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Some Camellia Collections in Georgia

Dr. John D. Wade

The Coastal-plain of Georgia, that is, most of the state lying south and eastward of a line from Augusta to Macon to Columbus, has long been one of the outstanding camellia areas in the United States. The people of this region are naturally covered with shame to think that in the camellia season of 1951, of all years, when the American Camellia Society will meet in Savannah, there are going to be precious few fine blossoms for anybody to marvel over—home folks or honored guests. The unprecedentedly cold weather of late November 1950, coming upon the heels of a laggard summer, did that for us. None the less—remembering that this is being written in early December and that the Society will not meet till February; and remembering too, what Nature can perform—it is vaguely possible to hope that in the next month or so camellias may do better for us than they now promise to do.

Venerable private collections in Augusta, Macon, Columbus, and Savannah, are usually in superb blossom all winter long. Even in 1951, camellia-lovers passing through Augusta surely would be rewarded by a visit to the gardens of Mrs. W. W. Battey, Mrs. William B. White, Judge Henry Hammond, and Miss Ellen Thomas. So in Macon, one should see the gardens of Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. William Wood, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Whitman, and of countless others whom the Lees and the Woods and the Whitmans know about. In Columbus, the gardens of Mr. John Illges, Mrs. Reynolds Flournoy, Mrs. A. N. Dykes, and Mrs. J. B. Knight are consistently outstanding. In Thomaston, one should see the garden of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Matthews; in McRae, the widely-varied, vast

collection of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith. In Cordele, one should see the Posey, Stephens, and Wheeler collections and the conspicuously fine collection of the T. E. Fletchers. Other fine collections, far south in the state, where the November cold may not have done horrendous injury are: in Quitman, those of the R. C. McIntoshes, the John F. Whipples, Mrs. G. M. Livingston and Mrs. E. L. Jelks; in Valdosta, those of Mrs. R. B. Whitehead, Mrs. Hollis Oliver, Mrs. J. W. Mann and of Mrs. S. D. Register; in Moultrie, those of the W. J. Vereens, the C. H. Powells and the C. O. Smiths; in Pelham, those of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hand, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Paulin.

Perhaps the greatest camellia collection in the south-east is maintained by Mr. Dave Strother at Massee Lane Farm, some thirty miles south of Macon, on Georgia state-route 49, between Fort Valley and Marshallville. For twenty years, Mr. Strother has with inexhaustible perception, enthusiasm, and generosity, not to mention countless more work-a-day attributes, labored, and pleased himself and others with this planting. It is surely, as someone well qualified to judge, announced recently, "the most notable collection of the **most notable** camellias to be found anywhere."

Several magnificent private collections of old camellias may be seen in Savannah—the best, perhaps those of Judge Arthur Solomon, the President of the American Camellia Society, and of Mrs. Craig Barrow at her romantically beautiful estate, Wormsloe. The Municipal collection in Savannah, particularly at the old cemetery, is also grand-scale, ancient, and honorable.

The public collection in Fulwood Park, Tifton, is also fine, as is that

at the Tifton Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station. The Municipal plantings at Macon, not only in the parks, but also in the unique downtown park-ways, is, though recently begun, extremely ambitious. It is enriched by one of the finest collections of Oriental Magnolias to be found anywhere. Given a little time, Macon will surely be a camellia capital without many rivals.

Marshallville, some thirty miles south of Macon on Georgia state-route 49, two miles south of Mr. Strother's "Massee Lane," has long been known as "the town of a thousand camellia bushes." In the early 1930's, a group of people in Marshallville planted 4000, mostly Sarah Frost, camellia bushes, interspersed with crepe myrtles, along the town's streets and along about four miles of adjacent highways. More than half of these have perished, but enough, now magnificent bushes, remain, even in the open country-side, to make this a wondrous exhibition for the first three months of nearly every year. In 1940, the three to four hundred bushes along the sidewalks, inside the town, were grafted to the varieties of camellias then most favored—with the result that these bushes, from Hallowe'en to Easter, now bloom entrancingly each year

—in a setting of great oaks, Oriental Magnolias, Flowering Peaches and countless daffodils, all of which perform in their season.

This "Planting," as it is generally called, is unquestionably the single item that distinguishes Marshallville as a camellia center everywhere. But it may be remembered that for many a year before 1930, many individuals in Marshallville, as their own personal treasures, cultivated camellias—as they have continued to do since 1930. So there are many yards thereabout—front and back and side, that, in testimony of this long-running affection, are full of big, fine old bushes, of countless varieties. All of these, the Dodds, Wades, Rices, Lesters, Walkers, and Lees—will, with pride and joy unmeasured, exhibit to you if you will come by and see them. Anybody in town can tell you where to go.

Situated also near Macon, in the "Macon Country," like Marshallville and Massee Lane, are: Montezuma (45 miles, state route 49) with the notable June Felton and Morgan Chastain collections; Perry (30 miles, U. S. Route 341), with the Gallemore, Hendricks and Cater-Massee collections; Hawkinsville (50 miles, U. S. 341) with the Whitfield collection, Fort Valley (29 miles, state route 49, U. S. 341) with the Murray and Duke collections.

Camellia Gardens In Savannah Vicinity

Mrs. Harry B. Stanton

If there is such a thing as a perfect garden, then Savannah believes it is to be seen here. Many gardens in the vicinity of Savannah are situated on what are called "The Salts," which give them a distinctive background for an excellence in growing camellias not found in many sections. "The Salts" are marshlands, various rivers and creeks that form high bluffs on the islands. Many of these islands such as Wilmington

View are situated on the inland waterways from New York to Florida. These islands are often separated from the mainland by such a small stream that you hardly realize that you are on an island, but the navigable streams that separate the islands along the coast and known as the inland waterways, are both deep and wide, which make it possible for the yachtsman to avoid the rough seas of the ocean.

A traditional part of February in

Savannah is its Camellia Show. This is usually followed by a pilgrimage or tour of the outstanding gardens and historic homes of this city and vicinity in March. This year in honor of the American Camellia Society, which brings travelers from every state in the union, a garden pilgrimage of six tours has been planned.

Gardens both large and small have been included in these tours for their distinctive and characteristic landscape themes, as well as for the beauty and symmetry of the individual and exceptional specimen plant. One historical garden, Bonaventure Cemetery, has been included.

Tour No. I—BONAVENTURE CEMETERY—GRIMBALL'S POINT

BONAVENTURE. Against a magnificent setting of huge live oaks festooned with Spanish moss that hundreds of years of nature has helped to create, a natural and charming beauty is reflected in this world renowned cemetery that is situated on the banks of the Wilmington River. Bonaventure, one of Savannah's most beautiful spots, is steeped in the traditional lore of this vicinity.

The estate came into the Tattnall family in 1761 by the marriage of Josiah Tattnall of Charleston, S. C. to Mary Mulryne. A charming bit of romance was implanted upon the estate by this union, for tradition claims that the avenues of magnificent oak trees were planted at this time in the forms of the letters M and T, for Mulryne and Tattnall. These trees attained a commanding height and ever since have long sought to describe the grandeur and tranquility of this great cemetery; there is a spiritual quality that is unique. From the huge live oak limbs, vaulted like some cast outdoor cathedral, hang festoons of Spanish moss which lend an atmos-

phere of melancholy beauty and softness to the place.

The beauty, serenity and peacefulness of the setting gives a spiritual feeling, a durability and calmness that is found nowhere else. The winding roads and long vistas lined with camellias and azaleas gives a feeling of beauty and softness that is not usually felt in a cemetery.

GRIMBALL'S POINT. One of the pioneers in camellia development and propagation is Savannah's own Judge Solomon. Some of his earliest plants, as well as his ideas, are always in great demand among gardeners, camellia fanciers, and amateurs. His name and garden create a sensation wherever and whenever mentioned. At his beautiful estate, Wellesley Manor, can be seen hundreds of the old named varieties and exceptional new varieties. The landscape pattern of Wellesley Manor follows an English design. This is truly an estate that is distinctive in its own charm, appeal and beauty.

ARTHUR FUNK'S camellia garden situated at Grimball's Point also consists of between two and three thousand young plants of outstanding quality and beauty.

