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CAMELLIA JAPONICA, DONCKELARI

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THE NORFOLK CONVENTION

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society is now history and it will be remembered as an historical event by those who were fortunate enough to attend. Speaking as a professional and chronic conventioneer, this was one of the finest and most enjoyable occasions ever experienced. Many of the faithful began to arrive on Thursday, March 20—one day ahead of the official opening date. They were well rewarded. The spacious lobbies of the Cavalier were abuzz with good camellia conversation. Friendships both new and old were being cemented.

The cocktail hour, at which these early arrivals were guests of the Virginia Camellia Society, was most enjoyable. It provided the first sample of Virginia hospitality which was so evident in the days to follow. Mr. Henry McR. Pinner, President of the Virginia Camellia Society, and Mrs. Pinner welcomed the guests. A more formal welcome was extended at the dinner which followed. Here President Solomon made a fitting response in which he voiced appreciation for all the visitors.

If the convention had any one outstanding feature, it might well be the carefully planned tours that had been arranged. Friday morning the first tour began promptly at ten. The first objective was the famous Norfolk Municipal Gardens that feature some of the most extensive plantings of camellias and azaleas in the nation. This 100-acre park would more than satisfy anyone's expectations. After a stroll along lakeshore paths bordered with camellias and azaleas, we were led to the varietal camellia planting which features some 500 varieties. This was the peak season for blooms and practically every plant put on an individual show. Guests were permitted, even urged, to "take your time," leave the paths, study the well-labeled specimens and, believe it or not, no one was searched for sharp knives. To the contrary, one was told to use the open blade and select the bloom of his choice to wear. If a scion was incidentally attached, that seemed to make no difference on this one special occasion.

A short walk brought the group to the beautiful municipal airport building for a delightful luncheon featuring the famous Virginia ham and other delicacies known only to the epicure. After a brief rest in the spacious airport lobby the party took to the road again.

The feature of the afternoon tour was the visit to Seabreeze Farm in Princess Anne County, owned by the Misses Hill. These charming ladies have one of the outstanding gardens in Virginia. Large camellias are featured, of course, but the extensive planting also includes very fine collections of many other species, notably hollies, magnolias, unusual broad-leaved evergreens and flowering shrubs. A reception and tea afforded the guests an opportunity to enjoy their home which is filled with lovely antique furniture and objects d'art. Camellias from Seabreeze are consistent winners of awards in flower shows in New York, Philadelphia and other cities.

The Friday evening session was held in the convention room of the Cavalier. Dr. H. Harold Hume presided at the annual forum for questions and answers. He was ably supported by a panel of experts. Following this, Mr. K. Sawada spoke on "My Wishes for 1952." This beloved friend of many years again spoke words of good advice in his distinctive and delightful manner.

The feature of the evening was the talk by Major Peter W. Barber, Agent to the Rothschild Gardens, Exbury Estate, Southampton, England. Excellent color slides were shown of the extensive gardens, as well as of a number of the rare and beautiful plant materials which have been developed at Exbury. Major Barber should not be dismissed with such a brief report of this one appearance on the program. This charming gentleman was in reality another convention highlight. If any visitor failed to enjoy some conversation with him, it is his loss and his fault. Major Barber attended



THREE WELL-KNOWN PERSONALITIES CAUGHT IN A JOVIAL MOMENT AT THE RECENT CONVENTION. FREDERIC HEUTTE (CENTER), DIRECTOR FROM VIRGINIA AND CONVENTION CHAIRMAN, TALKS WITH K. SAWADA (LEFT), NURSERYMAN, MOBILE, ALABAMA, AND MAJOR PETER W. BARBER (RIGHT), AGENT OF EXBURY ESTATE, SUSSEX, ENGLAND. THEY ARE STANDING OUTSIDE THE AZALEA ROOM AT THE CAVALIER HOTEL, VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA. MR. SAWADA AND MAJOR BARBER WERE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS AT THE ANNUAL FORUM WHICH WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN WHEN THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN.

and enjoyed the entire convention. His friendliness and ease of approach with strangers was quite notable.

Saturday was "Norfolk Day" and another great tour. Again, promptly at 10 A. M., began another trip of sightseeing. First came the rare privilege of seeing the largest Navy Yard in the world. Special Public Relations Officers of the Navy were provided to explain the features of this great establishment. You may be interested to learn that two camellia plants growing in a street parkway near the USS Leyte caused some people to give only a cursory glance at the mighty airplane carrier. Ah me, maybe they are satisfied. They will see other camellias but they will not see another Leyte. Too bad!

The Norfolk Yacht and Country Club provided a welcome period for rest, stimulating refreshment and a delicious noonday meal.

The afternoon tour included visits through the residential sections of Norfolk where large and beautiful camellias are growing and blooming in almost every garden. A visit to the Alan Hofheimer collection was another enjoyable occasion. Another outstanding garden is at the home of A. J. (Preacher) Parsons, and Brother Parsons, by the way, is not a preacher. The conversation piece of this tour was the beautiful local variety Mrs. Lyman Clarke, or simply Mrs. Clarke (and with or without the "e"). Another item of interest was the variety Mary Bell Glennan, a local strain of Gigantea of unusual beauty.

All things must come to a close, even a fine convention or a report thereof. Saturday evening marked the final cocktail hour and the annual banquet in the Panorama Room of the Cavalier. By then we were all old friends and the true spirit of fellowship prevailed on this occasion. President Solomon introduced the new officers which officially began the new year for the Society. The banquet speaker was Mr. Thomas R. Henry, author of the best seller "The White Continent," who accompanied Admiral Byrd to the Antarctic in 1946-47. He said there were no camellias down there and told us of many other things that were not quite so obvious but no less interesting and informative.

And that was the Seventh Annual Convention. A few comments must be added, even at the peril of tiring you with detail. The success of this meeting can be attributed in great measure to the work and planning of Frederic Heutte, State Director of Virginia, and to the loyal assistance of his many friends in Norfolk and Virginia. These people have had long practice in being gracious hosts and they justly deserve our sincere appreciation. Another factor, the result of good planning, was the abundance of excellent tours and visits throughout all of the convention area. Large and comfortable busses were provided through the registration fee. There was never a time that a private car was needed. Bus rides are well known to promote informal comradeship. This is something that a good convention needs and often fails to achieve. Our hosts of 1952 have set a mark for future conventions that will be very hard to surpass.

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

First, we present your new President, Calder W. Seibels, of Columbia, South Carolina. President Seibels is no stranger to camellia people anywhere. He is a collector of note, a friend of thousands who know him personally, a potential friend to all who will meet him in the future. He has a deep and abiding interest in camellias and the American Camellia Society.

Mr. Seibels was Vice-President from the Atlantic Coast States in 1951. He became President of the South Carolina Camellia Society in January, 1952. His message of acceptance is an inspiration to us all. We quote: "It is with a deep sense of honor and



HERE IS AN EXCELLENT INFORMAL PICTURE OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT, CALDER W. SEIBELS, AND HIS CHARMING WIFE, MARY. TOGETHER, THEY ARE A GRAND CAMELLIA TEAM, SHARING EQUALLY THEIR INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM. THE BEAUTIFUL LARGE CAMELLIA WHICH THEY ARE ADMIRING IS A DONCKELARIJ GROWING AT THEIR HOME. THE BREED OR "VARIETY" OF CANINE SHOWN IS PROBABLY ALSO VERY FINE, BUT NO EXPERT ON NOMENCLATURE IS AVAILABLE FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION.

responsibility that I accept the Presidency of the American Camellia Society. I fully realize that no one can follow in the steps of Judge Solomon and accomplish the outstanding achievements of his administration. Fortunately, he has promised to be my good right arm and together I hope that we can make this year one of very real progress for the Society." Let us salute President Seibels and pledge our full support and cooperation.

The Board next honored Judge Solomon by electing him a President Emeritus. He was also appointed Chairman of the Committee on Research and Test Areas. This assignment ensures his continuance of outstanding work in the field to which he is devoted and for which he has accomplished such excellent results.

