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CAMELLIA JAPONICA • JARVIS RED

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American Camellia Quarterly

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CHARLESTON IN 1954

W. D. SCHWARTZ, Charleston, South Carolina

In my capacity as General Chairman of the Convention Committee of the Men's Camellia Club of Charleston, South Carolina, I am expressing the thoughts of the members of the Club, as well as the citizens of Charleston when I state that we are honored and delighted to serve as your hosts at the Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society to be held in this city January 28-31, 1954.

Headquarters for the Convention will be the Francis Marion Hotel, and all the entertainment and meetings will be held there. Registration for members who did not register in advance will commence at noon on Thursday, January 28. (The registration fee is \$15.00.) The afternoon is reserved for the transaction of the Society's business affairs, and a Fellowship hour is scheduled for Thursday evening.

Promptly (and please be prompt) at 9 A.M. Friday, January 29, busses will be available to transport members on a tour to two of Charleston's magnificent gardens and nurseries. The afternoon will be reserved for further business meetings. The entertainment for Friday night will be a treat. We have arranged an outstanding program. This feature will be followed by a reception.

Saturday morning, January 30, will be devoted to tours to historical and beauty spots in and around Charleston. Members and visitors are invited to attend the outstanding camellia show that will be staged by the members of the Garden Club of Charleston, beginning Saturday afternoon. The Annual Banquet of the American Camellia Society will start at 7 P.M. Saturday evening.

We urge you to register and make your hotel reservations well in advance of the meeting. Registrations, together with checks for \$15.00, should be sent to W. F. Ostendorf, Registration Chairman, Peoples Building, Charleston, South Carolina. The fee covers bus transportation, banquet, Fellowship hour, flower show and other scheduled events.

As previously stated, the Francis Marion Hotel will be headquarters. Other hotels are the Fort Sumter, Charleston, St. John, Argyle and Timrod. Motor hotels are the John C. Calhoun Motor Hotel, 194 Calhoun Street, Colonial Motor Court, 152 Cannon Street, Plantation Motor Hotel, 1156 King Street, Pringle Court, 20 South Battery, Southern Motor Court, 214 Calhoun Street and Sword Gate Lodge, 109 Tradd Street. Some of the larger Motor Courts located near the city and having a Charleston address are Charleston Motor Court, Lord Ashley Motor Court, Old Town Motor Court and Wayne Motor Court.

We anticipate your visit to Charleston with a great deal of pleasure.

CAMELLIAS IN KOREA

MRS. L. O. McCUTCHEON, Sumter, South Carolina

For many years my husband and I were missionaries in Korea—"Land of the Morning Calm." The mountains range from foothills to a height of more than 10,000 feet. The rivers and streams flow into the valleys where much of the water is turned by ditches and dikes into the level rice fields, which furnish the main staple of food for twenty million people.

Though a small country, Korea is grand in scenery and beautiful with wild plants and shrubbery. There are three thousand known species and varieties of native plants. To those of us who knew Korea in her calmness and beauty and learned to love her warm-hearted people, the present conditions of suffering, distress and destruction are heart rending. May the picture change again to a more glorious one.

Among the many kinds of native plants growing in Korea, perhaps the most beauti-

ful is the *Camellia japonica*—called by Koreans the “Enduring Winter Flower.” It is a single red with beautiful green waxy leaves and grows wild on the hillsides in the South. There are also groves of them on the islands off the southern coast. You are probably familiar with the names of the southern cities like Soonchun, Pusan, and many others. We lived at Conju, about 65 miles north of Soonchun. There the winters are colder and camellias do not grow wild in that section. Mrs. J. F. Preston and others who lived at Soonchun have given me information which I have included in this article. They would send us japonica branches full of buds at the Christmas season. We would put them in water and what a joy it was to watch them open up in January!

Aside from the production of beautiful flowers, the camellia has other qualities that make the residents of Korea value it highly. The oil extracted from the seeds is used in a number of ways—it makes a good furniture polish; it is in demand as a hair oil; and it is used for medicinal purposes. A camellia branch is considered to be a symbol of long life and steadfastness, and it is a feature of the decorations for a wedding table.

The esteem in which the camellia is regarded by Koreans is evidenced by the many references to the plant in the proverbs of the country. The following quotations are taken from Florence Huddleston Crane's *Flowers and Folklore from Far Korea*:

“If you are rich, anoint your hair with japonica oil; if you are poor, use the oil of the castor bean.”

“A man of character abides as the japonica in the snow.”

That there are tricks in all trades was evidenced by an experience in Shanghai where we visited with friends before leaving Korea. After a visit of several weeks, waiting for our ship, we gave these friends a camellia plant in flower as a token of our appreciation for the many courtesies extended to us. The plant and flowers were greatly admired, but one of the ladies said “Look, not all of these blooms are growing on the plant, some of them have been attached to the stems by wires.” I was disillusioned but, I thought, they will stay pretty for a little while.

When peace and freedom return to Korea, it would be a wonderful thing to add to the joy and pleasure of the people by sending to them some of our newer varieties of camellias, which are growing so beautifully in our new home.