Tour No. II—TURNER'S ROCK—WILMINGTON ISLAND

TURNER'S ROCK. A tour of three gardens situated on the same island can be seen at this location.

Garden 1. MR. AND MRS. MALCOLM BELL'S garden features fourteen hundred plants with two hundred varieties. These plants are of an exceptional quality, a great many being from six to eight feet in height. The color and beauty displayed in this garden, as you walk along the ivy-bordered paths, would delight any gardener, particularly a camellia enthusiast.

Garden 2. Commanding a beautiful view of the Wilmington

River is the garden of MR. AND MRS. JOHN M. JONES. This garden features many fine plants of the older and newer varieties of camellias.

Garden 3. Presents an elaborate picture as you enter the driveway of the RAYMOND DEMERE garden. It is distinctive and original in its attractiveness, for each side of the drive is a double hedge of many varieties of camellias. To the left of the entrance is a small formal garden of camellias and azaleas surrounded by an ivy-covered wall. From this garden you enter a promenade of camellias of many choice varieties.

These three gardens adjoin one another, and together they make one of the most perfect settings imaginable for any type of garden. The expanse of water, over a half mile in front of these homes gives it an outlook that not only makes it a horticulturist's dream but a fisherman's paradise.

WILMINGTON ISLAND. Continue from Turner's Rock for about three miles and you enter SPARKLEBERRY HALL, garden of COMMANDER AND MRS. ROBERT ERDMAN. Here one will see many of the new varieties of camellias. A Garden with about two hundred varieties.

Tour No. III—ISLE OF HOPE

A small village on a high bluff where a group of small informal gardens can be seen—the kind we all love and can have. The river and bluff with the stately oaks draped in moss in front of the many attractive homes, lends an artistic background and dramatic effect that only an inland waterway can give.

MR. AND MRS. JAMES BARNETT'S GARDEN. This garden is located on the site of the old Parker mansion at Isle of Hope. Henry Parker was the first settler at Isle of Hope and was Colonial Governor

from 1751 to 1756. The Barnett's acquired this property in 1948 and have developed a beautiful camellia garden.

THE O. T. MCINTOCH GARDEN. An old camellia garden that reflects its historical background, where many new varieties of camellias have been added, and in the days to come will be outstanding.

MR. AND MRS. A. J. BRIGHT'S GARDEN. A modern garden of camellias in an old atmosphere of beauty and tranquility.

THE NOEL WRIGHT GARDEN. This garden dates back to 1851 when Mr. George W. Wylly purchased the property from Major Gallie. The camellias in this garden were originally imported from France soon after Mr. Wylly purchased the property. Other plants were imported some thirty or forty years ago also; just before the embargo was put on imported plants. The home was built in 1850 by Major Gallie and is a replica of the Jeff Davis home in Biloxi, Mississippi. When the home was originally built, a magnolia tree was planted at each corner of the home, and three of these original trees are still standing. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Wright, Jr., have developed the garden extensively, making it one of the most attractive on the bluff.

MR. AND MRS. HARRY ROLLINSON'S GARDEN. The Harry Rollinsons have a large collection of camellias in their garden—a real home garden containing new and old varieties of camellias—a garden of unusual beauty developed in the past few years.

MAJOR J. F. SCHWALB'S GARDEN. This is just what you would find in a small home garden, something that the average member of a camellia society would like to have to play with, and shows what can

be accomplished over a short period of time.

THE JACK COPE'S GARDEN. A garden of many fine camellias. Here a great deal of experimenting has been done with all kinds of fertilizer, and from these experiments much information has been gained for those of us who enjoy growing camellias. Mr. Cope is our outstanding authority on fertilizer, and his advice is sought by both the fancier and the commercial grower.

Tour No. IV—VERNON VIEW, BEAULIEU AND WHITE BLUFF

AVALON. Garden of MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) AND MRS. ROBERT J. TRAVIS. This garden was started some forty years ago and is surrounded by the natural beauty of nature, containing many hundred camellia plants.

FOLLY MARSH at Vernon View. The beautifully appointed estate of MRS. SAMUEL P. ROTAN facing Back River. This is a very picturesque garden of several hundred varieties of camellias that reflects natural beauty and charming views. The landscaping here is one all visitors will enjoy, and where camellias are appropriately used.

SHADOWLAWN at Vernon View. The attractive garden of MR. AND MRS. HARRY STANTON, which contains about two hundred varieties of camellias, among them being the original plant, Katherin Stanton.

THE ROBERT GROVES at Beaulieu. On this estate is the site of the old Fort Beaulieu that dates back to the Revolutionary War. In this historical setting are beautifully landscaped grounds, which include numerous varieties of camellias. In this garden is an exceptional plant of *Fimbriata*, the long narrow, dark green leaves of which are a subject for study, and which in no way resemble the leaves of the *Alba Plena*,

from which it was supposed to be a sport.

THE GEORGE CLARKE'S at Beaulieu live in the oldest home situated at Beaulieu facing Vernon River. Their garden includes three to four hundred varieties of camellias. Among them are distinctive new and outstanding varieties.

THE GARDEN OF MRS. J. A. P. CRISFIELD at White Bluff has an interesting history as this property was bought in 1854 by William Neyle Habersham for a summer home. Mr. Habersham imported camellia plants from France for his gardens in Savannah and White Bluff, but the date is uncertain. These camellias are still standing in Mrs. Crisfield's garden today, and have trunks ten to twelve inches in diameter. In other sections of the garden are hundreds of camellias of numerous varieties sheltered by magnificent live oaks, whose vast limbs festooned with moss make a picture of grandeur that any artist would delight in painting.

B. F. DIAMOND'S GARDEN, which adjoins the Crisfield garden, is truly a show place. The excellent landscaping with sasanquas, japonicas and azaleas along with shrubbery makes it a veritable paradise of beauty. There are thousands of camellias of many varieties from small cuttings to plants a hundred years old in this exceptional garden. Only a few years old, it demonstrates what one can do with camellias in this Savannah soil and climate.

Tour No. IV. PLANTATION TOUR

WILD HERON PLANTATION. On this plantation is the oldest known residence in Georgia. The land was granted to Francis Harris, the speaker of the First Assembly of the Colonial Government, in 1756 by King George III of England. This estate was purchased from the Harris family in 1935 by Mr. and Mrs.

Shelby Myrick for a country home. Rice was the main crop in the old plantation days and the remains of an old rice mill still stands on the banks of the Little Ogeechee River. Tradition tells that many of the plants, particularly a palm tree in the front yard, was planted by the first bride of Wild Heron in 1780. The older varieties of camellias are featured on the expansive grounds of this estate.

GROVE PLANTATION, which was originally owned by the Habersham family, passed through several hands, until finally it came into possession of the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bouhan. Possibly over 100 years ago camellia bushes were planted here, and while at that time the imbricated flower prevailed in Europe, from where these plants came, yet there is in this garden a *Gigantea*, which at times has both the solid and variegated blooms. There is no certainty as to just when these plants were purchased and shipped to Savannah, but the size of the trunks indicate from 75 to 100 years ago. Many new varieties have been added by the present owners. The spacious gateway and wrought iron gates is the beginning of a beautifully planned approach to a lovely spot, where many people are welcome.

GROVE POINT PLANTATION is steeped with an interesting and traditional history as well as being beautiful in its surroundings of spreading live oaks encircled by hundreds of camellias over which lingers the fragrance of magnolias, oleander, loquat and tea-olive mingled with roses. Tradition tells that the first owner was Blackbeard, the pirate, who used it as a slave compound. Later the property came into the hands of the Habersham family and was purchased in 1830 by Dr. Cheves, who built a house

patterned after a German castle. The roof and tower of the house being made of pitch and pebbles with a kitchen at the top so there would be no smell of cooking. The bricks for this house came from England while the tiles for the fireplaces came from Holland. In 1864 it was taken by the Yankees and burned. The present house was built in 1886, by a Mr. Elliott, but has been rebuilt into a beautiful modern home by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Mercer. Their love for the beautiful in a home and garden makes it the outstanding plantation home in this vicinity. Here you will see a modern propagation greenhouse with automatic controls for light, heat and moisture.