The Vice-President from the Atlantic Coast States is Edgar Fletcher, of Cordele, Georgia. Vice-President from the Gulf Coast States is Hoyt Lee, of Mobile, Alabama. And Vice-President from the Pacific Coast States is Paul Doty, of Portland, Oregon. All three of these gentlemen have served ably on the Board of Directors. They are all well known and well liked by the camellia world.

Directors-at-Large for Unit II are Sigmund J. Katz, of Covington, Louisiana, and Dr. W. M. Wells, of Piedmont, California. State Directors elected this year are: Jerry Olrich, Sacramento, California; T. K. McKnight, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Morrie L. Sharp, Portland, Oregon, and Frederic Heutte, Norfolk, Virginia. The Board elected William T. Wood, Macon, Georgia, to serve as State Director for Georgia when Director Fletcher became a Vice-President for 1952.

T. J. Smith, McRae, Georgia, was re-elected Treasurer and Sam P. Harn was renamed as Secretary.

The full roster of Officers and Directors may be found on the inside cover page. Other State Directors and Directors-at-Large have been previously elected for terms that expire in other years.

SUPPORT YOUR PUBLICATIONS

The enviable position achieved by the American Camellia Society since it was organized several years ago is a matter of pride and gratification to the members of the Society. One of the most significant contributing factors has been the quality attained by your publications—the number and nature of the articles presented in the quarterlies and the yearbooks.

These articles are wide in their scope: some furnish authoritative information pertaining to the camellia in all of its phases—history, botany, nomenclature, varieties, general culture, propagation, pests and diseases, etc.; others contain information presented by experienced growers which is of considerable value to the reader, be he a seasoned collector or a mere novice; a few are controversial in nature and provide discussions and arguments out of which something of value may result.

It is necessary and desirable that future issues of the publications sponsored by the Society meet with the high standards set in the past. This can be accomplished only through close cooperation and collaboration between the editorial staff on one hand and the members of the Society on the other. Your Editor cannot reach into a barrel at will and pull out an amount of material sufficient to fill a publication of some 300 pages. He must look to and depend upon you, as a member of the Society, for a considerable portion of the articles used during the course of any one calendar year. These may consist of a recital of personal experiences or achievements in the field of camellia culture, or those of friends or acquaintances. Modesty is a virtue, but don't let it influence you to the degree where you are fearful that you are not qualified to

write an interesting story. Even the name and address of someone who has an interesting story to recite would be helpful to your Editor!

In the interest of economy and good management, individual editions of the Yearbook have become limited to approximately 300 pages of actual text. This arrangement provides for between fifty-five and sixty articles containing, more or less, around 2,500 words. Articles of this length are most adaptable to the layout and arrangement of the Yearbook.

In addition to material necessary for each Yearbook, many items of interest are worthy of note in issues of the Quarterly. This all adds up to a sincere request to each member to keep in mind the ACS publications. This is your Society, your Yearbook and your Quarterly. Together we can make them just what you want them to be. Support your publications.

REQUIRED READING FOR DELINQUENT MEMBERS ONLY

We really should not consume such valuable space to address only 20 percent of the membership, but it will save us some stamps and stationery. The fact is that you have not yet renewed your 1952 membership in the ACS. We believe that a lot of you have just forgotten about it or put the little job off. That is why this second quarterly of 1952 is being mailed with one thing added. We refer to the little renewal blank attached to page 1. Use it.

Very soon we must place the order for the color plates for two more quarterlies. We would like to count you in on this. Not long thereafter, we will order very close to the exact number of yearbooks we will need for 1952 members. We are not going to order a thousand extra copies. We have had to quit being a book store more than a year ago. The 1951 books are gone already and the 1952 books will be in the libraries of the 1952 members and very few others. We do really hope that you wish to continue your membership. Thank you for your prompt attention.

ARTHUR C. BROWN, OUR NEW EDITOR

The Board of Directors, at its recent meeting in Norfolk, confirmed the appointment of Arthur C. Brown, Gainesville, Florida, as Editor of American Camellia Society publications, beginning May 1.

Mr. Brown has been State Plant Commissioner of Florida for the past ten years, and has been associated with the State Plant Board since 1915. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri, with his major studies in agriculture. He has had wide experience in administration and writing. An article contributed by him appeared in the 1951 American Camellia Yearbook.

Mr. Austin Griffiths, Jr., will continue with the Society in an advisory capacity as Associate Editor. He has been closely identified with the production of the last three great yearbooks and other Society publications. The 1951 Yearbook was published under his editorship. Mr. Griffiths' research staff position with the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and other heavy commitments have made it impossible for him to continue devoting the necessary time required as Editor. It is fortunate that his advisory services will be available to the Society in the future.

Members of the Society can rest assured that the 1952 Yearbook, now in preparation, and future volumes will maintain the high standard of interest and authenticity which has been established in former editions.

PROPAGATION BY CUTTAGE

ONIS D. ("BILL") HYATT, Nursery Manager
Orton Plantation, Winnabow, North Carolina

(Reprint of article appearing in 1947 Yearbook)

The propagation of *Camellia japonica* by cuttage is a method employed by many home owners and camellia collectors. Probably no two of these propagators agree in every detail as to the correct or best time to make cuttings, the best media in which to place them, etc. Since practically all of these home propagators have some degree of success in their work, it is obvious that there is no one ideal way to root camellia cuttings.

The home propagator does not have—and does not need—an elaborate propagating bench and equipment. The most practical equipment for this work consists of a box large enough in area to hold the cuttings to be made during the season. The box should be at least six inches deep, with a sufficient number of holes in the bottom to insure adequate drainage. In a partially shaded area, the box should be set upon bricks or pots or some other structure to hold it off the ground to insure perfect drainage. If the box is raised three or four feet above ground, it will make the insertion of the cuttings much easier for the operator. The bottom of the propagating box is then covered with one to two inches of gravel or cinders. The cutting medium is placed on top of this layer of coarse material. If sand is used, it should be firmly tamped and watered before the cuttings are inserted. If some of the vermiculite-containing mixtures are used, they should be gently smoothed down and watered. The different media and their properties will be discussed briefly below.

The cover for the box can be any one of several materials, the one which probably does best being a piece of glass with a light coat of whitewash. However, for June, July and August cuttings, a double layer of cheesecloth serves the purpose very well in most areas.

The medium that has been used for the majority of cuttings has been sand. Its virtues have been repeated so many times that they will not be discussed here. Every precaution should be taken to insure that it is clean, coarse and uncontaminated with fungous diseases. Sand should not be used more than once unless facilities are available and are used to sterilize it. Otherwise there is great danger of loss from damping-off, a serious cutting-bench disease caused by a fungus, *Rhizoctonia*. Cuttings attacked by *rhizoctonia* show darkened leaves that fall away when touched. The dark area of the leaf begins to show first around the lower or attached part of the leaf and spreads up the midrib and surrounding area. When this occurs, it will be found that the twig is dead.

There is little or no evidence to indicate that the time of day cuttings are made has anything to do with their rooting. The important factor involved is that they never be allowed to wilt. A wet piece of burlap or newspaper makes a good cover for them while they are being held over. At the time they are taken, they should be labeled as to variety and date. They should be put in the cutting box as soon as possible after they are cut from the parent plant.

All of the hormone-containing powders have been found to hasten the formation of callus tissue and subsequent root development. They are sold under such various trade names as Hormodin, Rootone, etc. If the former is used, Hormodin No. 3 is recommended. If the basal end of the cutting is dipped in water before dipping it in the powder, it will be found that more powder will adhere to the cut and surrounding surface. Tap the cutting lightly against the side of the container to remove excess powder, and place at an angle in the cutting box. Place the cuttings at such an angle as to have the lower leaf surface parallel with the top of the medium. This helps reduce transpiration or water loss. A small round instrument can be used to make the

hole in which the cutting is placed. If the medium used is wet sand, a trench can be cut with a knife. After a row of cuttings has been inserted, the medium should be gently pressed around them and another row begun. Finally, water the cuttings thoroughly and place the cover over them. During the first six to ten days they should be syringed at least twice daily, or as often as is necessary to keep them turgid.