CAMELLIAS IN ALABAMA IN EARLY DECEMBER 1953

J. GLEN STANLEY, Greenville, Alabama

As of the second week-end in the month of December 1953 the camellias in Alabama are blooming about 30 days ahead of schedule.

This was evidenced in Greenville on Sunday, December 5th, when the Men's Camellia Society staged a very informal showing of blooms. With just one announcement of the event in the local newspaper, 46 growers carried blooms to the show. The Alba Plenas, the Lady Clares and White Empresses predominated, and there were blooms from mid-season varieties including the Audussons; practically every bloom in the show was a genuine specimen. Quite a few fine seedlings were shown.

Many of the cities in Alabama are now planning to hold the camellia shows earlier than usual, as all indications point to an early blooming season. However a severe freeze could upset these plans. Up to the present time there has been no cold weather in South Alabama—only a few heavy frosts, but no ice. Some camellia plants continue to put on new growth along with the blooms.

At the present time the camellia prospects for the 1953-54 season are better than they have been in many years. While dry weather prevailed during a long season, the

rains finally came, and plants had set a heavy crop of buds—now opening in grand style.

A number of growers in Alabama are using shredded pine bark as a mulch, and finding it the most satisfactory of mulches. It looks good, stays put, has all the advantages of pine straw, with none of the disadvantages. Pine straw generally lasts only about six months, and is readily scattered by dogs, squirrels and birds. The bark is said to decompose slowly and one application should last for two or three years. Camellia fanciers throughout South Alabama are also growing pine trees to furnish shade for their plants. While there are many camellia gardens in pine groves, there are many other camellia gardens with tiny pines now making an attempt to grow up as tall as the camellia plants that they will eventually shade.

A CAMELLIA CHRISTMAS TREE

ROY W. WIEGAND, President, Camellia Society of Sacramento

Here comes some more comments about camellias in and around Sacramento, California. It is fun to keep camellia growers, near and far, informed about the activities of the Camellia Society of Sacramento. This is especially true about the growers in the South. They are located far away, but somehow the distance is shortened by our mutual interests.

Our December meeting was held as usual in our Garden Center—a delightful small building in McKinley Park, surrounded by extensive rose gardens. The room was most tastefully decorated in the Christmas atmosphere, and the interesting program was greatly enjoyed. There was one feature that delighted everyone, and our speaker expressed the thoughts of all the members when he stated that camellia growers everywhere might like to use the idea.

Reference is made to our Christmas tree. A committee of four selected a tree about four feet high, and decorated it completely with camellias. The small white ones adorned the top of the tree, followed downwards by a few large white blooms, then the pinks and darker pinks to the base which consisted of some superb large red Daikaguras. The lights were small uncolored stars. A small quantity of cellophane was used to supply the sparkle, not enough, however, to conceal the flowers. The tree stood out in front of a background of aluminum foil. It was a lovely, fairy-like thing.

The show of the Camellia Society of Sacramento will be held on March 6-7, 1954. It will be held under the auspices of the American Camellia Society and in compliance with the requirements of that organization. We wish to extend a cordial invitation to camellia lovers everywhere.

The members of our Society join with me in extending to all of you our best wishes for a Happy New Year, camellia and otherwise.

HOW TO HANDLE CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES¹

ERNA THURNHER

The best time to pick our precious choice blooms is early in the morning. Do not be tempted to pick the most open and gorgeous blossoms and expect them to last. There is a very simple way to test a flower by gently tugging on the lower petals of a bloom. If they do not easily pull out, it is quite safe to pick the flower. Leave a tiny stem, one-half inch is enough to wire them for corsages or arrangements or even for

¹Reprinted from *The Camellia Review*, Nov. 1953.

packing for shipping. Then place the flowers in a cool spot or under refrigeration until you are ready for further steps. Never place them too close to a freezing compartment or into too cold a refrigerator.

FOR ARRANGEMENTS

If the flower is to be used in an arrangement and you do not wish to cut the flowering branches, you may cheat a little and wire the blooms to a similar foliage branch. This is done by first placing a piece of wet cotton around the little stems, then wiring the cotton securely on and taping it with green floral tape. Floral tape may be obtained at any flower shop. The flower is now ready to be wired onto branches for an arrangement. Of course the camellias will not keep quite as long, but they are very nice to use for your special dinner arrangement or for that dramatic effect of color you just need somewhere in your room.

Nothing need be said about floating camellias—just float them.

FOR CORSAGES

In picking flowers for a corsage, remember that only the fleshy or more formal flower can be wired without showing that wire. Our beautiful singles are more difficult to use for corsages. If you picked your flower as suggested it will not fall apart in wiring; however, there are a few varieties which will not pull out when the petals are tested, yet the whole center may come out after you have the flower wired. Watch for these.

For preparing corsages, you again need wire and tape. This time, gently cup the flower in your hand without bruising it and run a number 24-gauge florist wire through the fleshy part of the flower on the underside. Take a second wire and place it cross-wise through the same fleshy part to secure the flower firmly. Twist both wires around the tiny stem which of course you have protected with a small wad of wet cotton. Tape the wire and cotton, leaving an artificial wire stem of any desired length. It is more attractive to wire three to five camellia leaves individually, placing them around the flower artistically than to use the so-called paper collar and sewing or stapling the leaves on the collar. By wiring the leaves individually, you will have a pretty little grouping of green stems in place of just one stem. Do not be tempted to curl that one stem over a pencil. It does not look smart or natural. Cut it quite short so it does not show if you use a paper collar.

