AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER



April 1949

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American Camellia Society News-letter
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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2 **APRIL, 1949**

From
The Office of the Secretary

The Annual Meeting was held in Sacramento, Calif. March 5, 1949 in the Municipal Auditorium and the Senator Hotel. Mr. A. E. Morrison, Director at Large arranged the program for the General Meeting which was as follows:

* * *

PROGRAM: Report on Director's Meetings; R. J. Wilmot, Secretary, A.C.S.; Gainesville, Fla.; Camellias, Happenings Here and There, Panel Discussion by State Directors; Registration of New Varieties and Nomenclature Clearance Committee Report; Classification of Camellia Blossoms by Structural Forms, R. J. Wilmot, . Secretary, A.C.S.; Gainesville, Fla.; Exchanging Scions and Plants; What Not to Do, A P. Messenger, Chief, Bureau of Plant Quarantine, Calif. State Department of Agriculture; Camellia Hybridization, Development of New Varieties, K. Sawada, Overlook Nursery, Mobile, Ala.; Camellias, Their Use in Arrangements in Flower Shows, Mrs. Wm. T. Wood, Macon, Ga.

Dinner: Camellia Dinner, Hotel Senator, 12th and L. Streets. Master of Ceremonies, Carl M: Hoskinson, President, Camellia Society of. Sacramento. Pianologues, Mrs. Robert H. Mumm. Purpose and Program of the American Camellia Society, Harold Paige, Vice President, A.C. S., Oakland, Calif. The Purpose and use of the Illges Medal, Wm. T. Wood, Macon, Ga. "The Verschaffelt Camellias" 1llustrdted by Colored Slides; Dr. D. W. McLean, Arcadia, Calif.

The Director's Meeting closing the 1948 business, Senior Vice President present, in the chair with Mr. J. P. Illges, Vice President for the Atlantic Coast heard the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. The Secretary reported that 1948 closed with 3159 members and that 500 new members had come in since that time. The Canvassing Committee reported that the votes had been checked and Dr. D. W. McLean was elected State Director for California, T. K. McKnight for Louisiana, H. H. Harms for Oregon, Frederic Heutte for Virginia, A. E. Morrison, Director at Large and Frank A. Godchaux, Jr. Director at Large.

The Registration committee reported that five varieties had been registered and that there were six in the committee's hands. A committee was appointed to clarify the Board of Directors recommendations to the committee and its report is as follows: It is the feeling of this Board of Directors that the basic objectives of registering new camellia varieties is:

1. To establish from existing data that the name of the new variety it available for use;

2. To register and publish the name and description of the new camellia variety so that name will be protected from duplication in the future;

3. At the discretion of the committee, to register established sports of known varieties by new available given names, attaching to the names a bracket containing the name of the variety from which the sport was derived;

4. A photograph of the blossom of the new variety or sport shall be filed as a

part of the application;

5. To publicize to amateur and commercial growers the objectives of Registration, and encourage by every possible means the registration of all new camellia varieties.

The incoming Board of Directors met and elected A. W. Solomon, President; W. T. Wood, Vice President for the Atlantic Coast; S. J. Katz, Vice President for the Gulf Coast; William Hertrich, Vice President for the Pacific Coast; T. J. Smith, Treasurer; R. J. Wilmot, Secretary. A. W. Solomon resigned as Director at Large and J. P. Illges was elected to fill his unexpired term. Dr. H. Harold Hume was elected President Emeritus. The Directors voted unanimously that a committee be appointed to study the means of closer affiliation between the larger regional societies and the American Camellia Society.

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Sacramento put on a camellia sale that is an example for all camellia minded cities to follow. A campaign for a slogan preceded the sale and "Glorify that garden spot - Plant Camellias - Plant a lot" was selected. The nurserymen agreed to furnish plants at $1.50 each as long as there was a demand for them. About 200 members of the Camellia Society and Garden Club acted as salesmen and sold the plants in the stores throughout the city. A total of 13,048 plants were sold. The phrase "Sacramento - the Camellia City" was copyrighted in 1910.

* * *

ILLGES MEDAL: Realizing the large number of seedling camellias that are being planted and grown throughout the country and desiring to have a method of evaluating the new seedlings, our Director at Large, Mr. John P. Illges, announced at the Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society in Mobile, Alabama, in 1947, that he would offer a special medal for the best seedling camellia as soon as it could be arranged and a manner of choosing the winner could be settled on.

Starting with the season of shows in 1948, an Award of Merit was offered for the best seedling shown in any show held under the auspices of the American Camellia Society; and it was decided that to be eligible for the Illges Medal a seedling must have won this Award of Merit, but not necessarily in the same year as the award of the medal. Although the seedling may be shown by anyone at any show sponsored by the American Camellia Society, the actual medal will be awarded to the originator of the variety.

The first Illges Medal will be presented at the close of the 1949 season. Therefore, all awards of the Award of Merit must be reported to the Chairman of Awards (W. T. Wood, 564 Mulberry Street, Macon, Georgia), so that the new variety will be listed as being eligible for the Illges Medal. A sport will not be eligible for this award.

The Board of Jurors will consist of judges who have traveled widely in the camellia belt and have seen or have definite information regarding the merits of these seedlings, and their decision will be final.

To be eligible, the seedling must have been introduced or disseminated since 1944. The seedling must also be registered with the American Camellia Society under the rules of the Society governing registration. .