Many home propagators have had excellent results from cuttings placed in the soil in a shaded area and covered with an inverted fruit jar. If only a half dozen or so cuttings are to be made at one time, this method will probably be the most practical. Cuttings handled in this manner require the minimum of attention and can be left in place for a longer period than those rooted in sand.

Other media that have been used successfully are vermiculite, half peat and half sand, half peat and half vermiculite, and other proportions of the same ingredients. Some advantages of peat-containing mixtures are that (1) they hold moisture better than sand, (2) possibly promote more root growth than does plain sand, (3) give an acid reaction, which is important for *C. japonica*. Some advantages of vermiculite and vermiculite-containing mixtures are that (1) they have a high moisture-retaining capacity, (2) are sterile, (3) are loose and the air in the medium possibly causes faster, stronger root development. If vermiculite is used, it should be remembered that the structure of the material is such that it cannot be packed down without destroying the properties which make it a valuable rooting medium; i.e., its great porosity and water-holding capacity.

Cuttings of *C. japonica* made at any time of the year will strike roots. This is a broad statement, but experience has proved it to be true. The highest percentage of "take" can be had from cuttings taken in July, August and September from the current season's growth. Year-old wood will not root satisfactorily. If bottom heat of 75 degrees F. is available, cuttings taken in November and December respond very well. Lead-covered heating cables to furnish bottom heat can be had at very reasonable prices. The cuttings should be five to six inches in length and should have the top three or four leaves left on. Take cuttings from parent plants that are free from scale and diseases. The best results have been obtained from cuttings whose leaves were not clipped or "bobbed" partially. This practice has become obsolete.

The cuttings will begin to callus within six to ten days, and from that time on will require slightly less shade and syringing. The varieties that root fastest will have formed roots and will be ready to pot off in from six to eight weeks. During this period in the cutting box a daily check should be made for dead leaves and stems. These should be removed *at once*, to promote general sanitation.

A close watch should be kept for any fungous growth that may appear. These organisms spread very quickly; therefore, if any cuttings are attacked by them, the cuttings should be removed immediately, and the box and medium drenched with 0.25% solution of Spergon (two-thirds ounce to one gallon of water) or some other good fungicide.

Cuttings, once rooted, can be potted into 4- to 5-inch clay pots or metal containers. The potting soil having been prepared previously and in readiness, the potting procedure can be done simply and quickly. The most widely accepted potting mixture consists of one part peat, one part loam soil, one part well-rotted manure plus a heaping handful of a mixed mineral fertilizer per wheelbarrow of mixture. One of the garden mixtures such as 4-7-5 or one of the special camellia fertilizers on the market is acceptable. If the manure is not available, well-rotted leaf mold will provide a fair substitute. Every effort should be made to get the cuttings planted as soon as possible after they have been removed from the cutting box. The rooted cuttings should be firmly set by pressing the soil around them with the thumbs. Water the plants

immediately after they are set and give them partial shade. Some protection from the wind is also essential during the first few days after planting.

If it becomes necessary to move rooted cuttings to some other locality before potting them or if they have to be kept out of the cutting medium for several hours, they should be wrapped in damp burlap or newspaper.

Not all of the cuttings will be rooted when they are removed for potting. The unrooted ones can be returned to the propagating box. Some possibly will need to be returned several times. The recommended practice for cuttings with basal ends having a large ball of callus tissue is to slash the ball with a sharp knife and re-treat with one of the root-inducing substances mentioned above.

If the cuttings fail to root after all of these treatments, it will probably be more profitable to discard them.

NOTE: The above article has been reprinted from the *American Camellia Year-book* of 1947. A great many current members do not have copies of the earlier year-books, which are no longer available except through private sales. In response to many requests, several articles dealing with fundamental phases of camellia culture will be reprinted from time to time in the *Quarterly* from these earlier editions.

CAMELLIA BLOOMS SHIPPED TO ENGLAND

In early February we had an unusual and challenging request from Mr. A. Simmonds, Deputy Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. He wanted our help in getting some camellias air-shipped to London for the RHS Camellia Show.

We Americans are supposed to take special pride in "being on the ball", "always on the up and up" and "trying a Steve Brodie at the drop of the hat." Certainly this language is not understood by our English friends and they may not understand the American characteristic we are trying to explain. At any rate, we submitted to Mr. Simmonds the names of four well-known growers on the Atlantic seaboard who might try to supply him with some flowers. He wrote to all four of them immediately. (You see, Mr. Simmonds is "on the ball" too.) At the time of this writing we know that one collector is a Steve Brodie—he took the chance. We refer to Les Marbury of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Mr. Marbury used every provision known to him to insure satisfactory arrival of the camellia flowers. He checked the air-line schedules and figured the last possible date for shipment. He packed the camellias in individual boxes. Each had a false stem wired long enough to wrap around the box and be clamped with a staple. Each box was covered with cellophane, well sealed, to hold all possible moisture. It is supposed, but not stated, that the individual boxes were then combined into a single package. The shipment left Wilmington on March 21 and should have arrived in London on Monday, March 24.

No report has come back on how the camellias stood the trans-Atlantic journey. We certainly hope that they arrived in good condition and that they will stimulate interest and add another bond of friendship. There may be more to this story at a later date; it seems to us to have some fine possibilities.

And, finally, to the members who have grown up after the Brooklyn Bridge was one of the world's marvels we must tell you that Steve Brodie was the man who "took a chance" and jumped off the new bridge. We are too young to remember whether or not he lived to write a sequel. We know he was not wired in a box to avoid bruises.

CAMELLIAS IN GREECE

ANGEL D. AGALLOTIS, Athens, Greece

Camellia plants and flowers are highly appreciated in Greece. Unfortunately, in spite of the strenuous efforts made by Greek flower growers ever since camellias were first introduced to this country, these plants have not prospered. The climate of Greece is generally unfavorable for successful camellia culture. However, the northern regions of this country are an exception. In northern Greece the cooler temperatures and less calcareous soils provide a much better hospitality for camellias. Indeed, we are able to obtain vigorous plants and marvelous flowers from camellias growing in this region. We must be thankful, for much of this success, to the aid offered by the chestnut trees that grow there.

The soil taken from near the roots of these chestnut trees, when mixed up with thin river-sand, makes a special mixture of excellent quality for planting camellias in pots. By such a way, we obtain vigorous plants with dark green leaves and beautiful flowers.

Because of the high temperatures, extreme dryness and unfavorable soil, it is impossible to grow camellias satisfactorily in the region around Athens unless they are planted in pots and well tended. In Patras, Volo, Calchis, Hydra and other more northern locations, however, camellias planted in the ground will yield fine results and develop to large size.

Camellias are native to eastern Asia and Japan, as is well known. Hardy Greek navigators, originating from the island of Hydra, as the story says, sailed as far as Japan in the year 1810. Upon returning to Greece, they brought with them the beautiful camellia plant.

Since then, numerous varieties of camellia have been introduced into this country. But, though steady efforts have been made for improving their cultivation, the results have never been satisfactory. The climate has not favored them. At this time, most of these early introductions have become degenerated and lost. There are only some of them remaining which continue to be cultivated nowadays successfully in northern Greece.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Agalotis has also furnished a list of the camellia varieties introduced into Greece up to the present time. This list is not included in his report as the fifty-three varieties, and three additional species, are obviously all of French origin. No new varietal names appear in his list. It is apparent, however, that at least a few new varieties have been developed in Greece. Mr. Agalotis has published a small booklet, with text in Greek, on "Gardenias—Camellias—Hydrangeas—Begonias." In this publication his general discussion of camellias includes an illustration and notation of a large, single-flowered seedling originated by a grower in Kaballa.