Once again, these three gardens adjoin each other, and in bygone days represented one of the old Southern estates.

Tour No. VI. CITY GARDENS

Garden 1. Mrs. Ruskin King's garden located at 110 West Taylor Street is an attractive example of what can be done in planting a small walled garden. Surrounded by ivy-covered walls it affords an ideal spot for outdoor living suitable for the needs of the Kings.

Garden 2. At 622 Drayton Street the beautiful formal garden of Mrs. Maxwell W. Lippitt contains numerous varieties of camellias bordered with azaleas. Its outstanding beauty reflects good planning and planting in a small area.

Garden 3. 304 East 44th Street is the perfect garden of Mrs. A. H. Bankston. This exquisite well planned garden has something in bloom the year round, although it features many outstanding varieties of camellias. It may well be called a flowerland of color and beauty.

Garden 4. Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Tyson located on the corner of Harmon and 638 East 57th Street af-

fords the lover of camellias an ideal spot to view an abundance of varieties in all their glory.

Georgia has a wealth of beautiful gardens as well as lovely southern homes, but none lovelier than Savannah's own gardens and homes during camellia season. Some of these gardens have been famous since Colonial days and it is the hope of those who have opened their homes

and gardens for this occasion to those who visit them, that the visitors will slip back in spirit to the gracious living of by-gone days. Savannah bids all welcome to the beauty, the joy, and the hospitality of its city and gardens. A city that is—

"A thing of beauty
A joy forever."

The Williams Kodachromes

Roy T. Thompson

The increasing number of people who have seen the kodachrome slides of Mr. Frank Williams and who have exclaimed at their perfection and beauty, probably have little realization of what it takes in time, effort, and money to produce them. Some interesting facts along this line were recently brought out when a nurseryman asked Mr. Williams to make some slides for commercial use.

Who would guess, for example, that when he started his sasanqua series last fall Williams made over 175 exposures in order to get the first fourteen acceptable slides? These figures are surprising, but Williams is a perfectionist who has no use for second-rate pictures. What, then, are some of the factors which go into the making of his remarkable slides?

Three significant factors have combined in what amounts to a unique situation in the camellia world: (1) The man who has perhaps the finest collection of camellias in America is also (2) a highly skilled photographer who made his way to the top in Hollywood as a camera-man, and who (3) has at his disposal the finest technical equipment available.

The Williams garden is a noteworthy collection of over 1,944 camellia varieties with an unusually high percentage of new and re-

stricted camellias. Blooms are available when they are at the peak of their freshness; this is of prime importance for if a bloom has to be transported any distance there is always the risk of bruising the petals, and long experience has revealed that a bruise not apparent to the eye will nevertheless be picked up by the camera lens and show up on the screen with embarrassing clarity.

Then, too, since the bloom shown on a slide must be typical of its variety, that is, recognizable at once as a specimen of that variety, it follows that there must be a large number of blooms in the garden to choose from, not only in one year but in a long series of years, so that a truly representative or typical form for that variety may be established in the mind. The type flower must in no way be unusual, either larger or smaller than usual, lop-sided, or off-color. Certainly it should not be the magnificent specimen which shows up once in a life-time in a garden. That it takes many years to reveal what is typical in new varieties is illustrated by Williams' experience with Comte de Nesselrode. The first year that he photographed it the blooms were huge tight peonies; the next year all the blooms were rather open semi-doubles and hardly recognizable as the same variety. The first year Beau Harp

bloomed there were sven flowers, all somewhat different in form, the type not clearly apparent.

Long experience in Hollywood, both as a camera-man and as the owner and operator of a film-processing plant, has given Williams highly competent know-how on the technical side. Since it is extremely difficult to "hit" the right exposure for kodachromes (the Eastman people say that the number of "right exposures" processed by them is 2%) Williams, being a perfectionist, makes from ten to forty exposures of each bloom, frequently changing the background and arrangement experimentally to get the best effects. He aims at three good slides out of each set so taken. By the use of a meter and his own judgment, he arrives at a tentative exposure figure (time, stop, etc.) which he calls normal, then makes three or four exposures. After this he makes more exposures a half stop below and still more a half stop above normal. His chief objective is to achieve an exact color match. Light-bulbs, he has found, which have a life of six hours, lose their Kelvin meter reading after two hours of use and so have to be discarded. He consciously makes his slides two printer points (14%) darker than otherwise because of the very powerful lamps (750 to 1000 watts) which he uses in his projector. Were he to make his slides lighter, the powerful lamps would make the image on the screen too light in color. But in spite of all his technical aids, Williams finds that it is still necessary to engage in a great deal of trial and error routine.

Another difficult problem is to get enough detail or contrast in the lighter areas, particularly in the whites. (Every amateur photographer of flowers has struggled with this difficulty). Film is defective for lighter areas because it lacks the

contrast scale that it has for darker areas, hence Williams makes his slides of white or light pink flowers darker in order to give them a chance for contrast. Besides these technical considerations in regard to film, there are also complications with regard to the flowers themselves, for some white flowers throw back more light than others. If a *Pride of Descanso* is used as normal, *Royal White* will be found to throw back (or reflect) much more light, and so will require half a stop less, while *Mrs. Baldwin Wood* will reflect back less light and will require half a stop more. *Margarete Hertich* seems to have a little green in it for it requires a very light violet filter. *Robert Norton* and *Big Beauty* tend to photograph oyster-shell white and so require a larger stop.

Of course it goes without saying that the making of high grade kodachromes requires artistic skill too—the ability to arrange and evaluate color combinations, and combinations of mass and line. Call it an instinctive faculty if you wish, or partly acquired, the Williams slides achieve a high degree of excellence in this phase of photography. The flower is the main thing in the picture, nothing else—background, leaves, lighting, or detail within the flower itself—is allowed to interfere with the attention which the spectator gives to the flower.

It will therefore be seen that it would be next to impossible to figure the cost of making a Williams kodachrome were one to consider his investment in plants, photographic equipment, and the value of his time professionally. Omitting these intangibles, however, Williams estimates that it costs him \$4,000 a year to make the slides which camellia societies the country over view for nothing.

Another intangible value not mentioned above is educational. There

is value in newness, in the act of making known that which is new. Nurserymen have neither the space nor the time to experiment with all the new varieties, hence they are always glad to see them pictured, before they begin to propagate them. Also, since Williams has a unique chance to evaluate a new variety against the background of nearly two thousand others, his recommendations are taken seriously by nurserymen, and some of them prize their grafts of new varieties on his evaluation. On one occasion a local nursery found that its sales of certain varieties followed the course of Williams' trip through the South; wherever he showed his slides, they made sales. Colored slides have proved to be the best means of publicizing new varieties. From the lay-

man's point of view the slides are equally invaluable as a guide to the buying of plants with which he is not familiar.

One extremely important feature of these slides from an educational point of view, especially for those who are trying to evaluate varieties, is that they are all taken according to scale, that is, the lens of the camera is always the same distance from the flower, hence when the image is thrown on the screen, the spectator can judge the size of the flowers. The area covered by the picture on the screen represents $6 \frac{3}{8}$ inches from top to bottom and never varies. Unless the pictures are taken according to an unvarying scale, all flowers will tend to appear as equal in size.

DOES ONE SWALLOW MAKE A SUMMER?

The freeze that struck the entire South such a vicious blow beginning November 24 and continuing for almost a week caused more damage to camellia flowers and buds than has ever been experienced before. This statement is true because today there are more camellias to be frozen. But this is not the first, nor perhaps the last, year of freeze disaster. They happen often enough to remind us that good and bountiful Mother Nature can briefly go berserk. History records similar disasters in 1835, 1857 and 1894-95. In 1835, the famous plant collector, Noisette, ended his life in tragic despair over the loss of camellias in his beautiful Charleston Garden. It is most discouraging but not devastating. No one has ended his life. No one is planning to throw away his treasured plants. There will be other years. It now appears that camellias will bloom this win-

ter in California, Oregon, Washington and southern Florida. Elsewhere, we will find a few protected blooms, a few "escapes" and a few inferior flowers that show results of cold damage.