FOR SHIPPING

If you wish to ship those lovely blooms of which you are so proud, pick them with the same care on the day on which you are mailing them. Line a sturdy box with waxed paper and cover bottom with a layer of wet cotton or Kleenex. Twist wet cotton around the stem of the flower and sew each stem onto the bottom of the box by poking two holes on either side of the stem and looping a 24-gauge wire over the stem. Turn the box, pull the wire tight, and twist it. Then put a small piece of Scotch tape over the wire on the back of the box to keep from scratching or coming through the packing paper. Take care not to crowd flowers as it is better to have a few choice flowers arrive in good condition than to have a box full of bruised flowers. After all flowers are sewed down with wire securely, place several layers of wet Kleenex on the top of the flowers. Close waxed paper lining over it and finish wrapping. I suggest that you wrap the box with several layers of newspaper to keep it from freezing in winter.

BORN TOO SOON

JOSEPH H. PYRON, Reynolds, Georgia

I am most resentful of the practice of referring to true camellia lovers as "camellia nuts," "bugs," "faddists," or in other uncomplimentary terms. My first camellia plant was obtained over twenty years ago. A number of other members of the American Camellia Society have been growing camellias for a much longer period; some, in fact, inherited their plants from generations back. A considerable number of members have been camellia growers for at least ten years. Hence, this is not a new fad of the minute similar to a bobby soxer's latest rave which will be considered *passe* next season.

It must be admitted that there are a number of camellia faddists. Too often we see someone go overboard and plant quantities of camellias, only to lose interest within a year or two and let the plants suffer from neglect and serve as a center of distribution for insects and diseases.

These faddists make no real contribution to the appreciation of the camellia. In their initial burst of enthusiasm they seek only the newer, and frequently untried, introductions and too often neglect the older, proven varieties. It is interesting, although distressing, to note that many individuals who have just "discovered" camellias scorn such fine old stand-bys as *Elegans*, *Blood of China*, *Alba Plena*, *Daikagura*, *Pink Perfection*, *Vedrine* and *Herme* because "everyone has those common varieties." They are not observant enough to appreciate the fact that few, if any, of the new varieties excel *Elegans* in beauty of color, formation of flower, type of foliage, and performance.

During the past few years a multitude of new *Camellia japonica* varieties has been offered to an ever expanding and eager public. Exorbitant prices are often paid for these varieties for the first year or two after their introduction. Certainly such exceptional new varieties as R. L. Wheeler, Dr. Tinsley, Elizabeth LeBey, Thelma Dale, Joseph Pfingstl, Emmett Pfingstl, and others of like caliber are worth acquiring even at considerable expense. It is not my intention to belittle these varieties in the least. However, some enthusiasts place too high a premium on newness or mere size of flowers and purchase varieties that can meet these qualifications, regardless of price, about as rapidly as they can be propagated. Too late the owners learn that the new variety is unsuitable for their particular locality, or is so similar to some older variety that it is almost impossible to distinguish between them.

Some varieties of exceptional value which were introduced five or more years ago without benefit of fanfare are not generally available now. The reason for this condition is a simple one: nurserymen must cater to the public demand for the latest introductions if they expect to conduct their business at a profit. Since the demand, and the figure on the price tag, is so much greater for new varieties, they cannot afford to provide "yard room" for the older and superior varieties.

To illustrate my point, reference is made to such worth-while varieties, introduced prior to 1945, as *Marchioness of Salisbury*, *Kumasaka*, *Fairhope*, *Stiles Perfection*, *Countess of Orkney*, *Emma*, *Edwin H. Folk*, *Lady Mary Cromartie*, *Horkan* and *Hishikaraito*. These varieties are not widely available, nor can they be found in some otherwise fine collections which may include a number of the latest mammoth semi-double pinks. However, were they being introduced at the present time, each one might create a sensation. Most of the above varieties are due reconsideration if your garden does not contain them.

Marchioness of Salisbury is similar to and equally as beautiful as *Colletti*. An old

gnarled and twisted Salisbury in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah is one of the most beautiful camellia sights I have seen.

A Kumasaka with more markings is one of the most spectacular camellias in Bellingrath Gardens and usually brings forth a number of inquiries as to its identity.

Fairhope (McKenzie Pink Tricolor) a semi-double, soft pink with deeper pink stripes is much admired around Fairhope, Alabama, and Montezuma, Georgia, where it was introduced a number of years ago.

The light pink form of Stiles Perfection (Opelousas Peony) is sometimes mistaken for C. M. Wilson or High Hat, having about the same delicate pink color. This variety has exceptionally long stems which is certainly an asset.

Countess of Orkney, although not large, is not duplicated in form and color combination by any other variety. Even though it is a complete double, late-flowering variety, it usually escapes cold injury.

Emma is an exquisite medium-sized rose-form delicate pink, shading deeper pink toward the base of the petals.