CAMELLIAS IN THE OLD COUNTRY

One of the membership renewal envelopes returned earlier this year included a card with a brief but very interesting notation. This note was from Richard Lohrmann, proprietor of the West End Nursery in San Rafael, California. He informed us that as a result of our publishing the article by Alexander Steffen in the 1951 Yearbook, "Camellias in Germany," we might be interested in the fact that he at one time worked for one of the old German nursery firms mentioned therein. Our reply and invitation to comment on his camellia experiences in Germany was answered by a letter which is quoted below. Along with this letter he enclosed a most valuable and helpful old German catalogue listing many camellia varieties. We are very grateful for the receipt of this catalogue, and it is hoped that other members possessing such literature also

will provide us with the opportunity to extract the information therein for our nomenclature records.

Mr. Lohrmann's letter follows:

"I am mailing you today an old catalogue of the firm Emil Liebig, Dresden-Blasewitz, 1887-88. The firm listed nearly 200 varieties of camellias, besides azaleas and rhododendrons.

"I was working for this firm in the Fall-Winter of 1888-89. Of course my memory about how camellias were grown there are, after sixty years, a little bit vague. I remember just a few points; for instance there was a large, white sand pit back in the nursery. This sand would be mixed with about one-fifth finely screened peat, five to six times turned over, so as to be well mixed before it was wheeled into the propagating house. The cuttings had to be made very exact, one millimeter at the correct slant below the bud; no leaves were cut. Each cutting was so inserted that each leaf got its full share of light.

"The foreman in charge of propagating saw to it that each cutting was made and cut correctly.

"The buildings under which the camellias and rhododendrons were grown in leaf mold and peat were called 'Japans.' They were large structures, covered with heavy boards which were removable, usually every second one, to give the plants the necessary light and air. In winter they were covered over with sawdust, which could be removed when the weather permitted. The houses were steam heated, but kept just above freezing except, of course, the propagating houses which were kept at a higher temperature.

"In the late summer and fall the camellias were kept rather dry to cause them to set buds before they got into their final pots for shipping.

"Chandleri Elegans and Alba Plena were the two varieties mostly in demand.

"It may interest you to hear that all the watering of this large establishment was done with watering cans carried by hand from the tanks at each end of a greenhouse. No rubber hose was in use at that time in any nursery; but labor was cheap, 40 marks (\$10) with room and breakfast per month.

"The firm Seidel was the elite firm in Dresden at the time; very seldom or never a job open there"

YEARBOOKS AND QUARTERLY BINDERS

Many people who have been members for only a year or two may not realize that the Society can help them improve their camellia libraries. The yearbooks of 1948, 1949 and 1950 may be purchased by them at \$3.00 each. These earlier editions contain valuable information on all phases of camellia interest. All three volumes are important library items for anyone interested in camellias. Naturally, when the present supply is disposed of, there will be no more copies available except through private transactions. The 1946 and 1947 yearbooks are now collectors' items which bring at least twice the original cost when they can be found for sale at all. The same will, no doubt, hold true for the other books in later years.

There are also available from the Secretary's office binders for filing the American Camellia Quarterly. Each binder will hold twenty issues. The price is \$1.50.

Yearbooks are often ordered by thoughtful members as gifts to camellia friends. They are appropriate presents for birthdays and Christmas or for a remembrance after a pleasant visit when camellias may have been one bond of mutual interest. You cannot go wrong in sending an ACS Yearbook remembrance to a camellia friend or acquaintance.

SNOWBOUND CAMELLIAS

Mr. A. E. Morrison, Sacramento, California, writes an interesting footnote to one of the headline stories of the past winter. You will recall that the streamlined train, "City of San Francisco," was trapped by deep snow in the High Sierras for several days. When the passengers were finally rescued they were removed to Nyack Lodge before being transferred to the relief train. This is the lodge that was mentioned by Mr. Morrison in his article in the 1951 Yearbook and which had camellias growing in containers on an exposed porch.

Most likely, the passengers were not giving a great deal of thought to plants as they entered Nyack Lodge; but had they done so, it would have been camellias in bloom that they would have seen. Mr. Morrison says he has not visited the lodge since this occurrence, but he has no doubt the camellias have bloomed normally this year.

AND MORE SNOWBOUND CAMELLIAS

Mr. Willis J. Prophet, 55 Meadow Road, Buffalo, New York, is an enthusiastic member of the ACS. We might add that he is also an optimistic one. You will enjoy his letter of January 27, which we print below in full:

"Congratulations on the 1951 Yearbook! It is certainly the best one yet, and that is saying something. I have spent many pleasant moments trying to absorb the store of valuable information contained in this volume, and the data on hardiness should prove invaluable to me. I have already begun compiling all available reports in an effort to determine which camellias appear to offer the most promise of success north of the 'Camellia Belt.' At this point, Berenice Boddy seems to be emerging as about the best such prospect.

"Following the suggestions in your letter of March 9, 1951, I obtained a copy of the 1947 Yearbook from Mr. Joseph H. Pyron, and I am most grateful to you for putting Mr. Pyron in touch with me. I now consider myself most fortunate in having all yearbooks except the 1946 edition.

"Your invitation to me to write an article on camellias is most flattering; however, I hardly feel qualified as yet to do this. In view of the fact that three years ago I had never laid eyes on a camellia plant, you must admit that my knowledge and experience regarding camellias is rather limited. Nevertheless, I shall be happy to report such of my experiences as I think might be of interest to you or other camellia lovers. And, if I should ever find a hardy camellia, I will not hesitate to let you know about it (dreamer that I am).

"At the present time, I have a grand total of exactly ONE camellia outdoors. This is a plant of *Leucantha* about 12 or 15 inches in height, which I planted last spring. It has two flower buds, both of which show some browning of the bud scales but may POSSIBLY still be alive. If this plant actually manages to bloom this coming spring, the shock will undoubtedly prove fatal to me. The leaves still look O. K.

"And now to the bad news: Early this past November, while I was away attending a meeting of the Holly Society of America, a combined blizzard and cold wave, both of which were of unprecedented proportions for that time of year, struck Buffalo. Except for three or four plants, which were rescued in time, all of my camellias were caught outdoors and were so completely buried by the snow that it was impossible to do anything with them until the snow melted nearly ten days later. On November 5 and 6 the temperature fell to 12 above zero, which was the lowest temperature ever recorded so early in the season and broke all records for early November. Naturally, there was widespread loss of flower buds; but no damage to the plants themselves is apparent, except in the case of *Reticulata* which was killed back severely. The deep

snow undoubtedly prevented more severe damage to the plants but, at the same time, it prevented any attempt at rescuing them from the severe cold. Were it not for the fact that we had not even had any frost up to that time, the camellias would not have been still outdoors in the first place. I just do not relish the idea of bringing my camellias indoors until the very last minute; however, I guess I have learned my lesson now. Fortunately, it appears that there will still be considerable bloom in spite of the bud losses.

"In case you might be interested, the following are the varieties which lost all their flower buds, and there will be no bloom this year on any of these plants (many of them had only one or two buds to begin with):

Beauty of Holland	Magnoliaeflora Alba
Glen 40 Var.	Paeoniaeflora
Jenny Jones	Pride of Descanso
Kokuryo (Black Dragon)	Rev. John G. Drayton
Kumasaka	Reticulata (also killed back)
Latifolia	Shishi-gashira (one bud may be alive)
Lindsay Neill	Te Deum

"Here are the varieties which do not seem to have been harmed, and all flower buds on these give every indication of being alive, except as noted. Although there has been no bloom up to this time, buds on several of these plants have been showing color since before the freeze:

Apple Blossom	King Lear
Arejishi	La Bella
Aspasia	Lady Vansittart Red
Elegans	(one or two buds lost)
Finlandia Var.	Monjisu (one or two buds lost)
Iwane	Rosea Superba

"In addition, Liberty Bell, Monjisu Red, Mrs. Josephine M. Hearn, and a second plant of Lady Vansittart Red were brought in before the freeze, and all of these plants appear to be O. K.

