer three or four times during the growing season, beginning about a month before new growth starts in the spring. It is also important to water properly, just as one would any well-grown potted plant.

### ON AIR-POLLUTION

*American Nurseryman*, December 1, 1976, carried an article, "Effects of Air-Pollution Stress on Urban Plantings in New Jersey" by Ann F. Rhoads. Dr. Rhoads, who is Plant Pathologist at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, states in her discussion of chlorine gas (Cl<sub>2</sub>) damage that "American holly (*Ilex opaca*), English holly (*I. aquifolium*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*), and red swamp maple (*Acer rubrum*) were not visibly effected.

### GREMLINS IN THE PRINT SHOP

Typographical errors occurred in spelling *crenata* in the captions accompanying Figures 1, 2, and 4 on pages 8, 9, and 15, respectively, of Bulletin No. 16 -- *The Coin-leaved Hollies*. When the Editor telephoned the printer that she was puzzled how these errors occurred, he replied, "Strange and inexplicable things happen in the print shop." They do, as the Editor knows from past experiences. And there is an old saying among printers that "gremlins are again at work in the print shop."

Will HSA members, who have acquired Bulletin No. 16, please correct the specific name of the Japanese holly in the above captions to *crenata*.

A Corner Especially for the Novice

### HOW WE GOT INTERESTED IN HOLLIES

Dorothy (Mrs. Samuel) Reed  
Glassboro, N.J.

The title of this article is a bit misleading, because I believe one might say we backed into our interest in hollies. It was not deliberate. When we moved to our present location in Glassboro on October 11, 1958, there were seven holly trees growing in the yard. Two were lovely female aquifoliums and one sturdy male aquifolium, a small *I. crenata*, a bushy *I. cornuta*, one good-size male *I. opaca*, and a female *I. opaca* with one side completely broken from the previous winter's snow. All were unknown varieties.

The female *I. opaca* was in such sad shape that Sam decided it had either to be shaped up or removed. Since the tree was at that

time about five feet tall and the leaves a nice green and well-shaped, and it had a large crop of bright red berries, he decided to try to help the tree recover. Sam pruned the tree severely and continued to shape it. The winter-damaged *opaca* did recover with his pruning and care and, in a surprisingly short time, was again a beautiful tree.

His interest and knowledge of hollies grew. As he cleared and drained the area in the very back of the yard, Sam planted more and more holly trees and bushes until he now has about one hundred hollies of all kinds, shapes, and berry color. Up to the present time, he has done little with propagation because of lack of time and facilities. This he hopes to correct during the next few years. He also hopes to be able to do some commercial cutting soon.

Now for the "we" part of this story. My contribution to growing hollies has been great admiration for the finished product, arranging cut holly for display, and writing a few little articles and letters here and there about hollies.

### WINTER '76-'77 AND HOLLY

Response to the request for reports on the effects of the severe winter '76-'77 on holly has been most gratifying--and overwhelming. The reports were received from amateur and commercial holly growers and also from those who are academically or scientifically interested in holly. Therefore, the reports are interesting and, of course, varied; and HSA members will find that some furnish extremely valuable information.

We have not been able to include late reports, which came after material had been collated, reviewed, edited, and then made ready for the printers, so that the next *Holly Letter*, which will be devoted to these reports, will be mailed not later than the first week in December 1977.

### HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA

### THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Headquarters: Old Town Holiday Inn, Alexandria, Virginia

November 1 - 5, 1977

The Program Committee -- Barton S. Bauers, Sr., Executive Vice-President and Program Chairman, Bluett C. Green, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer, and Local Hosts Gene K. Eisenbeiss and Theodore R. Dudley has arranged a stimulating and varied program for your edification and enjoyment. To say nothing of the pleasure of meeting friends and sharing experiences.

SEE YOU THERE!

THE HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc.

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