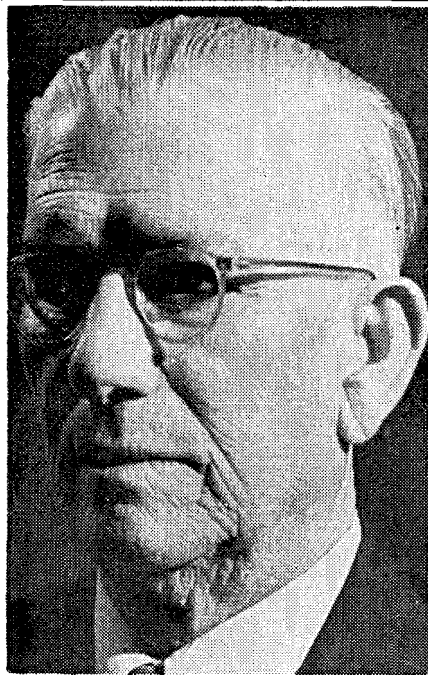
Reports have been received from all over the South and the story is the same. The damage is severe, the hopes for blooms are very dim. A few flowers that had started to open finished the job. Some have opened since with even a very few showing no damage. This last is confined generally to the single and semi-double reds that are considered early or early-midseason bloomers. Some optimists express hope for a few very late flowers—which remains to be seen. Those of you who have varieties Kimberley, Jarvis Red, Tricolor, and so forth may be the envy of those who do not. Some expressed hopes or expectations for later blooms of Adolphe Audusson, Elegans, Donckelarii, Ville de Nantes and Herme.

Damage to plants does not seem

to have been severe as a general rule. Only five varieties were mentioned by more than one "reporter" as sustaining damage. These were Alba Plena, Debutante, Gigantea, Henningham Smith and Woodville Red. All are very fine varieties and this report should not dim their popularity. Alba Plena and Debutante remain two of the prime early varieties recommended for all sections.

Low temperatures ranged from 7 degrees to 26 degrees. It matters little which you experienced for this is much below the danger point. The question most generally asked runs something like this: "We have had freezes before, often lower temperatures, now why did this freeze do so much damage?" We have asked the same thing and here is the best composite answer we can pass on to you. This freeze of 1950 came very early in the season. In many sections, it was the first cold spell of the year. The plants and the buds were not yet conditioned to withstand the freeze. You may find in the woods many deciduous trees that had not shed their leaves by November 24 as they usually do. These are now still hanging on the trees—frozen. Plants were not ready for winter yet.

Here in Gainesville our earliest average freeze date is December 22. A similar date with a few days difference would apply over the South. We can generally expect the average or near that average date. Hence, we can normally expect to have camellia blooms. The current situation has not happened for many years and it may or may not happen again for many more. Certainly, no one who loves camellias will forsake his love because of this one bad year. Camellias have a life span of centuries. Let us keep our interest and look for many years of joy in them.



ROLAND E. LEE

The American Camellia Society suffered a great loss in the death of Roland E. Lee, Director-at-Large, on Oct. 12, 1950, after a brief illness.

Roland Lee was born Oct. 23, 1881. He spent his life in Pensacola, Florida, where for fifty years he operated a mill and lumber business. Some seven years ago he retired from his more active work and operated a camellia nursery for both pleasure and some profit. His abiding hobby was camellias in which he had been interested for many years. Other hobbies were hunting and fishing.

Mr. Lee was an active civic leader, a member of the Lions Club, Elks, and other societies including the Pensacola Camellia Club. All of us would wish to express our deep sympathy to Mrs. Lee and others in his family.

CAMELLIA SHOW CANCELLATIONS

The October Quarterly carried a list of Camellia Show dates and since it was published, the following dates were added:

Vienna, Ga.Jan. 6-7
Summit, Miss.Jan. 6-7
Abbeville, La.Jan. 6-7
Beaumont, TexasJan. 20-21
(Magnolia Garden Club)

Laurel, Miss.Jan. 20-21
Kentwood, La.Jan. 20-21
Tifton, Ga.Jan. -31
Reidsville, Ga.Feb. -8
Dallas, TexasFeb. 17-18
Pasadena, Calif.Feb. 17-18
Fayetteville, N. C.Feb. 24-25

Since the damaging freeze of November 24-29, the following shows have been cancelled:

Tyler, TexasJan. -7
Cordele, Ga.Jan. 13-14
Summerville, S. C.Jan. 13-14
Tallahassee, Fla.Jan. 13-14
Beaumont, TexasJan. 13-14
(Men's Camellia Club)

Moncks Corner, S. C.Jan. 20-21
Pensacola, Fla.Jan. 20-21
Rincon, Ga.Jan. 27-28
Springfield, Ga.Jan. 27-28
Cochran, Ga.Jan. -31
Augusta, Ga.Feb. 3-4
Savannah, Ga.Feb. 10-11
Columbia, S. C.Feb. 14-15
Marshallville, Ga.Feb. -21

Other shows may or may not be held according to schedule. We have no definite information on many events that were planned. Some shows may be limited or revised into "flower exhibits." This procedure seems to be advisable where it is possible to have any blooms. It is believed that this will help to maintain local camellia interest, it will provide an annual event for shows that have long records of continuity and it will give pleasure to many people who will

not be able to attend any other kind of show this year.

The shows on the Pacific Coast and in Orlando, Florida give promise of being bigger and better than ever before.

VARIETY REGISTRATIONS

To the list of variety registrations published in the October 1950 Quarterly, the following are added:

No. 83. ANNE SMITH: A seedling of Dr. W. G. Lee Var. and unknown parent which first flowered in 1946. Originated by Mrs. Joel W. Mann, Valdosta, Ga., and propagated by Thomasville Nurseries, Thomasville, Georgia. Plant growth pendulous and compact. Leaves large, long and pointed. Flower buds ovoid and deep red. Blooms are semi-double, deep red with edges of outer petals almost black, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. midseason.

No. 84. ARLENE IGNICO: A seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in January, 1950. Originated and propagated by R. L. Wheeler, Central Georgia Nurseries, Macon, Georgia. Plant growth rapid and very compact. Leaves medium to small towards ends of branches, lanceolate, crenate to serrate margined. Buds green, medium size and tapering. Blooms are incomplete double with large petals, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, rose color. Flowers prolific and long lasting. Season January thru March.

No. 85. MARY BETHEA: A 13-year-old seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1945-46. Originated by Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower, Gulfport, Miss. Type of growth open and slow. Buds are oval and dark green with red tips, growing close to stem and producing short stemmed flowers. Blooms semi-double with stamens and peta-

loids rather evenly balanced, 3-4 inches in diameter. Color No. 025 Spirea red shading to No. 830 Beet Root purple at edges (British Horticultural Chart). midseason.

No. 86. PRINCE OF ORANGE: A seedling of unknown parentage originated by Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower, Gulfport, Miss. Propagated and distributed by Metcalf Nurseries, Semmes, Alabama. First flowered in 1943-44. Growth open and rapid. Leaves slightly curled similar to Tricolor and Snowdrift, but larger. Buds almost round, dark green with red tips. Buds produced freely and in clusters. Blooms are irregular double with 15 large petals and center of petaloids similar to Elegans. Color No. 23 Rose Madder (British Horticultural Chart), 4 to 5 inches in diameter. Season, late.

No. 87. MILES HARDY: A seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1944-45. Originated by Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower, Gulfport, Miss. Growth open and upright, with large uniform leaves. Buds light green. Blooms are incomplete double with large petaloids, 4 to 5 inches in diameter. Color, white with yellow stamens. Season, early through midseason.

No. 88. TOM CLOWER: A seedling of unknown parentage which flowered in 1944-45. Originated by Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower, Gulfport, Miss. Propagated and distributed by Rester's Nursery, Poplarville, Miss. Growth open and vigorous. No blooms until third year from graft. Buds round and light green with pink tips forming early but not opening until later. Blooms are complete double imbricated. Color Phlox pink No. 625/1 (British Horticultural Chart), 4 to 5 inches in diameter. Season, late.