"Three other varieties with flower buds were also out in the freeze, but the condition of their flower buds is still somewhat in doubt. They are:

- Betty McCaskill (one bud dropped; remaining one may be alive)
- Donckelarii
- Elizabeth Fleming (some buds definitely alive; a few may be dead)

"The only camellia which had begun to bloom outdoors was a Sasanqua, Gulf Glory (Grandiflora Alba). Although rescued from the severe cold, nearly all of the remaining buds died without opening. The Sasanqua variety Hiryo was caught out by the freeze and has since managed to produce only one good bloom, all other buds having died just as they were beginning to open.

"Other camellias which I have, have not been mentioned because they lacked flower buds this season. With the possible exception of Nagasaki, it seems doubtful that any of these plants have been injured by the cold.

"Possibly you may recall my mentioning in previous letters that I left several camellias outdoors last winter. Well, I regret to report that every one of these plants perished. All were in containers, however, and I have found that, in the case of hollies and azaleas at least, plants in containers (clay pots, that is) do not take the winters as well as the same varieties planted out in the open ground, even though the pots be sunk in the ground. All of the camellias which spent part of the winter outdoors and the rest in an unheated garage also succumbed."

DALLAS STAGES A CAMELLIA SHOW ON TELEVISION

GEORGE DUBRUL, Secretary
Dallas, Texas, Camellia Society

Last Fall, when we first started planning for our First Annual Show, I asked Mr. Martin Campbell, General Manager of Station WFAA-TV, for some time for a program to help publicize our show. He very kindly agreed to provide the necessary time and referred me to Mr. Murray Cox, "Rural Editor" of the station—plus matters agricultural.

Mr. Cox said he didn't know a camellia from a morning-glory (poor fellow)—and just what did I think could be done in the way of a program that would be interesting to his audience. I told him that our group had in mind having Mr. Vance Burks of Tyler, Texas, one of our judges, explain what judges look for when they are scrutinizing blooms; why one bloom merits a blue ribbon, why another doesn't even get honorable mention, etc., and use actual blooms while talking—one of our more photogenic members to ask the questions, etc. This, plus some camellia historical background to round out the fifteen minutes.

After the holidays were over, I saw Mr. Cox again and this time learned that we were down for thirty minutes instead of the smaller period, whereupon Vance said something to the effect that we should rest easy—he would just do a graft—and that would take care of the additional fifteen minutes. (Vance does grafts at the drop of a hat, anyhow.)

We, as you may know, had to cancel our show. We had five weeks of unseasonably warm weather, our blooms opened poorly, and dropped as fast as they opened. We had had good newspaper publicity and naturally hated to have to tell the papers that we would not have the show, but we did, and when Mr. Cox saw the cancellation in the paper he was concerned about our ability, or even desire, to fill up thirty minutes, and cut us back to fifteen minutes. I assured him that we could use the full 30-minute period and somewhat dubiously he restored this time.

The big morning arrived, Saturday, February 16, 1952, and our gang tramped down to the studio. Mr. Fulton, our President, Mrs. Kyle Du Vall, Virginia and Vance Burks, and this writer. It was my thought simply to introduce our gang to Mr. Cox and then step aside, but they wouldn't have it that way—I was in the act too. Mr. Cox opened by introducing Mr. Fulton who gave something of the background of our local Society. This writer was then brought into the picture and, led on by questions from Mr. Cox, outlined the camellia growing areas in this country. Mrs. Du Vall then gave some of the problems local camellia fanciers have in this Dallas area—black soil that packs, water that is somewhat alkaline, dry and hot summer weather with little or no humidity, and what can be done in spite of these things to have beautiful blooms in December, January and February when there is nothing else in our gardens (and we do not do too badly, generally speaking); then Vance came into the picture as Mr. Cox led the story around to propagation, seedlings, cuttings and what about grafting? Vance, of course, was ready for that with a *Sasanqua* in a can that speedily and skillfully became a graft that will, one of these days, bear some beautiful Mollie Moore Davis blooms. From the Burks' greenhouse in Tyler, and from our own local plants, there were about forty fine blooms of all kinds in front of the cameras. Mrs. Burks then came into the act by telling about these blooms, their names, some of their history and so on, and the thirty minute period was over.

The general manager of the station, his assistant and the engineers, plus the cameramen then ganged around the table that had been used and all bemoaned the fact that color television is not yet a reality. They marvelled at the blooms that we had there and the payoff was Mr. Cox's pleasure at the way the program had gone off,

the high level of interest that had been maintained—and his invitation to come back next year. Will do!

All of us enjoyed the experience. There was little in the way of rehearsal, nothing was down on paper—a few names and dates were on a blackboard not visible to the cameras, of which there were two. One of these was for close-ups, the other for what might be called “room-size” pictures—the engineers in the studio switched from one to the other as they thought best. For instance, when Vance was doing the graft, or when Mrs. Burks was holding up the different blooms, the close-up camera showed just their hands. We will be glad to arrange another program next year.

I believe that various other of our camellia societies will find that they can put on interesting programs over their own local stations.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

There is one office chore that I insist upon doing personally. That is opening the morning's mail. It is so much fun to slit open an envelope and see a check peeping out at you.

Tucked away among the renewals and new memberships there is often a letter of rare interest from some kindred spirit that likes to say something besides “Please find enclosed . . .” and “Yours truly.” This one letter makes the day worth living. Quite often it gives a clue to find some material for the Quarterly. Notable examples in this issue will be found in several places such as the stories of TV in Dallas, Snowbound, More Snowbound, and Flowers to England.

A few others have quotable passages that should be of general interest either for more camellia knowledge or just a smile.

Lee Terry Williams lives in Many, Louisiana. When Terry signs his name on a letter or check, it looks like *Jerry* until you get told better in no uncertain terms. Unfortunately Terry made the last published roster as *Jerry* and is, therefore, known to the camellia world under an alias. If you meet him, please call him *Terry*. After a few kind remarks about the Society and its publications, Jerry (excuse me—*Terry*) continues: “After the annihilation of my plants by the tornado in 1940, before there was such a thing as a camellia society, I spent eight years in virtual exile (in D. C.) from the camellia gardens. Eight years of dreaming and wishing, with only an occasional trip to the florists to indulge that aesthetic hunger. What a help it would have been to me then to have received enlightening and inspiring literature dedicated to the subject.

“Misfortune seems to be stalking my efforts with camellias. I wrote you about my experiences last year. Well, the early cold got me again, every bloom and all late growth except that taken for cuttings in late July. Most of these cuttings developed bloom buds and seemed determined to mature the blossoms. I believe I have found the cause of the trouble reported last summer. I believe it was a high salinity caused by the water supply in the city. This may be an important factor in the failure of camellias and azaleas in and around Many”

Another member writes on a postal card to ask, “Where can a pore man get some scions?” He lives in the middle of a famous camellia section, and he is evidently sincere. He was given the names of some well-known and generous collectors who do not consult Dun and Bradstreet before giving away a few scions. If they refuse this man, I am going to remind him how the “cullud” man is supposed to have chicken to eat without going to the trouble of raising them.

And this last you must like. Our friend, J. A. Deffeyes, of Caspar, Wyoming, writes “Dear You-All,” and signs off with “Japonically yours.” He claims to be the largest grower of camellias in Wyoming, and I know he must have at least two plants, for he uses the plural. He says they never throw stones at their plants, and you know

why. Any information on the subject of growing camellias will be plain meat and drink around his place, says he. Mr. Deffeyes moved to Wyoming from Texas and brought along "one poor little timid Japonica, a Lady Clare, who grew up and had offspring; and then we bought other camellia kinfolks until we have quite a family in spite of all the handicaps that Rocky Mountain frigid winters provide." His slogan is "OUR BUSINESS IS BLOOMING."