Edwin H. Folk is a spectacular deep red semi-double. Although introduced about 1945, it has only been widely exhibited in the 1953 shows where it deservedly won numerous ribbons.

Lady Mary Cromartie and its variegated form (Syn. La Reine Var.) always attracts attention wherever exhibited.

Horkan is an extremely variable variety which is always interesting. Some light pink flowers of Horkan closely resemble the much sought after Mrs. Lyman Clark.

Hishi-karaito, although small, has a unique form and color combination of lavender-rose petals with a cluster of white petaloids.

Pride of Greenville is a large bright red peony form with scattered bundles of stamens forming a very high-centered flower not unlike that of Beau Harp.

Although the following old varieties are generally more readily available than the group mentioned above, they deserve wider recognition: Pink-Star, Oranda-gasa, Fred Sander (Best in Show, Atlanta, 1953), Frizzle White, Haku-rakuten, Liberty Bell, Sweeti Vera and Duc d'Orleans.

Others could be mentioned; however, these examples should suffice to illustrate my point—the need for careful reconsideration of some varieties which were introduced five or more years ago, many of which are superior to some of the highly publicized new introductions.

EXPERIMENTS WITH RETICULATA CUTTINGS

ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN, El Monte, California

In all of the research that I have done on the genus *Camellia*, the fact that the Captain Rawes variety of *Camellia reticulata* has never been successfully multiplied by the method of cuttings, aroused my interest and curiosity. Then with the importation and release of the Yunnan Reticulatas, with their fertility and excellent response to grafting, again the thought struck me—will they grow from cuttings?

In June, 1953, when we were putting in our regular yearly cuttings, I decided to find out, and on June 16, I put in one Shot Silk cutting and on June 23 I put in two more cuttings of the same variety and three cuttings of the variety Captain Rawes.

These cuttings were put in the same rooting medium as were our regular *Camellia japonica* cuttings—one part peat moss to two parts (by volume) new, sharp sand. A No. 3 Hormodine powder was used. Our cold frames are unheated.

On November 21, 1953, I first removed the Shot Silk cutting put in on June 16, and the roots were so well developed the cutting required a four-inch pot to hold it. On the same date I then removed the two Shot Silk cuttings of June 23. They had good calluses and small bunches of roots and I put them in three-inch pots. Of the three Captain Rawes cuttings, two were callused and rooted equally as well as the last two Shot Silk cuttings and were also put into three-inch pots in a regular potting mixture. The third Capt. Rawes cutting had done nothing, so I returned it to the cold frame.

I have placed these five potted, rooted reticulata cuttings in the glass house, which, like the cold frames, is unheated, but where a fairly high humidity is maintained, to await future developments.

GROWING CAMELLIAS FROM SEED

ARTHUR W. SOLOMON, Savannah, Georgia

It would be most helpful if we could ascertain from the past experiences if anyone has grown camellia seed and kept a record of what they obtained. This does not apply to gardeners who have been fortunate enough to get from a handful of seed one plant that would produce a show flower of exceptional quality, but to those who were amazed at what they did get that were good enough for their own gardens but not worth registering or naming. Was this interesting? That only expressed it in a mild way. Fascinating? You should talk to some of those who have enjoyed growing camellias from seed for several years. Intriguing? That is the word which is about as near to describing it as I can think of because it keeps you guessing from the day you plant the seed until you see them flower. If you do not get a desirable bloom, you are the possessor of wonderful understock for grafting.

Planting camellia seed is a simple procedure. Here in Savannah the seeds ripen about the 15th of August. Although the seed pods are not all open by that date, opened and unopened pods are picked and spread out on the bottom of a big basket or other suitable container. After they have been exposed to the sun for several days, all of the pods will be open. If the seeds are held for several weeks after they mature, it may take two or three months for them to germinate. It is desirable, therefore, to plant them without delay for the sooner the seed are planted the quicker they will germinate. We have had camellia seeds sprout in less than four weeks and make a growth of two inches within six weeks.

We plant the seeds in a mixture made up of three-fourths peat moss and one-fourth fine gravel or builders sand. They are usually planted in ten-inch pots. There is not any particular number of seeds per pot, but we think ten is about the proper number. We like to use the pots as it is possible to maintain the identity of the seed from any particular variety or plant, reduces the number of identification tags that must be prepared and, when planted in lots of ten seeds, makes it easier to determine the percentage of germination.

We keep the pots in semi-shade and water them constantly so that the moss is damp at all times. You can, if you wish, transplant the seedlings after they have reached a height of three or four inches. We prefer to wait for a year and then set them out in a bed containing a mixture of good soil and well-rotted cow manure or cottonseed meal. A handful of vermiculite is placed right around the roots. In order to improve the root systems, it is advisable to cut the tap root reasonably close to the point where it emerged from the seed. The plants are left in the beds for a year and are then set out, properly spaced, in another bed or in the place you want them to grow.