No. 89. GLORY: A seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1945. Originated and propa-

gated by Mrs. W. W. Harman, Birmingham, Alabama. Plant growth upright and rapid. Quite hardy. Long thick leaves of blackish green. Buds are dark green and pointed. Blooms are semi-double with large petaloids intermixed with stamens of clear yellow. Color, Nopal red (Ridgeway Chart). Size $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 4 inches in diameter. Midseason to late.

No. 90. MINNIE ELIZABETH: A 25-year-old seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1931. Originated and propagated by Mrs. W. W. Harman, Birmingham, Ala. Plant growth upright and rapid. Leaves dusky green with yellowish shading in veins. Buds green, slightly pointed with many buds being set. Blooms are semi-double with small petaloids, color Eugenia red (Ridgeway Chart), $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 5 inches in diameter. Midseason to late.

No. 91. FRANCES: A seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1947. Originated by Miss Harriet Brandon, Thomasville, Ga., and propagated by Thomasville Nurseries, Thomasville, Ga. Plant growth pendulous and compact. Leaves very dark green. Buds elongated. Blooms are semi-double, miniature type, with petal substance similar to Snowdrift, white. Diameter 2 inches to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Midseason.

No. 92. GILBERT FISHER: A seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1948. Originated and propagated by Malbis Nursery, Daphne, Ala. Plant growth rapid and upright with heavy stems. Leaves unusually dark green, oval, with small serrations. Buds conical. Blooms are semi-double with large petaloids and compact yellow stamens. Color light rose red, 5 inches to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Season, December-February.

No. 93. MATTIE O'REILLY: A seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1942. Originated and propagated by McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena, Calif. Growth average and upright. Leaves, medium green, elliptic, acute and sharply serrate. Buds round and medium green. Blooms are complete irregular double of glowing Coral-rose pink, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Long blooming season from December to May.

No. 94. ANITA'S BLUSH: A sport of Anita which first flowered in 1943. Has been propagated and characteristics are definitely fixed. Originated and propagated by McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena, Calif. Plant characteristics same as Anita, also shape and color of buds. Blooms are semi-double, color, white, shading to blush pink. Flowering season, December to April.

No. 95. QUAINANCE: A sport of Herme which first flowered in 1940 and has characteristics definitely fixed. Originated and propagated by McCaskill Gardens, Pasadena, Calif. Plant characteristics and leaves are same as Herme also same shape and color of buds. Blooms are incomplete imbricated like Mathotiana. Color, a soft clear pink slightly striped a deeper pink. Blooming season, January to May.

No. 96. JAMES ALLAN: A seedling which first flowered in 1940. Parentage unknown. Originated and propagated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. Introduced in 1943. Open and average growth, leaves slightly curved, rather large, light green, veined. Large buds which open swiftly. Blooms, fiery red, 4 inches to 6 inches in diameter, opening in late January and February. Highly variable flower ranging from single and semi-double with some full double irregular.

No. 97. MRS. WALTER ALLAN: A

seedling which first flowered in 1940. Parentage unknown. Originated and propagated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. Introduced in 1943. Rapid and upright growth making a shapely shrub. Hardy as to plant and flowers. Leaves very similar to Donckelarii but slightly larger. Buds open fast as weather warms in winter. Bloom, a deep rose red, 4 inches to 6 inches in diameter, opening January and February. Highly irregular semi-double with stamens and petals mixed, sometimes only petals.

No. 98. GLENN ALLAN: A seedling of unknown parentage introduced in 1945. Originated and propagated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. Plant upright in growth and produces only one growth cycle a season, with three or four terminal buds each year. Foliage small, dark green and glossy. Buds rather small until almost open. Flower cup-shaped, semi-double, color self red or variegated with white, 4 inches to 5 inches in diameter. Blooming season February to March.

No. 99. HENRIETTA M. ALLAN Seedling of unknown parentage which first flowered in 1940. Originated and propagated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. Introduced in 1946. Growth upright, rapid and compact. Blooms are incomplete imbricated, like Mathotiana, pink with center sometimes a lighter shade, 4 inches to 5 inches in diameter. Season, February and March.

No. 100. GRACE HUTCHINSON: Seedling derived from cross between Donckelarii and unknown parent which first flowered in 1937. Originated and propagated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. Type of growth upright and compact. Leaves resemble Donckelarii, but thicker and darker. Blooms are

ruby red to rose, usually two-toned with lighter color at center, 3 inches to 4½ inches in diameter. Season, February and March.

No. 101. DR. H. G. MEALING: Seedling of unknown parentage originated and propagated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. First released in 1949. Growth open and pendulous, but rapid. Foliage large and dark green, somewhat similar to Gigantea but without the pronounced tip. Large, fat buds. Blooms are dark red with pronounced veining, semi-double, resembling a dark red Lady Clare, 4 inches to 6 inches in diameter. A constant bloomer in March. Never opening before March.

No. 102. KATHERINE ALLAN: Seedling which first flowered in 1948. Parentage unknown. Originated by Walter Allan Nursery, Summerville, S. C. Probable date of release, fall 1953. Growth rapid, open and pendulous. Leaves resemble Alba Plena but darker and thicker. Light green buds are long, large and pointed. Blooms are incomplete double with small petaloids, 15 or more large guard petals, and 20 or more petaloids, 4 to 5½ inches in diameter, color extremely delicate pink. Blooming season, December-January.

No. 103. ROBERT HENDRICK: Seedling of Robin Hood and unknown parent which first flowered in 1947. Originated by Robert Hendrick, Greenville, Ala. Propagated by Fairview Farms and Nursery, Greenville, Ala. A hardy plant of open growth. Leaves medium green and pointed. Buds large, oval with light brown color. Blooms are incomplete double with small petaloids interspersed with stamens. Rose color, with petaloids a lighter shade. 5 inches in diameter, 2½ inches in depth. Prolific bloomer, midseason to late.

No. 104. MRS. BERTHA A. HARMS: A hand pollinated seedling, parentage Lady Clare and sode-gakushi (*Grandiflora Alba*). First flowered in 1947. Originated by H. H. Harms, Portland, Oregon. Propagated by Mrs. Clyde P. Bradley, Milwaukie, Oregon. Growth open and upright but of medium vigor. Leaves have waxy surface and resemble parents. Buds, rose shaped with faint pink color, unfurl like rose bud. Bloom semi-double, ivory white with faint pink cast, 5 inches to 6 inches in diameter. Petals wavy. Flowers keep well. Long blooming season from midseason through late.

No. 105. NELLIE COHEN: A seedling of Marchioness of Exeter and unknown parent which first flowered in 1935. Originated by G. G. Gerbing and propagated by Gerbing Camellia Nurseries, Fernandina, Fla. Growth rapid and pendulous. Leaves dull green with small serrations. Buds pointed. Blooms are incomplete double of deep rose pink (Coster Chart), 2½ inches to 4 inches in diameter. Prolific bloomer in January and February.

No. 106. BETTY MORRIS. A seedling of unknown parentage originated by Mrs. Robert Morris, Yemassee, S. C. Growth average and compact. Leaves medium green, smooth and long pointed. Buds round and open slowly. Blooms long lasting, irregular double having a deep rose color with purplish cast, large. Season, December-April.

DUES ARE NOW DUE

Notice the renewal form enclosed with this Quarterly. We are sending the January issue to our members of 1950. The April issue can only be mailed to members in good standing for 1951. We suggest your prompt attention, otherwise in April you will get a bill instead of a Quarterly.

PLANTING CAMELLIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

Had you planned to add a few more camellias to your collection this season? Does that spot in the garden await the day when you will fill in the needed plants? Well, now is the time to secure your new camellias. And most certainly this is the year to proceed with your plans—even extend them a bit, if you can.

In the South, we should not be daunted by one early freeze that will be a historical date to camellia lovers on a par with the Johnstown Flood and the Chicago Fire. You will find that nurseries have good plants for sale. You will be smart to

buy now when sales may be slower than in normal years when flowers and camellia shows sell the plants. A good nurseryman will guarantee his variety labels. So why wait? Why lose a year's growth or else pay someone for growing the plant another year? Besides, our good friend, the nurseryman, had a few bad days himself back in November. He will remember with appreciation your support and encouragement which you can give him now.