THE LIBRARY TABLE

BOOK REVIEW

A new and most welcome addition to camellia literature has recently become available—"CAMELLIAS AND COMMON SENSE," by CLAUDE CHIDAMIAN and with drawings by SHIRLEA HATCHER.

"Camellias and Common Sense" admirably fills the need for a well-presented, up-to-date, relatively complete book devoted entirely to camellias and priced to fit the pocketbook of most gardeners. While more detailed and comprehensive books on the subject are available for advanced growers, the author has presented the camellia public with a well-rounded and economical text designed primarily for the amateur. Mr. Chidamian's book should serve to widen the scope of interest and knowledge of gardeners throughout the camellia-growing areas in this country and elsewhere.

In developing his thesis on "the why behind the rules of camellia culture," the author draws a parallel between growing conditions in the natural environment of camellias and good cultural practices. This is a fresh and well-taken—the "common sense"—approach to the subject of camellia culture. The extent to which this thesis is developed, however, suggests a tendency by Mr. Chidamian to underestimate the distinction between limits of tolerance in cultural conditions and optimum cultural conditions. Contrary to his basic thesis, nature can be improved on—even within the amateur's viewpoint.

"Camellias and Common Sense" displays a style that is direct, yet engaging; and the author achieves a lucid presentation of subject matter in all its fields of major emphasis. The content is highly informative throughout. It should add much to every reader's enthusiasm and understanding. Especially valuable are Mr. Chidamian's treatments of landscape usage of camellias, the value of Sasanquas, how to buy camellias, planting camellias, the natural environment of camellias, growing camellias in containers, and camellia propagation. The author succeeds here and elsewhere throughout his book in emphasizing particulars of camelliana often poorly understood or overlooked.

"Camellias and Common Sense" contains ten full pages of excellent black-line drawings by Shirlea Hatcher. On each of these pages there are six separate drawings ably designed to portray various points of emphasis, techniques, and items of interest coincident with the textual material. Shirlea Hatcher's drawings are an outstanding feature of this book. In addition there are plates of twelve camellia varieties in full color. The inclusion of these twelve color plates enhances the value and attractiveness of the book. It must be noted, however, that so far as could be determined none of the color illustrations are from new plates.

We have enjoyed reading "Camellias and Common Sense" and welcome its addition to our bookshelf. We wholeheartedly recommend it to all growers and gardeners interested in camellias!

The format of the book is 6 x 9 inches, with 124 pages and preface. It is attractively bound in dark-green buckram with gold lettering and wrapped in a colorful dust jacket. "Camellias and Common Sense" is priced at \$3.50 postpaid and may be obtained directly from the publishers: Richard Publishing Company, Los Angeles, California.

COLOR PLATES

Those interested in camellia color plates may like to be advised of a "new" set of twelve reproductions in color selected from the old Verschaffelt plates. The originals were published in the *Nouvelle Iconographie des Camellias*, by the Verschaffelt family in 1848-1860.

This folio reproduction is very attractively prepared and well worth adding to one's collection of camellia literature if so inclined. Its contents include the twelve individual pages of color plates and a separate text with introduction, cultural discussion, descriptions of nine of the varieties illustrated, and table of plates. The textual material is in French and directly copied—with occasional editorial deletion—from the Verschaffelt text. This original source, however, is not acknowledged anywhere in the entire reproduction. The contents are enclosed in a handsome, white cardboard portfolio with the cover designed after the title page and a camellia monochrome as background.

The twelve camellias illustrated are: "*Camellia japonica* (an unidentified variety—not the wild type), *Coelestina*, *Vera*, *Colletti*, *Commensa*, *Daviesii*, *Gretry*, *King Rosea*, *Maculata Perfecta*, *Maestosa*, *Magnifica Rubra*, *Neron*, and *Washingtoni*." These plates are heavy paper, 9½ x 12½ inches in size, and entirely suited for individual framing. As in the originals, some varieties are lacking in detail and sharpness of color; however, in general these reproductions are of better quality and appear larger than the old plates.

The current work—bearing the simple title of "Camellias"—is produced in France and distributed in this country by Camilla Lucas of New York. The original publication price has been quoted at \$15. The firm of Marboro Books, 117 East 24th Street, New York 10, has recently released the set at \$5.

VARIETY REGISTRATIONS

The following new varieties are hereby added to the ACS Varietal Registry, in a continuation of the list last published in the April Quarterly of 1951:

No. 124. LINDA ROBERTS: A 13-year-old seedling of unknown parentage, first flowered in 1945. Originated by W. W. Osborne, Vernon View, Savannah, Georgia. Propagated by Gus Roberts Nursery, White Bluff, Savannah, Georgia. Plant growth—open and rather slow. Leaves—dark green, elliptical in shape. Flower buds—round and light green. Flowers—incomplete double and resembling Elizabeth Boardman in form. Flower color—watermelon-pink in early flowers; later the color becomes darker and like Woodville Red. Flower size—4½ to 5½ inches in diameter. Blooming season—early through late midseason. This variety exhibits a distinctive fragrance.

No. 125. SALLY HARRELL: A 5-year-old seedling of Mrs. F. L. Gibson and Debutante, first flowered in 1951. Originated by E. H. Harrell, Thomasville, Georgia. Plant growth—compact. Flower buds—large and rounded, with a white coloration. Flowers—incomplete double with mixed petaloids and resembling Debutante in form. Flower color—white. Flower size—3½ to 4 inches in diameter. Blooming season—November to January. This variety has the form and color to suggest a white Debutante.

No. 126. R. L. WHEELER VARIEGATED: The variegated sport of R. L. Wheeler (seedling registration No. 20), first flowered in 1951. This sport first appeared on a 2-year graft of the parent variety. Originated and propagated by Central Georgia Nurseries, Macon, Georgia. Flower color—white variegation, 40 to 60 percent, on rose and pink ground. All other plant and flower characteristics of this sport are identical to the parent variety. Patent applied for.

No. 127. ELLA WOOD: An 11-year-old seedling of *Leucantha* and unknown male parent, first flowered in 1945. Originated and propagated by H. D. Ponton, Lake Charles, Louisiana. Plant growth—open and upright, rapid. Leaves—dark green,

serrated, texture and color *Leucantha*-like. Flower buds—large, full and round, with a white coloration. Flowers—incomplete double in form with large petaloids, the stamens in five groups forming a star; petals 42 to 45, opening wide and producing a round, full flower. Flower color—white, frequently variegated with pink stripes or blotches. Flower size— $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Blooming season—early through midseason. This is a free-flowering variety that has proved hardy to cold (14 degrees) and heat. Two flower sports have appeared on the parent plant—one variation being a solid, deep rose in color and the other with a *Herme*-like coloration.

No. 128. **TINSLEY SMITH:** A $4\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old seedling of *Lady Vansittart* and unknown male parent, first flowered in 1951. Originated and propagated by Miss Ruth Loman, Wilmington, North Carolina. Plant growth—fairly open, spreading and well branched. Leaves—dark green, 4 to 5 inches long, sharply serrated along outer half, acute in shape at both base and apex, noticeably flat except at the tip, which turns down abruptly, midrib light green. Flower buds—pointed and brown. Flowers—semi-double in form, the numerous stamens usually forming into five groups that flare in a star-like formation; the 18 large petals are of firm texture, waved and held well apart. Flower color—cherry-red to dark rose-red as flower ages and resembling the color of *Flame*, petals veined a darker self-color. Flower size— $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Blooming season—early January through March.

No. 129. **WINTER TREASURE:** A $5\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old seedling of unknown parentage, first flowered in 1949. Originated and propagated by Miss Ruth Loman, Wilmington, North Carolina. Plant growth—upright and slightly pendulous, fairly rapid and rather compact. Leaves—many over 5 inches long, drooping, smooth, acute at both base and apex. Flower buds—long and green, showing a little brown shading. Flowers—semi-double in form, the stamen cluster is small; the 18 to 25 wide petals are of good substance, slightly wavy and notched at the apex. Flower color—white, one flower of the eleven produced had one small dash of rose-red. Flower size— $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 inches in diameter. Blooming season—late December through February. This variety is reported to be very hardy and dependable.