There is a possibility of forcing these seedlings to bloom in three years by using

an idea of Mr. Jack M. Jones, whose article on "Injuring Camellia Seedlings to Induce Flower-bud Formation" appeared in the 1952 Yearbook. It is just a simple proposition of taking a piece of fine wire, and twisting it tightly around one of the lower branches of the plant. As soon as the flower buds are formed, the wires should be removed. mixture and set the seeds around the edge of the jar. You will then be able to watch

If you want to try an interesting experiment, fill a battery jar with the planting the seed sprout and the roots develop. The seed should not be planted any deeper than the diameter of the seed. If the seed is about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, plant it only three-eighths of an inch deep; if it has a diameter of one-half inch, plant it one-half inch deep.

As seeds are produced through cross-pollination, there is seldom any resemblance between the seedling flowers and the plant on which the seeds were produced. This is also true with respect to leaf formation and plant growth. A single seed pod containing three or four seeds may produce as many different colors and forms. You will know the name of the parent plant, or plants, but not much more.

Interest in the planting of camellia seed, both from japonica and sasanqua, has grown tremendously and, in recent years, many new and beautiful varieties have been propagated by a number of growers in different parts of the country.

Because of the enormous amount of pleasure I have derived from growing seed, I can recommend it as one of the most intriguing aspects of our camellia hobby, and you will find the results just as unpredictable as many of your lovely lady friends.

I LIVE WITH A CAMELLIA NUT

DOROTHY W. BARRINGER, Rocky Mount, North Carolina

For the last five years I have been living with a camellia nut. Gradually I am getting accustomed to it but it has been a long hard struggle. The wives of addicts should get together and form a chapter of Camellias Anonymous, for the camellia fever is just as expensive as any other bad habit.

For the benefit of wives whose husbands have escaped the disease so far, let this be a warning to you. Once the infection starts there is no known cure—other than the purchase of more camellias. Don't think for a minute that when the nut gets to a hundred bushes he will stop. He will then want some of the rare ones which will knock the budget right smack in the head.

My husband first got started when Dr. Adam Thorp, prominent physician and camellia grower, brought me some beautiful Alba Plenas. He didn't even bring them to my husband but to me. "If that fellow can raise flowers like that, I can do twice as good," said my husband. That was his downfall. He went out and spent five dollars for a small Alba Plena which did not bloom until last year and then it had to be kept in the garage all winter.

What I don't know about camellias would fill a couple of Yearbooks. I thought that High Hat was something that men wore at Easter, or to weddings or funerals. When friend husband expressed a desire for Paulette Goddard, I made him repeat the statement several times before I realized that he was talking about Camellias. When, in the early stages of the disease, he talked about Prof. Sargent, I had hopes that he was about to acquire some culture. He, who up to a short time ago thought that Debutante was a young girl, is now making like an expert on camellias and even does his own grafting of camellias.

Last winter I thought that it would be nice to visit my sister who had just moved to Charleston, South Carolina. I was reluctant to mention this to my husband as it would

call for driving some three hundred miles. When I did bring up the subject he was all smiles and stated that the trip was exactly what we both needed. He insisted that we go by train instead of car as it would be less tiresome to me. I should have been suspicious of this sudden solicitude but the thought of seeing my sister and her children was all I could think about.

Although it was midnight when we reached our destination, my husband was up bright and early the next morning—and let the cat out of the bag. He had written to C. Norwood Hastie, Jr., and told him that we were coming to visit the famous Magnolia Gardens! Since my sister and her husband loved flowers, I had to go along. I thought I could get my sister aside by some cypress tree and we could catch up on all the family—and other gossip.

Mr. Hastie was very kind and gracious and showed us all over his gardens. Never had I seen such lovely camellia blooms. As I have always tried to be helpful to my husband, I started to make a list of varieties that I thought *he* would like to have. About the time the list of names had reached twenty-five or more, I realized that after years of exposure I had contracted camellia fever. I tried hard not to be influenced by all the wonderful varieties on display, but before we left Magnolia I realized that I had been bitten by the camellia bug.

My husband writes a garden column each Sunday for the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer and also for the State Magazine in the same city. Out of family pride I have to read it each week. During the summer months he doesn't write much about camellias but as soon as the first leaf turns color, he starts writing about camellias. I enjoy reading his columns then.

We had an Arejishi bloom on August 20 and last spring we had a Herme in bloom on Mother's Day in May. We intend to get more early blooming plants since Rocky Mount is only about sixty miles from the Virginia line and it gets right cold here even though we are in the Coastal Plain section of the Tar Heel State.

Now it is a question of how to save money to buy some more plants that we do not have. If my husband would not waste money on fishing trips and other foolish things, we could have more different kinds of plants.

One of the nice things about being a camellia nut is the fine folks you meet. Folks come to our garden from all walks of life and all are welcome. We have never met anyone who loved camellias who wasn't all right.

One of these days I am going to go back to Magnolia Gardens and see Mr. Hastie again for we fell in love with the place. However, we are going to wear dark glasses this time. We don't want to get the disease any more than we have now for, after all, we have got to get the house paid for before we start buying any of the very rare varieties.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

This place is a mad house right now! As usual, we have had to bring in extra help and "strange people" are working at every desk and sitting on every stool we have in the office.

You members are renewing for 1954 at a fast clip. We are literally swamped "processing" membership renewals, changing addresses and mailing gift Yearbooks, plus handling matters relating to shows, plus working with those wanting to register new seedlings, plus handling applications for new show judges and plus much regular

correspondence. Of course, preparing and mailing the January Quarterly at the same time is another big plus.