Most of the above advice is directed to members in the South, but the BUY-NOW advice applies as well to all of us. The "pick of the patch" is always available to the early buyer.

Camellia Day In North Carolina

Mae Finch

"Camellia Day" in North Carolina has become synonymous with floriculture throughout the southland, and a rapid-fire enthusiasm has obsessed gardeners and horticulturists alike, as was demonstrated at the Annual Camellia Study Programme held in the Capital City of Raleigh on October 26, 1950.

The Camellia Day Study Group was formed a few years ago by North Carolina's Mrs. R. L. McMillan, who proved, against admonitions of floral authorities that camellias could not be grown successfully in the Raleigh climate and northward, that "it could be done!" She persistently set about growing the beautiful flowers, which drew the attentive admiration and study of the locale by experienced gardeners, and resulted in the institution of the Annual Camellia Day observance by the Raleigh Garden Club and the Garden Club of North Carolina. Interest mounted, and gardeners became zealous in cultivating and nurturing the lovely flower, so that a year ago in October, the North

Carolina Camellia Society was formed, and celebrated its first birthday with a membership of 600 this year on "Camellia Day," with the Raleigh Garden Club as hostess and the North Carolina Garden Club as co-sponsor.

Mrs. McMillan, besides being General Chairman for the Camellia Day, is Life President of the North Carolina Camellia Society, and was honored by the presentation to her of the one-year birthday cake, presented by Mrs. L. R. Harrill, President of the Raleigh Garden Club. The day was filled with inspirational and instructive talks by authorities from many states; and by discussion periods, interspersed with awarding of prizes, and entertaining interludes.

Prominent personages from many states participated in the programme, outstanding among them being the American Camellia Society President, Judge Arthur Solomon of Savannah, Georgia; Judge Marvin Mann, President of the South Carolina Camellia Society; K. Sa-

wada, camellia grower of Mobile, Ala. and many others, including the North Carolina Camellia Society President, Robert Holmes.

Beginning with registration at 9:30 in the morning, several hundred camellia enthusiasts filled the Woman's Club building, passing in and out of the crowded auditorium where all-day study sessions were held; meeting in small groups for discussion of individual problems in the various clubhouse rooms; and always going back to hear the continuous talks and discussions of the main programme. Subjects dealt with included: time and location for planting; soils; rules for planting and transplanting; mulching, cultivation, fertilizing, and watering; pruning, cutting, disbudding; bud dropping, yellow foliage, pests and pest control; and camellia classification.

At the opening session greetings were extended by Mrs. McMillan, a welcome given by Mrs. Harrill, and great pleasure expressed by Mr. Holmes for the large attendance from the many other states represented, as well as North Carolina.

A luncheon honoring Judge Arthur Solomon was held at mid-day. Co-sharing honors with the A. C. S. President was the wife of the Governor of North Carolina, Mrs. Kerr Scott; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holmes; and Mrs. James Tyler, President of the North Carolina Garden Club.

In the evening a dinner, also honoring Judge Solomon, the guest speaker, was held at the Carolina Country Club by the North Carolina Camellia Society, and was presided over by Mrs. R. N. Simms, dinner chairman. The business session following the dinner was conducted by the state president, Mr. Holmes.

In his dinner speech, Judge Solomon stated that the American Camellia Society was interested in

producing bigger and better camellias and more of them. He stated that the national society has 7600 members and is encouraging the development of a network of test areas throughout the South. He said the test areas must be developed by universities with full facilities for scientific testing by plant specialists and soil experts. To such test areas hundreds of plants are sent for controlled testing. He said the experimental work includes development of new camellia varieties; experiments toward developing fragrance in the blossoms; development of early-blooming varieties and tougher varieties that will stand more cold; and improvement in techniques of planting, cultivating, and protecting the camellias.

Judge Solomon attributed the upsurge in recent years of growth of camellias to "education and the charm of the flower." Its long blooming season and its beauty without bloom were cited as reasons for the camellias' appeal. He spoke of the fascination of growing camellias from seed and the "two sources" of new varieties—hybridizing and the development of plants from sports. He said that the camellia was marching northward, and cited an outstanding camellia garden in Norfolk, Virginia, where the city bought ten acres of woodland and planted ten thousand camellias.

Pleasing to North Carolinians was Judge Solomon's announcement that the North Carolina State College test garden had been approved as a test area for camellias. Chancellor J. W. Harrelson, who brought greetings to the occasion, spoke on the work of the test garden.

Judge Marvin Mann, South Carolina Camellia Society President, and Mr. Frank Griffin, brought greetings from South Carolina; and C. N. Hastie, Jr., of Charleston, S. C., gave an

illustrated lecture on the Magnolia Gardens of that state.

K. Sawada, one of America's ablest camellia growers, discussed, during the afternoon session, the years of work he has spent in experimenting and developing new varieties, and in quickening the rate of growth. He also discussed weather damage in cooler climates, and presented methods of protection for the plants.

Dr. Allen Easley of Wake Forest, N. C., led a panel discussion in the morning, with Miss Cora Harris of Charlotte, Mrs. W. T. Rainey, of Fayetteville, David Rose, of Goldsboro, and Buxton White of Elizabeth City, participating. Mrs. James Tyler of Kinston, discussed camellia show practices. Others on the program included Miss Carr Harris, of Charlotte, Dow Pender and Professor Jack Gartner, of Raleigh, Mr. and Mrs. William Kemp of Goldsboro, Kenneth Sprunt and S. L. Marbury of Wilmington.

An invitation to join the American Camellia Society was extended by Mrs. Anne Lee Harris, Mrs. L. G. Fox, and Judge Arthur Solomon.

Mr. Duncan DeVane, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, was elected President of the North Carolina Camellia Society.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President Solomon called a meeting of the Board of Directors on October 18, 1950, at Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Members from nearby Mobile had arranged a dinner for officials and others.

In addition to the President, the meeting was attended by Vice-President S. J. Katz and seven Board members, with eight members of the American Camellia Society holding proxies for other officers and Direc-

tors who could not be present.

Judge Solomon outlined the purposes of the meeting by stating that it is customary to convene in the fall to transact necessary business and make plans for the Annual Meeting in February. He reviewed the activities of the Society since the beginning of the fiscal year and reported certain decisions he had made that were necessary for the operation of the Society. The Board ratified the action of the president in the following matters:

1. Appointment of Sam P. Harn as Acting Secretary following the unfortunate death of our able Secretary, Roy J. Wilmot. This appointment was ratified and Mr. Harn was elected Secretary of the Society.

2. Appointment of Dr. H. Harold Hume as Editor of the 1950 Yearbook and American Camellia Quarterly succeeding the late Roy J. Wilmot.

3. Appointment of Austin Griffiths, Jr., as Associate Editor.

The Board elected Mr. T. E. Fletcher, Cordele, Georgia, to fill the unexpired term of Dr. W. G. Lee, Macon, Georgia, resigned. Mr. M. B. Dawson, Pensacola, Florida was elected to fill the unexpired term of Director Roland Lee, Pensacola, Florida, deceased.

The President discussed plans for extending the test areas to all of the Universities or their branches in the 12 states, where there was sufficient interest and they could qualify for experimental work of all types, leading to a correlated program; each area to have the necessary Entomologists, Botanists, Pathologists and Soil Experts, and a rolling terrain with full sun, full and partial shade, with equipment to obtain results that would be of interest to all members of the American Camellia Society. Since this authority was

given to the President, one test area has already been established at the North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.

Director Illges reported for the Committee on Revision of the By-laws a recommendation whereby the director representing a state would be voted on by Society members in the state affected only, rather than by members residing in the four states comprising a Unit as defined in the By-laws. This change was adopted by the Board by unanimous vote.

Further business covered plans for the Annual Meeting to be held in Savannah, February 10, 1951. It was agreed at this time that there should be a full and interesting program that would be of interest and value to the membership. Some of the features under consideration may now have to be eliminated due to the severe freeze of November 24. The Board discussed at length many subjects for the good of the Society which will probably materialize in the future.