No. 130. **PINK CHAMPAGNE:** A 10-year-old seedling of unknown parentage, first flowered in 1951. Originated and propagated by J. P. Illges, Columbus, Georgia. Plant growth—open, rapid when grafted. Leaves—large, dark green and slightly serrated. Flower buds—large, oval, light green. Flowers—incomplete double in form with large petaloids; the 28 to 30 or more petals produce a full flower. Flower color—soft pink and resembling the color of *Catherine Cathcart*. Flower size—5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and 3 to 4 inches in depth. Blooming season—late.

NOTICE TO SHOW CHAIRMEN

If you have not already sent to the Secretary's office a report of your show, this should be done at once. The July Quarterly will feature reports of shows held during the past season. Pertinent information should include show dates, number of years the show has been held (for example, fifth annual show), approximate attendance, number of blooms displayed, number of entries, best flower in show and winners of the major awards. The name of the General Chairman should also be reported. Additional information of interest might well include unusual staging or special features, the "theme" of the show, commercial and non-competitive exhibits. It will also be possible to produce one or more show pictures to be selected from those submitted.

The show season is over now and camellias are not presenting you with new and exciting blooms each morning, so there is plenty of spare time to get this report off. Perhaps the report can be sent at once, before it is again forgotten. Every show should be reported.

SOUTHERN CAMELLIAS THROUGH WESTERN EYES

EVELYN R. TELLAM, Ramona, California

"Camellias of the South." These words had been like the siren's song ringing in our ears for so long, that finally Dr. Tellam and I could resist no longer. January 9, 1950, found us boarding a plane for Chicago. At South Bend, Indiana, we picked up a new car and headed south. Objective—camellias and camellia shows.

We had planned our itinerary so that we could visit as many camellia shows as possible; and the first one on our list was at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on January 14.

We were having breakfast in the beautiful little city of Laurel, about an hour's drive from Hattiesburg, and while waiting for it to be served we were expressing our curiosity about some camellias in a vase in the restaurant. A lady sitting near, could not help overhearing our conversation. She introduced herself and told us that she had a friend who had a beautiful camellia garden and that if we cared to see it, she would be glad to take us. Since that was just what we had come to the South to see, we were soon driving through the lovely tree-lined streets of Laurel to the home of Mrs. William H. Mason, whose husband invented Masonite. Mrs. Mason's formal garden was lovely and we did enjoy seeing it.

Incidentally, this was just the first of the many, many courtesies extended to us by everyone, everywhere we went. We had heard much about Southern friendliness and Southern hospitality, but secretly we thought them a bit exaggerated. However, I want to say right here that neither is exaggerated; they are so real and spontaneous that a stranger is made to feel that he is among friends and very wonderful ones at that.

Our first sight of camellias had so excited us that we hurried on to Hattiesburg, arriving there before the show was set up. We received the most cordial welcome from the show chairman who allowed us to go in and roam around while the finishing touches were being given to the show. Mrs. Hagerty and Mrs. Burkett were especially kind to us, introducing us to many charming people, among them being Dr. Guy Bethea who won some of the coveted blue ribbons. One of the most interesting displays was a collection of seedlings from Gulfport, Mississippi. We were very enthusiastic about that first show; it was good. We saw fine show flowers, good arrangements, and the people had been so gracious and friendly to us.

The next day we attended the show at Pensacola, Florida. Here, too, we received the most friendly welcome. Mr. D. Grey Dickson, Show Chairman, although a very busy man, took time to show us around and introduce us to many of the growers. We learned, a bit to our amazement, that the Camellia Club in Pensacola was composed of men only and that it was they who put on the shows. They are certainly to be congratulated on the 1950 one. It showed that a great deal of time and thought had gone into its preparation. In addition to their fine displays of cut blooms and interesting arrangements, there was a group of shadow boxes, the most original and clever that we had ever seen.

Mr. R. Roberts, owner of Sleepy Hollow Nursery, invited us to visit his nursery, and on our way there, we called at Mr. G. H. Wilkinson's Nursery. Neither his famous Beau Harp or his lovely Marjorie Magnificent was in bloom, but we did enjoy seeing Mr. Wilkinson's plants and talking with him.

Sleepy Hollow Nursery has such a beautiful setting; it slopes gently down to a bayou and the camellias are planted under the pines. During our entire trip it was a continual marvel to me that the camellias were growing out under the trees, perfectly naturally. Here in the West, where we are accustomed to seeing so many growing in lath houses, we lose much of their charm and beauty which is so enhanced by a natural

setting. On these first visits we began seeing camellias which up to that time, had been simply names to us. Our visit to Sleepy Hollow was delightful.

We next visited Bellingrath Gardens which are simply beyond my powers of description. The camellias were in full bloom and the azaleas just coming into bloom. Here we saw our first camellia trees, but we found that camellia trees are so plentiful in the South that we grew accustomed to them.

On our way back to Mobile we stopped at Flowerwood Nursery owned by Mr. Harry Smith and his son, Gregory. We had seen the exhibits from Flowerwood at the Hattiesburg and Pensacola shows, so we knew that we would see some really fine camellias. The finest specimens were in glasshouses, and we saw some blooms which were simply "out of this world." Mr. Smith took us to see his summer home on the Dog River. Here he had made his first plantings, sharing his wife's hobby. Each plant was individual, and he had something intimate to tell about it. That visit was just another of our very pleasant experiences.

Our next objective was the show at Dothan, Alabama. We arrived the afternoon before the show and had occasion to drive into the Studebaker Garage. Its owner, Mr. J. Wilson, turned out to be a camellia lover, so he took us to see his very lovely garden, and then drove us around the city pointing out other gardens. I am very glad that the use of camellias as decorative shrubs is being stressed. We saw in the South, how adaptable they are. We also visited Carter's Nursery. Mr. Carter is a camellia man from "a way back," and although he had recently moved to Dothan from Jacksonville, he had a fine stock.

We arrived at the show early, but were permitted to go in before it officially opened. Everyone was so gracious and kind to us. Again we were impressed by the numerous show flowers, and there was a particularly fine exhibit of arrangements in bubble bowls.

During the afternoon there was a garden tour, places to be visited being marked by a camellia bloom fastened to a stake. On our drive through the city the previous afternoon, we had spotted a lath house—a slat house in the South—and we made it our first stop. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cannon, whom we had met in the morning have a fine collection of camellias. We had seen only a few when it began to rain, so we scampered to their living room and talked camellias. After the rain we saw the rest of the camellias and the lath house. We had spent so much time at the Cannon's we never did finish the garden tour, but went back to the show. Mr. Alto Lee was the sweepstakes winner. Dr. Latiolais, we recall as a most enthusiastic grower.

Our next show was at Montgomery, Alabama. The Men's Club sponsored the show and a good one it was too. We saw some very unusual and lovely corsages made of the petals of camellias. We were especially pleased to see a fine specimen of Joseph Pflingstl with its gorgeous crimson blossoms. Mr. Matt Wendling, in charge of the exhibit, was very enthusiastic about it and very kind to us. While in Montgomery we called at Dalraida Nursery, owned by Mr. Johnson. He was just completing a large lath house in which he plans to grow his camellias and azaleas.

Leaving Montgomery we headed for Fort Valley, Georgia, near where Mr. Dave Strother's famous gardens are located. We were simply amazed at the number of visitors who were there; two traffic officers were busy parking cars and regulating traffic. We were equally astonished at the number of camellias in the gardens. The huge plants were covered with blooms. It would be most difficult to select the most beautiful; however, the one I thought especially lovely was a perfectly formed *Magnoliaeflora*

which was a mass of delicate blooms. We spent several hours admiring the flowers and taking pictures, but I know that even then, we did not see them all.

On our way to Macon that evening, we stopped at Mr. R. L. Wheeler's Nursery, hoping to see his new seedling, but it was not in bloom. However, Dr. Tellam always considered it a real privilege to talk to camellia growers; they always have something to contribute to anyone who is interested.