A membership renewal blank is enclosed with this Quarterly. To those of you who have not renewed, we earnestly ask that you use this promptly to send in your 1954 dues.

We get much pleasure from reading the many notes that you have written complimenting the new Yearbook. All of these are held for the attention of Editor Brown. To date I have not found a single adverse criticism among the many comments received. It would be nice to quote a dozen but this one strikes my fancy particularly: "Of anything I buy I feel that this \$5.00 brings me the most value and pleasure. It is a magnificent job and so far the quality has been maintained and improved over the years. This is unique. Bravo! MFW."

It has been a pleasant surprise to find that no one raked us over the coals by saying that the 1953 Yearbook was smaller than the 1952 edition. Of course, this is not really true but is only an optical illusion. Actually, the new Yearbook has more pages and more articles than any previous edition. The compact size should be a welcome change. The new and lighter type of paper makes it possible at all times to place the illustrations with the text material, thus making reference to them more convenient for the reader.

Once more it has been impressed upon us that you do read the Quarterly carefully. Our friend, Mrs. Herrin, Summit, Mississippi, who had some camellia books for sale which belonged to her late husband, writes that she had inquiries from Alabama, California, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The books were all sold to a couple in Laurel, Mississippi, who drove over the day their Quarterly was received.

It may be just the Christmas Season of Good Will but several advertisers have expressed satisfaction with results of their Quarterly advertising when they renewed for 1954. This gives us a chance to remind you once again that you can trade with confidence with our advertisers. Give them your support and mention the American Camellia Society whenever you can.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Charleston Convention.

THE COVER

Jarvis Red has become a well-known, standard camellia variety during the past fifteen years. Originally from Japan, the parent plant of this variety was imported as an unnamed camellia by T. Kiyono in 1911. It was planted on the Jarvis property in Semmes, Alabama; and when propagated by local nurserymen in later years, the name Jarvis Red was applied.

The flower is medium to large in size, opening in the midseason months. Its form is somewhat variable—most flowers are semi-double, but frequently a few petaloids are present. In some localities and seasons, the flower may be a dark rose-pink color; typically, however, the color is dark red and lustrous. A variegated sport—Fantasia—has been selected and named in California. The flower of this sport is spotted or boldly blotched with white.

While the flowers tend to face downward and sometimes do not show to full advantage, the dark green foliage and low-spreading growth of Jarvis Red would in themselves provide a shrub of value for landscape use in the garden. The vivid flower color and attractive plant habit of Jarvis Red or its sport should be considered in selecting camellias for any extensive planting.

CAMELLIA CLEARING HOUSE

CAMILLA BRADLEY TRUAX, New Orleans, Louisiana

Last fall I asked for letters from American Camellia Society members relating their personal experiences with camellias. The response was gratifying indeed. Seven states are represented in the correspondence that has come in since that initial "Clearing House" appeared. I was feeling pretty good until the 1953 Yearbook arrived a few days ago and I checked our membership list. That showed members residing in 37 states, the District of Columbia, and 12 foreign countries. On the basis of these figures, my average is much too low. I remarked to a fellow member how nice it is to have the membership list published in the Yearbook again and she said, "Yes, and just in time to help with the Christmas card list." That's one selling point for membership in the American Camellia Society that appears to have been overlooked.

Rooting Powders

Fred E. Hayes, owner of the Hillcroft Nursery at Mobile, Alabama, says there is no satisfaction like proving theories for oneself. "From time to time," he writes, "I have read articles pro and con the use of rooting powders on cuttings before putting them into the rooting medium.

"Some of the writers were very positive in their assurance that these powders insured a much better 'take,' while others obviously took the 'Doubting Thomas' stand on the subject. Last summer I rather leaned toward the persuasion of the doubters, and put in about 2,000 cuttings without bothering to 'dip' them. My wife, as usual not entirely agreeing with my conclusion, put an equal number of cuttings in the next section of the vermiculite bed, but she carefully treated hers according to the directions on the box. Again I must admit that my wife won. Her cuttings are rooting almost a hundred percent, while my percentage is something akin to the net

income left after Uncle Sam takes his cut.

"So, allow me to add a word of endorsement for the manufacturers of rooting powders: It pays to 'dip,' brother."

Camellia Outlands

Judson Hardy writes from his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, which he describes as the "Outlands of the Camellia Belt." There was a six-inch snow on the ground when he wrote on November 8, but it apparently had not dampened any of his enthusiasm for camellias. He has been growing them for three years, obtaining most of his plants, bare-rooted (2-3 feet) from the Mobile area. His method of planting is to wash the roots thoroughly upon arrival, pot them in peat moss or chopped sphagnum and keep them under fluorescent tubes, in high humidity, until new growth starts. Then he plants them outside in their permanent location.

Mr. Hardy reports, "My best-performing *C. japonica* is Cheerful, which last year bloomed in April, and right now shows much color in its buds. It is a very pretty sight against the snow. So far, it has completely disregarded ice, snow, wind and temperatures of 6°-12° F. and made good growth each year.