OTHER FLOWER FUNGI

Much has been and will probably continue to be written about Camellia Flower Blight caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia camelliae*. However, we are relatively fortunate in that this fungus manifests itself by quite distinctive symptoms that have become well known to the camellia growing public by way of many helpful articles that have been written about this disease.

On the other hand, most camellia growers have at some time noted fungi attacking the flowers in which typical blight symptoms were not displayed. There are several other fungi that on occasion will attack camellia flowers. These are most frequently encountered when environmental conditions are at an

optimum for their development. Some of them are particularly in evidence under conditions of high relative humidity.

In a recent survey of fungus infected camellia flowers, the following organisms were isolated: *Botrytis (cinerea?)*, *Cladosporium herb-arum*, *Cladosporium* sp., *Penicillium* sp., *Pestalotia guipini*, and *Pestalotia* sp. This report is not meant as a cause for concern but rather to call attention to the fact that other fungi attack camellia flowers and that by no means does a fungus infected flower indicate the presence of flower blight. Actually, at least in most camellia growing sections, most if not all such flowers will be infected with one of the above reported organisms. These cause growers some concern in that their growth usually covers the stamens and central petaloids and may discolor some portions of the flower centers giving the flowers an unsightly appearance.

However, the flower blight fungus is the only one known to be a threat to camellias. The damage connected to infection by the others is restricted to the unsightliness given the flowers so affected.

PUBLICITY IDEA: The Men's Camellia Club of Shreveport, Louisiana, may be working an old angle in a new way. Each Sunday the Shreveport Times carries a feature article in the Garden Section, called "As The Men See It," written by a different member of the society. The by-line of a home-town name and the written material having a variety of styles add interest. The information given by a local expert is well adapted to local conditions and should be of much value.

FALL CAMELLIA SHOWS

Reports have been received of two most successful Fall Camellia Shows. One was staged at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on November 9, sponsored by the Hattiesburg Camellia Society. Another was held at Columbia, South Carolina, November 25, under the auspices of the South Carolina Camellia Society.

The Hattiesburg show was the third annual event. More than 400 visitors registered and many others attended who did not register. The guest list included friends from all parts of Mississippi as well as from Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Tennessee. There were 45 exhibitors displaying more than 50 varieties of *C. japonica* and 20 varieties of *C. Sasanqua*. Best flower in show was awarded to Mrs. B. O. Blackwelder, Hattiesburg, for a huge specimen of *Debutante*. Other features included exhibits from the gardens of S. J. Katz, Covington, La., and Gov. Richard Leche, Lacombe, La. An evening entertainment of color slides from Overlook Nurseries, Mobile, Alabama, was also a feature.

In Columbia, South Carolina, the show attracted thousands of visitors from many nearby states as well as other guests from as far away as Canada.

Some 1800 blooms were exhibited representing 120 different varieties. This show was an outstanding success and indicates the keen interest of our South Carolina friends. It also shows that much thought and labor was involved in preparation.

These shows have particular significance and importance this season, because they may well be the only camellia exhibits in these areas during the winter of 1950-51.

For a long time, we have not recognized the value of fall shows. We have many varieties available for

early display and we are neglecting a wonderful opportunity to show these fine blooms. Fall shows will also supply an outlet for that enthusiasm that begins to develop with the first cool weather.

The cities of Hattiesburg and Columbia are to be commended and congratulated in being the pioneers in a custom that we hope will become general.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

The program of the Annual Meeting has necessarily been changed somewhat due to the early freeze and consequent loss of camellia blooms. The Camellia Show had been scheduled for Saturday afternoon, Feb. 10, and all of Feb. 11 had been booked for garden tours. The revised program places garden tours on Saturday afternoon as well as on Sunday for those who can extend the visit for another day.

Of course, much of the pleasure and profit of the annual meeting is the opportunity it affords for a mass exchange of ideas and conversation on that one and only subject — camellias. That feature will not be lacking, for a freeze cannot cool our enthusiasm. A brief outline of the program is as follows:

Friday, Feb. 9th, 5:00 P.M. in the Habersham Room at the DeSoto Hotel—Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Saturday, Feb. 10th, 9:00 A.M., Grand ballroom at the DeSoto Hotel—The annual meeting, continuing until 1:30 P.M. (Includes Panel Discussion on Camellia questions) Saturday afternoon—Tour of Savannah gardens.

Saturday night—8:00 P.M. in the grand ballroom at the DeSoto Hotel — Annual dinner. (Informal dress). (Includes a showing of the Williams Kodachromes and dinner speaker.)

"Raising Camellias As A Hobby"

D. TROBRIDGE ELLIMAN

When I started raising camellias twenty years ago here in Charleston on a very small scale little did I dream that by 1951 more than 10,000 people would show enough interest in camellias to attend a local Camellia Show. Back in 1931 only a few Charleston residents and garden club members seemed to share my interest and enthusiasm for this fascinating and all absorbing hobby. Naturally the famous Charleston Gardens, most nurserymen, a small group of plantation owners and a few members of Yeamans Hall Club, notably Miss Ethel Spears and Mrs. E. F. Wilcox, also raised a limited number of camellias for pleasure or profit as the case might be but not on the scale or with the skill, knowledge and understanding with which they are raising them today.

It has been said that "Women have babies and men have camellias." Once a man becomes exposed to the disease "camelliaitis" his wife might well keep a close check on the purse strings or she is likely to wake up one morning and find that he has mortgaged the house to purchase some rare variety that he just **must** have even if she must continue to wear last year's hat, dress or coat.

Local men's camellia clubs are springing up everywhere like mushrooms as businessmen vie with each other to propagate bigger, better and fancier camellias, and particularly **new** varieties from seed that they can boast about and swap cuttings with each other or their friends.

A certain plantation owner (now deceased) admittedly invested over \$100,000.00 in camellias over a period of ten years. I might add he attended every camellia show with-

in a 200 mile radius of his plantation and carried off most of the blue ribbons, particularly for those raised under glass. Another plantation owner (local) is said to have spent more than half as much as he paid for his entire plantation on camellias. These of course are exceptions as raising camellias need not be an expensive hobby unless one goes completely "overboard" — and one easily can! Locally, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, many filling station operators, a number of plumbers, lawyers, realtors, engineers, doctors, clergymen and insurance men, not to mention a prominent Broad Street cafeteria owner and a host of others are among those who raise camellias, belong to the national or state Camellia Societies or men's camellia clubs and are proud of it.

Truly 1950 has seen the camellia come into its own in South Carolina, particularly in Charleston where the camellias, first introduced from the orient over 200 years ago, are admirably adapted to our soil and climate. Interest is growing by leaps and bounds to the point where nearly every city or country house has at least a few specimen plants which they treasure, and many of the nurseries are sold out of camellia plants by February 1st.

Anyone with a little "know-how," a "green thumb," luck and an assist from Mother Nature and the weather can propagate or graft camellias in their own back yards from cuttings from one's neighbors and friends. Most anyone can quickly learn to graft rare scions on inferior understock—even small children can become adept at it. There is no magic to it, no greenhouses or cold frames necessary except for

professionals; just adequate shade, coarse clean builders sand, perseverance and frequent watering. I ought to know as I have just recently potted off 1200 well rooted cuttings, set out in my own back yard this summer in the open as an experiment and each year for the past 15 years have successfully grafted several dozen bushes many of which are now large bushes. But, like Frank Griffin, able and dynamic Secretary of our South Carolina Camellia Society, I don't claim to know anything about horticulture

or botany. In fact I freely admit it's mostly luck, possibly combined with a "green thumb." To paraphrase Frank from a recent article he wrote for the November Southern California Camellia Society's "Review"; "Successfully growing camellias as a hobby results from personal experience mixed with good soil and plain ordinary common sense. Use care, prayer, wear and tear and good blooms will result in spite of all the "hodge podge" of scientific "do's and don'ts."

