AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER



July 1948

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American Camellia Society News-letter
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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3 **JULY, 1948**

From
The Office of the Secretary

CAMELLIA VARIETY REGISTRATION. The Committee on Registration of new camellia varieties consisting of R. J. Wilmot, Chairman, Ira S. Nelson, C. H. Barrios, V. O. McCaskill, J. R. Rosa, C. N. Hastie, Jr., H. H. Harms, M. B. Dawson, M. R. Murray, Sam E. Myrick, J. L. Cope, H. L. Paige, and William Hetrich wishes to announce that a registration blank has been prepared and that we are now ready to accept registrations.

The blank which covers origin of the variety and description of the plant and flower will be sent out in triplicate from the Secretary's office. One copy will be retained by the registrant and the other two copies will be returned. One of these copies will be sent on to the American Nurseryman's Association who are registering all new woody plants, exclusive of fruits, nuts and roses.

The Committee agreed that the registration fee of $2.00 should be waived on all varieties already in the trade in order to include these and put them on record.

It is the opinion of the Committee that plants or scions of all new varieties should, if possible, be sent to the test garden at Gainesville or to others which may be designated such as Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Huntington Botanic Gardens. (Southern California Camellia Society test garden). Only gardens that will agree to accept such material with the assurance that propagation for other than experimental purposes will not be allowed, will be officially designated. At present such assurance can only be given by the garden at Gainesville, Southwestern Louisiana Institute and Huntington Botanic Gardens.

If possible it is desired that kodachromes be submitted to pass from member to member of the committee for comment. It is also desirable that a flower or flowers be sent or shown to the nearest member of the committee and also placed on display at camellia shows.

The committee will pass on the acceptability of the name after having determined whether or not it ever has been used before and will also try to determine whether or not the variety has already been given another name particularly if it is a sport.

Those who wish to register seedlings should bear in mind the rules of horticultural nomenclature, the most important of which is that a variety should not be named unless it is different from, or superior to, varieties already in existence. Other rules governing naming are that Latin adjectives are reserved for botanical species; titles such as Mr., Miss, Mrs., Dr. and Prof. should be avoided, names should be as short as possible, at the most only three words; names should not be similar to other names already in use.

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A NOTE, REGARDING A LARGE CAMELLIA: Near Ivanhoe, North Carolina, there is a semi-double variegated camellia, a wedding present in 1843 (size at time unknown). The trunk which I measured last time (May 20, 1947) proved to be from 60 1/4 inches to 60 3/4 inches. It is 20 inches to first limb and then breaks into 19 branches. It is planted 6 feet from the corner of a house and has an irregular spread of roughly 15 by 30 feet. Height 26 ft. 9 inches with

several feet of top branches dead. At the same place is a seedling from above tree that measures 41 ft. 12 inches in circumference and about 16 1/2 feet tall. Wm. E. Wilson, Monrovia, Calif.

* * *

We would like to have each local Camellia Society or organized camellia group appoint a local correspondent for. the News-letter whose duty it will be to furnish notes four times a year on the' activities of the Societies, local items of interest, notice of Annual elections or any other information of interest.

In this connection we would also like to have a paragraph or two of historical matter, memberships, meeting place, activities of each local society to publish as a series in the News-letter. Then when our traveling members happen to pass through your area they will know whom to contact for matters of camellia interest.

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COLOR PLATES: As you may know, the color plates in the 1947 Yearbook were nearly all those used in Dr. Hume's **Camellias in America** or the property of the nurseries sponsoring them. The selection of existing color plates has just about been exhausted and until more become available we will have to use only black and white since it is a financial impossibility for us to have new ones made for our use alone. A set of plates for four color work costs about $275 for each page. After these plates have been made it still costs about $50 for printing and paper for the color page. You can therefore see that we can only use color work that has been produced for use elsewhere on a rental basis. If and when new color work becomes, available you may be sure it will be in the Yearbook.

* * *

We have many new members this year who may not understand how our membership runs. Membership runs by the calendar year and brings the Yearbook for the current year. Many who joined the Society in January did not understand why they did not receive the Yearbook which was distributed in April. The copy for this Yearbook- went to the printer in July 1947 and the book should have been distributed in November. Due to circumstances beyond our control it was delayed until the year was out. We hope this will not occur again. In fact part of the copy for the 1948 Yearbook has gone to the printer. 1948 members who want 1946 Yearbooks can have them for $2.00 and the 1947 issue at $2.00 plus postage.

* * *

The artist is hard at work on the Illges Medal and the models will have their final approval in early July.

* * *

Our President, Dr. H. Harold Hume sails for England on the Queen Mary July 9. The primary object of his visit is to visit the important camellia collections and nurseries and pursue his botanical studies on camellia species at Kew Gardens. He is taking several American varieties of japonica and sasanqua to Kew Gardens and the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley and expects to bring back specimens for our test garden. He will also visit the Smith nursery on the Island of Guernsey where Lady Vansittart was named.

CALIFORNIA NOTES: 1 **Inter-Society Conference**. An informal conference of four California Camellia Societies was held in Oakland, Calif. on April 25, 1948, in the home of Harold L. Paige, President of the Northern California Camellia Society, acting as newly appointed Vice President for the Pacific Coast.

The presence of Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor, President of the Southern California Camellia Society, and his wife as house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paige, furnished an excellent reason for inviting the three societies located in Northern California to meet with Dr. and Mrs. Taylor. Those present at this., first meeting were, in addition to the Paiges and Taylors, Mr. Arthur Mohr, President of Sacramento Camellia Society and A. E. Morrison, also of Sacramento Camellia Society; Mr. T. J. Moniz, President of the Camellia Society

of Santa Clara County and Mr. C. Breschini, also from Santa Clara County; D. L. Feathers, and Mr. and Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor, respectively, representing the Northern California Camellia Society.