"Of approximately 2,000 *C. sasanqua* seed received from Japan last March, 1,000 germinated and are 2 to 4 inches high under their mulch of pine twigs, stray leaves and snow. I germinated them in damp peat, wrapped in a large sheet of Vinyl plastic and stored in the basement at a temperature of 60°. Next time I will treat seed with fermate first, as about 500 of them were attacked by a mold and rotted before germinating.

"By all odds, the best growth was obtained on seedlings transplanted to pure peat in a shaded frame and fed occasionally with Hyponex. Great variation in form, size, and color of foliage is

apparent. I am growing a few experimentally in pots in the basement under continuous fluorescent light (daylight 40 W tubes; 300 foot candles at top of plants).

"Of 100 *sasanqua* cuttings (5 varieties), 80 rooted within two months in one-half sand one-half peat under the same fluorescent tubes. Some, I am growing on under the tubes, others in a basement window, and the remainder in a cold frame. Those in the window and under the tubes are putting out new growth.

"Sparked by the success of Mrs. Tolson in Bethesda and the pioneering of Mr. Hill, a nurseryman in nearby Virginia, there is a lively interest in camellias discernible in the Washington, D. C. area. Many of the older, more conservative nurserymen, remembering the —17° winter of about 20 years ago, are very skeptical and continue combing the old gardens of the area in search of plants which survived that winter. If time permitted, I would like to go over to Baltimore and extend the search on the theory that back in the days when Philadelphia and Baltimore were camellia centers, a few plants may have strayed out of the greenhouses into people's yards."

Meanwhile, won't someone from that area scout around for some of the old survivors? If they could be identified and propagated, it would mean so much to the thousands of people who are so anxious to raise camellias but feel that their cold climate is a barrier to success.

Mrs. Charles Appleton Warren "pioneered" with camellias in 1940 in Pinehurst, North Carolina. At that time little was known about the hardiness of camellias in that section which is on a direct line with Charlotte, about 60 miles due east. She started with two Pink Perfections, one Jarvis Red, and a Lady Clare, all of which are still thriving. Needless to say, her interest did not stop there. She has added some 25 other varieties and just recently "dis-

covered" the Daikaguras. "What a joy they are and what envy I create this time of year (early November)." she writes. Each of the three variegated ones is different. Now she is planting some of the newer *sasanquas* to add to her fall blooming collection.

Mrs. Warren's 15-inch Joshua Youtz graft met with an accident last spring that called for quick thinking and a bit of home surgery to pull it through. When the yardman broke off its main stem 1½ inches above the graft union, she, with little hope, taped it back on. There was a "string" of bark intact so she taped the top on, splinted it and covered the splint with more tape. Then she staked it to give extra support. "Imagine my thrill upon returning from vacation on October 1 to find him all bushed out and laden with buds."

These are the kinds of "outlandish" reports your Clearing House wants, but all of them should not be confined to low temperature areas. When we refer to the hardiness of a plant we mean its ability to overcome adverse growing conditions. Hardiness is not limited to cold-resistance, though that is the characteristic most closely associated with a hardy plant. We know that camellias are not at their best under conditions of extreme temperatures. It is just as difficult to obtain long-lasting blooms of good texture and substance when the plants are subjected to extreme heat as to severe cold. And now the question comes up as to which varieties of *C. japonica* are the most heat-resistant. It has been pretty well established that *C. sasanqua* can be grown successfully below the southern limit for *C. japonica*. With a number of American Camellia Society members residing in the Miami area, we should be able to get some accounts of varietal performance under conditions of high mean temperature. How about it, Southern Florida? The Camellia Clearing House is at your disposal.

On to Charleston

What seems like a very practical idea

has been proposed by Mrs. Lester J. Montegut of St. Martinville, Louisiana. She would like to see some car pools made up for the Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society in Charleston, whereby riders could get together and share expenses. This seems like a good project for local clubs to sponsor. Let car owners and would-be passengers register at some central place and complete all arrangements for their trip independently. I don't know whether I'll fly, drive, or walk to Charleston, but I'll surely get there somehow, and am looking forward to seeing all my good camellia friends again.

For Beginners Only

Visit as many camellia shows as you possibly can and take a note book along with you. Jot down the outstanding characteristics and the names of each variety that you wish to add to your garden. Don't trust to memory. By the time you leave the hall, you will be completely bewildered by names, forms and color combinations.

Linger at the educational displays and talk to the people in charge of them. This is a good chance to see demonstrations of grafting or the rooting of cuttings, and to question the ones who make them.

If a freeze is predicted, water your plants well to force air out of the soil and to add to the moisture content of the plant. This is particularly important in caring for recent transplants.

It is less injurious to plants if they

can be covered with a portable frame or with burlap wrapped around stakes than if they are swaddled in cloth so close that it touches the leaves or flowers. Remove all artificial protection as soon as the weather warms up. Forgotten covers deprive plants of light, air and moisture.

Protect exposed plants from direct sunlight while they are thawing. Sprinkling them with cold water immediately after a freeze often reduces damage because it quickly replaces the moisture lost from plant tissues during the freezing process.

Delay all pruning of frost-killed wood until spring growth starts. In that way it is easy to tell just how far back to cut.