Camellia Reticulata—Large Cornelian

ROY T. THOMPSON

The first of the new reticulatas to bloom at Rancho del Descanso this season was the Large Cornelian which bloomed Dec. 7th. This was a variegated flower, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and $27\frac{3}{8}$ inches high. Since this was the first bloom on a none too vigorous plant, it was obviously not up to size. It was a rather tight semi-double or incomplete double in form, with large fluted and wavy petals built up to a high center, but open enough to reveal a cluster of heavy dark golden stamens. Its color was one of its most striking features; the red was a distinct blue-red, not an orange-red and very vivid, while the white areas were likewise vividly white, tending to be translucent. The high center was composed of large wavy white petals, not petaloids, delicately tinted with blush orchid pink; other petals were splotted red and white. But this does not describe the aesthetic effect of the flower, for, to a person used to japonicas, it had a strangeness and delicacy which at once set it off as something new and different in the camellia world. Those who saw it agreed that it was the outstanding camellia bloom of their

experience, but especially significant was the unqualified statement of Mr. Frank Williams that it was the most beautiful camellia bloom that he had ever seen.

The foliage of this plant is particularly beautiful — it has a shiny, dark green, heavy leaf which looks at first like that of a Daikagura, but it is much more highly serrated and more heavily veined.

ROY J. WILMOT MEMORIAL GARDEN

Members of the Men's Garden Club of Gainesville, Florida, have adopted the project of creating a Camellia Garden in memory of Mr. Roy J. Wilmot. Roy was an enthusiastic member of the club and one of the founders. This worthy project is a fitting tribute to a man who was an inspiration to every member.

The club has obtained an agreement from the city to dedicate an area of seven blocks in a beautiful parkway of some 300 ft. in width that separates two curving drives in a fine residential section. A small stream winds through the parkway and a number of stately trees pro-

vide proper shade conditions. The city has also agreed to supervise the culture and care of the garden.

Every member of the Gainesville Club will donate one or more plants to the garden. The Federated Garden Clubs of the city will also cooperate fully.

It is believed that many friends of Mr. Wilmot, who live all over "Camellialand," will want to participate in this project by making a gift of one or more plants. Anyone who wishes to make a gift should write to Mr. S. McK. Mixson, P. O. Box 58, Gainesville, Florida.

The committee requests that no one ship a plant until after correspondence with the Chairman as it is necessary to make arrangements for selected dates. In some instances, the number of plants in one part of a state may warrant sending a truck or trailer instead of shipment by common carrier.

NEW CLUBS

One of the new and enthusiastic organizations is the North Georgia Camellia Society, Atlanta, Ga., organized as an affiliate December 4, by more than fifty members of the American Camellia Society in that area. There are more than 300 ACS members from which the club expects to draw their local membership.

The club has adopted its program of activities which includes the promotion of a Fall Camellia Show, a test garden and other worthy items. The objectives are to expand the membership in the ACS in North Georgia to its full limit, to promote interest among members and provide a means of interchange of ideas and experiences.

Officers include W. D. Doak, President; J. W. Born, Vice-President; Frank A. Smith, Treasurer, and Rob-

ert J. Broun, Nisky Lake, Ben Hill, Georgia, Secretary.

Dallas, Texas, has also recently organized a Camellia Club with some sixty members. W. P. Fulton, who is one of the leaders in the organization group recently visited the offices of the ACS. He pledged full support from the Dallas Club with a large majority of the local members being also members of the ACS.

The Officers and Directors of the ACS wish these new organizations and any others the very fullest success. It is known, of course, that the society will be glad to cooperate with them in every way and give them every assistance within our province.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Sam P. Harn

Ben Arthur Davis, Garden Editor, Holland's Magazine has published a new book "AZALEAS, CAMELIAS, GARDENIAS." His former book "AZALEAS AND CAMELIAS IN THE GARDEN" which enjoyed deserved popularity has been revised and rewritten in this newer publication. A new section of one chapter has been added to cover the Gardenia, its culture and propagation.

The book is interesting and accurate. A separate section is devoted to each plant. Subjects concisely discussed cover history, hardiness, varieties, planting, propagation, culture, insects and diseases. It supplies the necessary information to those who may wish for a good, compact book on these three fine species of flowering evergreens. Published by Hope Haven Gardens, Meridian, Miss. Illustrated, two color plates. Price \$2.50.

Albert Fendig and Robert Park

Erdman have issued the Second Edition of the "AMERICAN CAMELLIA CATALOG" with 24 illustrations, lithographed from original paintings by the famous artist Athos Menaboni. This new book does not supplant the first edition (1949), but is a supplement thereto with more editions contemplated each year covering additional varieties of **Camellia japonica**, **Camellia Sasanqua** and other species. The book is loose leaf with a full page devoted to a variety of an accepted name; synonyms and related varieties are treated in cases where they logically occur.

The index includes varieties found mentioned in both editions and lists more than 1640 which, of course, includes synonyms. The second edition has 125 new pages of varieties in addition to illustrations and index. The authors have devoted much study and work to varietal nomenclature and have produced a volume which is a valuable contribution to this subject. They have consulted with many others who have made a study of camellia history and nomenclature and the result is an authoritative reference work. Some may disagree in a few instances, but this is inevitable in such a venture in a confused field. This, however, should in no way be considered a detraction.

This reviewer lays no claim to a knowledge of art and is not a qualified critic. Menaboni is a recognized artist of great ability. In the volume under consideration the paintings are truer to life than in Volume I. It seems, however, that the pale pinks and blush tints could be more faithfully reproduced. Published by American Camellia Catalog, Box 507, Route 2, Wilmington Island, Savannah, Ga. Price \$17.50.

The Camellia Research Committee of the Southern California Ca-

mellia Society has issued an excellent new publication entitled "CAMELLIA RESEARCH." W. E. Lammerms is Chairman and Clifton W. Johnson is the Editor.

The book contains 17 articles by ten different authors. As the name implies, this work deals with research on various phases of camellia culture. Among the subjects treated are articles on embryo culture, seed culture, varietal rooting, nutrition, soil conditions, factors affecting plant flowering, hybridization, disease and pest problems.

The volume is of special value to those who are working on camellia research problems and has much interest to others who want to learn all they can about the camellia. This is a publication of the Southern California Society, 40 N. San Rafael Ave., Pasadena, California. Price \$1.25.

A fine report of the Camellia and Magnolia Conference held in London, April 4 and 5, 1950, is now available. The book, "CAMELLIAS AND MAGNOLIAS," contains all of the important papers presented at this meeting. There is an interesting article on varieties of *reticulata* by T. T. Yu. Good articles include reports of camellias in England and other lands, a story of the garden tours, propagation, literature, and other subjects dealing with both camellias and magnolias. Well illustrated with 55 plates, seven of which are in color. 128 pages. Published by Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, S. W. 1., London, England. Price \$3.00.

The University of California, Agricultural Extension Service, has in the past year published Circular 164, "CAMELLIA CULTURE IN CALIFORNIA." This publication is the work of their Agriculturist, H. M.

Butterfield. The culture, propagation, diseases and pests, and flower classification of camellias are given excellent though necessarily brief treatment. Particular emphasis is placed on varieties and a very helpful descriptive list of the more popular ones is included. Well illustrated

in black and white.

This publication is available free of charge to residents of California. Out-of-state interested parties may inquire as to the possibilities of obtaining this through the above address at Berkeley, California.

The Louisiana State University, Agricultural Experiment Station, has recently published a revised edition (No. 391) of their earlier bulletin,

"CAMELLIAS FOR THE YARD."

This expanded publication gives excellent treatment to the various aspects of camellia gardening—culture, propagation, diseases and pests and their control; descriptions are given to 50 of the leading camellia varieties with more complete information included on some. Well illustrated in black and white with the front cover illustrated in color.

This publication is available under the same terms as the above and correspondence should be directed to Baton Rouge, La.

1950 YEAR BOOKS

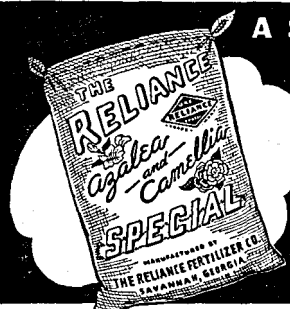
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