The rules as outlined above are temporary, and changes will be made as found necessary to make the award more workable.

PROOF OF THE PUDDING: There is a section planned for the Yearbook to

be called Proof of the Pudding such as is found in the American Rose Annual consisting of comments by growers on the behavior of the newer varieties. If you have planted any of the newer varieties and have any comments as to their behavior, good or bad please send them in for this feature. The more widely distributed the source of this information the more valuable the information will be.

* * *

A NEW INSECT1C: Parathion, a new insecticide sold under several trade names such as Vapo-phos and Phoskill has been used extensively in our test garden and by some of the growers at Jacksonville, Fla. with very good results as far as the kill of scale is concerned. Phoskill is used at the rate of 3 "lbs. per 100 gallons of water and Vapo-phos can be used either as a 25 % wettable powder at the rate of 1 lb. per 100 or 15% wettable powder at the rate of 2 lbs. per 100 gal. It is suggested that a small amount of Dreft be added to the mixture as a wetting agent. Vapo-phos is produced by the California Spray Chemical Co. and Phoskill by the Niagara.

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CAMELLIA DAY: Mr. C. H. Barrios of Semmes, Ala. suggests that a Camellia Day be declared sometime during the season on which day everyone interested shall wear a camellia.

* * *

CORRECTION: By mistake H. A. Bogh, 3800 39th Ave. Oakland, Calif. was listed as an Annual Member in the 1948 Yearbook instead of as a Commercial Member.

RE HORSETRADING: To those who have doubted the value of advertising in our publication let the note below be a warning. After our reference to horse-trading and its possibilities and the mention of W. "Camellia" Stokes' name we received the following from him. "Have already traded in two registered Dalmatian puppies, 25 parakeets or Love Birds, three automobiles, 10 acres of land, one tractor and one man wants to trade me his wife, who does not like camellias."

* * *

The following story will be of interest to amateur grafters. It came from : the Dawson News, Dawson, Ga.: Since Camellia Show Day is at hand, it is appropriate that attention is called to Dawson s most unusual camellia tree, which is at the home of Mrs. George Gibson on Lee Street.

Mrs. Gibson relates that this original plant was rooted and given to her by a relative, the late Mrs. Jim Miller of Albany, about 35 years ago. The tender little bit of green grew into a large tree, 12 or more feet tall and produced white flowers which were pretty, though slightly imperfect.

Mrs. Eli Lewis, a next-door neighbor and a .camellia authority, noted the faulty blossoms and suggested grafting finer varieties to the stock.

In the meantime, Mr. Hugh Shackelford, a camellia expert, had come up from Albany to do grafting on plants at the Lewis home.

Mrs. Lewis, the keen observer of horticulture that she is quickly mastered the art of grafting and set to work on Mrs. Gibson s plant.

The tree was out down and 56 scions were applied on March 7, 1947. These were furnished from the gardens of Mrs.3. H. Thomas, Mrs. Lina McNeil and Mrs. Lewis. Of the 56 grafts; thirty-one lived and have grown into branches several feet tall. At present they are bearing beautiful blooms of the following eleven varieties: Ville de Nantes, Duchess of Sutherland,

Gigantea, C. M. Hovey, Lady Jane Grey, Sara Frost, Pink Perfection, T. K. Variegated, Herme, Pink Herme, and Hermosa.

The many friends of Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Lewis will watch with interest this plant in the future years. One friend has already named it "The Variety Camellia."

* * *

CAMELLIA OR CAMELLIA: Recently a resolution was received from one of the local camellia societies in which the pronunciation of camellia was discussed and in which it was resolved that the pronunciation Camellia be adopted by them and asking that the American Camellia Society do likewise.

Some dictionaries give both pronunciations but Webster's New International Dictionary gives only one and that Camĕllia. In the Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening by Nicholson, the Director of Kew Gardens, 1880, is a section on pronunciation of botanical and horticultural names from which the following is quoted: "Who thinks of Father Kamel, the Moravian Jesuit traveller of the seventeenth century, when he pins a camellia into his buttonhole? No one, surely, or we shouldn't always call it Camee′lya" p. 347. On page 355 where the word actually appears it is shown to be Cam-el′-lĭa. it is the writer's opinion that the pronunciation **Camee′lya** came about through association with Camille, the lady of camellias.

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YEARBOOKS: The Yearbooks are all gone. There are no more of any of the issues 1946, 1947 or 1948 available. Several hundred extra copies of each were printed but the demand has been so great that the supply has been exhausted.

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CAMELLIA DRIVE: Mrs. Marie Flowers of Dothan, Ala. has subdivided a very desirable piece of town and has named two of the streets through it Camellia Drive and Azalea Circle. She has allowed 15 feet on each side of each of the roads and is requiring all those who buy lots along them to plant camellias and azaleas. Mrs. Flowers and Dothan are both to be complimented. Dothan, by the way, has a Men's Camellia Club of 72 members, all of whom are required to be members of the American Camellia Society.

Mr. D. L. Feathers, President of the Northern California Camellia Society lives at No. I Camellia Lane, Lafayette, Calif. Mr._ Feathers was building on a new street and had no trouble in getting it named Camellia Lane.

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TELEVISION: According to Mr. J. R. Dunn of Atlanta camellias including eight of his own were shown on WSB Television at 7:30 February 22, !949. As far as we know this is the first time they have gone on the air. We hope to hear more about this incident later.

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A report from those who traveled to the Pacific coast was expected but did not arrive.