Then all roads led to Charleston, South Carolina, with its world-famous gardens. We had time to see only two of them, Middleton and Magnolia, since we wanted to go to the show at Beaufort, South Carolina. Each garden is individual and perfectly beautiful in its way. At Middleton, the formal garden, I got a particular thrill seeing that old historic plant, Lady Hume's Blush, one of the four originals brought from England. Although badly scarred by hurricanes and tropical storms, it is still hardy and producing lovely flowers. One is amazed at the jungle-like growth of the seedlings and the size of the plants, but Mr. Campbell Ashly, in charge of the nursery, told us that during the war maintenance of the garden was impossible on account of the scarcity of help. To some of us who watch over a few plants with such solicitude, such luxuriant growth and such a super-abundance of plants seems utterly impossible.

Magnolia Gardens is informal but very lovely. We saw one camellia tree thirty feet tall and many others twenty or more feet tall. In one lovely glade is the magnificent plant, Rev. John G. Drayton, named after the man who planned and started the garden. Here again we were amazed at the dense undergrowth. Mr. C. N. Hastie, owner of the garden, took us to the growing grounds, and it certainly was a sight to see the hundreds of seedlings and cuttings planted in rows under the trees.

One of the smaller shows we saw was the one at Beaufort, South Carolina. Beaufort is a quaint town on the coast, but the show was interesting and indicated that fine camellias were grown there.

Then we were on our way to Savannah, Georgia. While we were seeing Fort Pulaski, which incidentally took us right back to the war days, believe it or not, but the conversation came around to camellias. We were advised to try to see Commander Robert Erdman who grew camellias. So, on our way back to Savannah, we looked up Commander Erdman's beautiful home, Sparkleberry Hall, and found its owner to be retired and enjoying his retirement by playing with camellias and writing a book about them. By-the-way, the illustrations in his book are particularly splendid. He told us that we must not leave Savannah without seeing Judge Solomon's camellias. Judge Solomon, President of the American Camellia Society, we feared might be too busy a man to bother with two "camellia nuts" from California. Although he had just returned from the annual meeting of the Society at Lafayette, Louisiana, and must have been tired, he was really wonderful to us. He took us around his stately grounds landscaped after the English fashion with long vistas of lawn and trees flanked by his gorgeous camellias and azaleas. It was a very great privilege to meet Judge Solomon and see his very fine collection.

From Savannah we went to Jacksonville, Florida, to see the show there. It was the most beautiful camellia show I have ever seen. The theme, "The Deep South," was carried out in every detail from hostesses attired in ante-bellum costumes to a typical Southern luncheon served in a dining room filled with museum pieces out of colonial days. Mrs. George Coyle, in charge of the luncheon, busy as she was, took time to tell us about those lovely antiques, the place cards, the menu. There were two distinct exhibits, one by the Garden Club and one by the Men's Club, and each was a show in itself. Such an array of show flowers! Someone had had a real inspiration and had planned an ante-bellum garden, perfectly executed and lovely to look at. We were

fortunate enough to be introduced to Mr. E. G. Hume, son of Dr. H. H. Hume, and the late R. J. Wilmot.

One of the most beautiful of the commercial exhibits, was that of Gerbing's Nursery in charge of Mrs. Ralph E. May. She extended a cordial invitation to us to see their camellias; but much to our regret we had to refuse as we wanted to see the show at Thomasville, Georgia, and we were some two hundred miles away from it.

But we made Thomasville that evening in time to see the show. We were greeted by Mrs. Mary Upchurch, whom we had met at the Hattiesburg show, and the warmth of her welcome made us feel at home. The show was good; there were some very original exhibits, one of them being a huge black lace fan upon which were displayed the corsages. The sweepstakes flower, a Woodville Red, was highlighted in a shadow box.

Our last show was the one sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Albany, Georgia, held at Radium Springs, a lovely setting. Once again we saw beautiful show flowers. One of the loveliest, in my opinion, was Lena Jackson propagated by Mr. Pat Brown of Baconton, Georgia. We had stopped at his nursery on our way to Radium Springs, but he was in Macon. We met, however, his sister, Mrs. Cole and her husband, John R. Cole, who were especially kind.

On our way back to Thomasville we stopped at the home of Mrs. Hand at Pelham. Mrs. Hand and her son had just announced a new seedling, Florence Hollis, named in honor of Mrs. Hand's mother who was one hundred years old. They gave us a scion of this seedling, which you may be sure we are cherishing. Mrs. Hand's garden is charming and bears evidence that there have been camellia lovers there for many years.

Mrs. Upchurch had told us that she would show us the Thomasville camellias and she gave up a day to do that very thing. We were first taken to the Thomasville Nursery where we hoped to see Mr. Hjort's new seedlings, Frank Gibson, the yellow, and Pearl Maxwell. Neither was in bloom, but we did see the slides of these two camellias and they looked very interesting. Then we visited Captain White's garden which contains a large planting of very fine camellias. In the afternoon we drove to Camellia Nurseries in Tallahassee. Mr. Gamble, the original owner, now retired, showed us his seedling garden where we saw parent plant after parent plant of now famous varieties. Wes Rosa and J. R. Rosa, now in charge of the nursery, were most generous and courteous to us.

Then we were back in Mobile again and we went to Overlook Nursery. It was raining so I did not go out to the growing fields where Mr. Sawada was busy grafting. However, I did wander around the nursery. The finest plants, some over twenty feet tall, were in glasshouses and it was a wonderful sight to see them bursting with blooms.

On our way to New Orleans we called at Bradford's Nursery at Ocean Springs. Mr. Bradford, as we all know, has propagated many, many well-known camellias and it was a distinct pleasure seeing all those parent plants. In his garden I saw the bluest camellia I have ever seen, Stephen Foster, and to my intense delight Mr. Bradford gave me a scion. I am hoping that lovely blue color will hold out here in the West.

We also called at Mr. T. S. Clower's in Gulfport. We had seen his Simeon and Clower White at the show at Hattiesburg and Mr. Clower showed us many other beautiful new seedlings.

We had planned to see the show at New Orleans, but the closer we got to that lovely old city, the hotter the weather became; and since we had a day or two to spend we detoured north to Natchez, where, we heard, there were some fine camellias. We were privileged to see the truly wonderful garden, some fourteen acres, of Col. William Kendall whose home is Montaigne, one of those lovely,

perfectly preserved ante-bellum homes for which Natchez is famous. Col. Kendall has 1000 plants; two huge plants by the house are nearly one hundred years old.

We read in the papers that on account of the unseasonably hot weather which the South was having, the show at New Orleans was being called off and only a showing of blooms was being made. We decided to turn our faces west.

Our last camellias were seen in the garden of Mrs. Tennant, in Houston, Texas.

Camellias of the South. We had seen them, and how beautiful they were! We had seen those wonderful old plants so lovingly preserved. We had seen so many new varieties, and so many large, truly show flowers. Speaking for myself, I was delighted with the rich purplish blue of some of the Mathotiana flowers.

Dr. Tellam noted the predominance of semi-doubles and incomplete doubles. He also thinks that some varieties perform much better in the South than they do in Southern California, for example, Lindsay Neill and Woodville Red; and he says: "After seeing them bloom in the South, I for one, am going to give them more time before I put them on my root stock list." Also some of the nurserymen were finding that some of the Southern California varieties, such as Madame Hahn, were not living up to expectation.

We were sorry that time did not permit us to visit more of the well-known nurseries and gardens, but we so thoroughly enjoyed our trip that we plan to go back in the near future. We want to renew our acquaintance with those fascinating camellias and the wonderful people we met. As Judge Solomon says, and I hope he will not mind my quoting him, "One of the best things about camellias is the people you meet." And Judge Solomon is so right!

NOTE: It was not possible to include this interesting and well-written story in the recent Yearbook. Further delay in publication would have been unjust to the author and our readers.



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