The informal discussion begun in the morning lasted until late in the afternoon, a buffet dinner served by Mrs. Paige hardly interrupting the stimulating talk of nomenclature, varietal classification registration and organization relationships, both local and national. No formal action was taken on any matter, since all the Presidents attending were expecting to retire and some of their successors for 1948-49 had not yet been elected. However, show dates for 1949 were cleared, in the hope of preventing conflicts in show schedules and it is anticipated that more of these regional get-togethers will be held in the future, to continue the friendly relationships which have made inter-club contacts so enjoyable in the past.

2. **Elections**. 1948-49 President of the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County will be Mr. Charles J. DeLorenzo, 1200 Blewett Ave., San Jose; Calif. succeeding Mr. T. J. Moniz.

1948-49 President of the Sacramento Camellia Society will be Mr. Carl M. Hoskinson, Supt. and Chief Engineer, Division of Water for the City of Sacramento, Calif., succeeding Mr. Arthur Mohr. Sacramento Society is the oldest in California, and is sponsoring the 1949 Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society.

1948-49 President of .the Northern California Camellia Society will be Mr. D. L. Feathers, one of the founders and 1947-48 Vice President, succeeding retiring President, Harold L. Paige.

Dr J. Walter Reeves succeeds Dr. J. Lloyd Taylor as President of the Southern California Camellia Society. He has been Vice-President,. Director and Chairman of the Test Garden Committee.

3. **Inter-Society Cooperation on Registration**. All Societies situated in Northern California have agreed to appoint representatives of their respective groups to assist Harold L. Paige on a sub-committee of the Committee on Registration of the American Camellia Society. It was agreed that he can better act for the local societies if they assume part of the responsibility for making decisions on behalf of this region. Also, individual members of local societies will support more willingly a project in which .they, as groups, have been represented officially. Each society has been asked to name at least one amateur and one professional grower to serve on this sub-committee, H. L. Paige.

* * *

Mr. William T. Wood, Chairman of the Committee on Exhibitions, and Awards, wishes to announce that he is willing to hold a conference on flower show classification in the fall and will meet with the classification chairman of the various shows in a central meeting place if it can be arranged. Anyone interested should write him at 564 Mulberry St., Macon, Ga.

He would like to have all show dates submitted as soon as possible. It is suggested that localities where cold waves frequently upset plans for shows consider very early dates even though the peak of bloom may not be reached. The show at Cordele, Ga. was held early this year and proved very successful. It is conceivable that shows held in December in some localities would be well received. There are not enough week-ends in January, February and early March to allow exclusive dates for major shows in the Southeast. The Society does not and will not reserve show dates, it merely records and publicizes them. The committees in the larger cities have to arrange for show quarters, some times, as much as a year in advance and we cannot assume the responsibility of dictating to them when they shall hold their shows.

* * *

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: It was

announced in the April News-letter that a question and answer column would be included if questions were submitted. It was not the idea of the Secretary that he should do the answering but that the answers should come from the experience of the membership. It was requested, however, that two of these be answered in this issue.

Q 1. How soon after a Camellia graft has been taken from under glass should the stock be fertilized? (Texas)

A camellia graft should not need fertilization soon after the glass is removed because the root system is much larger in proportion to the top growth and there is sufficient food stored below ground to carry the plant for some time. Where the stock plants are growing among other plants that are not, grafted it may be impossible to fertilize them without placing some around the grafts. This does not seem to cause any damage. According to Mr. Woodroof's article in the Yearbook plants in containers should not be fertilized.

Q2. Should the wound be covered with bordeaux paste after a camellia blossom has been twisted off? (A friend of mine says that when he twists off a blossom that after a growing bud produces substantial growth in the spring that later on, he. has to cut off a long scion and after inspection he finds that the new wood has died back two or three inches starting from the place where the growing bud was adjacent to where the camellia blossom had been twisted off.) Texas.

The use of bordeaux paste after twisting off a fresh blossom should not be necessary. However, the use of bordeaux paste or some fungicide is indicated after removal of frost injured blossoms according to an article that will be published in the 1948 Yearbook.

Q3. I have a Shell Pink camellia. that forms big buds but they only open part way. What can I do to correct this condition? (California).

There are some varieties that will not open satisfactorily under ordinary conditions in open ground. It has been our recommendation to cut such plants down and graft to a variety known to open well.

* * *

The Division of Extension of the University of Georgia held an Advanced Course for Flower Show Judges on May 18, 19, and 20, 1948.

One session was held on camellia flower show judging and Mr. William T. Wood led the discussion for the American Camellia Society.

His summary for judging camellias was as follows:

"You are already fully acquainted with the fundamentals of judging specimens in various horticultural classes. To make a camellia judge, you should 'know your camellias.' You should grow camellias. You should visit as many large plantings and nurseries as possible, and learn the varieties and especially watch for the variations in form and color of, the same variety, for as Mr. Swim of the Armstrong Nurseries has said, 'Camellias are chameleons.'

"In judging a Camellia show, after the class judging, you are usually requested to judge for the 'most outstanding flower in the show.' This is a different technique, as you will now judge one variety against another variety, one form against another form. For this type of judging, I suggest that you point score one against the other, as outlined in the score sheet I have given you. The point score shown is that of the American Camellia Society, and this type of scoring, also used in presenting medals for new seedlings."