After flowering and before new growth starts, spray with an oil emulsion to control scale.

Fertilize with one of the specially prepared camellia plant foods as soon as the flowering period ends.

Keep a watchful eye for evidence of poor drainage at all times and correct the trouble. If it is necessary to raise a sunken camellia, try to do it before it goes into active growth.

The following idea, presented by Dr. Walter C. Hava, is a new one as far as I have been able to determine. It will take further observation to reach any definite conclusions, and Dr. Hava would like to know if other growers have had experiences similar to his.

TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT

WALTER C. HAVA, Waveland, Mississippi

In camellia literature we frequently read that camellias are improved by cutting their flowers. This advice made me feel very happy, because it enabled me to provide entries for numerous camellia shows; to satisfy the corsage requirements of Mrs. Hava; and to indulge some of our guests who "fall in love" with a particular bloom. Ordinarily this

generous cutting of flowers should not be detrimental to the plants, but the cutting of blooms last year (1952-53) seems to have decreased the number of buds this year. What is the reason for this paucity of flowers?

Last year we entered an arrangement that required more than 150 flowers, using the following varieties: White

Empress, Mollie Moore Davis, Duncan Bell, Mrs. K. Sawada, and Eugene Lize. I am sure the advice to cut flowers freely is correct in most cases, and I suppose we would not have noticed the shortage at all had our plants been of arboreal proportions, instead of 5- and 6-year grafts. But you can imagine how heavily we had to cut from these small plants to obtain such a quantity of blooms.

We are all aware that it is inadvisable to use a highly nitrogenous nutrient in late winter or early spring because, in so doing, we stimulate the production of vegetative growth (leaf buds) and at the same time prevent or inhibit the production of flower buds. Having been careful not to make this mistake, I wonder what caused this year's shortage of flowers in my garden on the plants in question.

Since flower buds originate from growth buds, through a change, it is my belief that the scarcity of flowers this season has been caused by an unusually early flower bud initiation last season and that these embryonic buds were removed as the flowers were cut.

Microscopic studies show that this miraculous bud differentiation usually takes place in early spring, requiring about one month to be accomplished. Normally, it occurs in the spring as the days become longer. It is produced by the stimulus of a sufficient number of hours of sunlight (9 or more) having sufficient intensity.

Last year nature must have fulfilled these requirements for flower production in January. I remember that this month was like spring. Even our hibiscus came through the winter without any fatalities and we had something blooming in the

garden every month during the year.

Today (in mid-November), while potting some rooted sasanqua cuttings of Rosea and Apple Blossom, I noticed that some of them had little flower buds. This should further support my contention concerning an early flower-bud differentiation last year. It is evident that the primordial (embryonic) flower buds were on these cuttings when I made them last January. Also, last February I experienced difficulty finding dormant scions, as most of the vegetative buds were beginning to swell, some having elongated almost an inch. It is surprising how the behavior of camellias differ as their environment is changed.

Would it not be nice if the American Camellia Society would permit some flower show blooms to be cut without leaves or stem, the leaves being added afterwards by wiring in corsage fashion?

There would be the following advantages to this special dispensation. The vegetative buds situated in the leaf axis and crowded against the base of its flower would not be destroyed and if it contained a flower bud it also would be preserved. This would be fine for Elegans and its mutations, C. M. Wilson and Francine, as these plants exhibit a decided apical dominance and cutting the branch or twig at the apex of the plant prevents it from getting as tall as it would otherwise.

Should we have a prize-winning bloom develop at the apex of any of these plants, we are supposed to leave them there. How wonderful if, with a pair of cuticle scissors, we could remove the bloom, without disturbing the vegetative bud, and add the leaves before entering it in a camellia show.

THE LIBRARY TABLE

The 1954 revision of "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," published by the Southern California Camellia Society, will be off the press about the middle of January.

According to information furnished by C. M. Gale, Secretary-Treasurer of the Society, the edition will be entirely new. The cultural matter, under the editorship of

Ronald Townsend, Curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, will be presented in sections under the by-lines of experts on the subject discussed. Mr. William E. Woodroof has made some basic changes in the nomenclature section and that part of the book will have a somewhat different appearance. It will contain many more varietal names and descriptions. The book will contain approximately 96 pages, about one third more than the previous edition.

This book is a "must" for camellia growers. The nomenclature feature alone is worth more than its selling price—\$1.25 per copy. Orders should be sent to the Southern California Camellia Society, 40 North San Rafael Avenue, Pasadena, California.

The 1954 Edition of the "Rhododendron and Camellia Year Book" published by the Royal Horticultural Society, London, has been distributed to subscribers. The inclusion of references to camellias in this publication, hitherto devoted entirely to rhododendrons, is a welcome feature.

The format is 6x9 inches, with 162 pages of text and 35 excellent illustrations. The price of the book is \$1.75 postpaid. Orders should be sent to the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W. 1, England.

A new and different camellia book has just been published and is now available—"OLD CAMELLIA VARIETIES," compiled by ARTHUR I. ELLIS for THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY and printed by RALPH S. PEER.

As a basic step toward an improved camellia nomenclature, The Royal Horticultural Society commissioned Mr. Ellis to compile an index of plates and/or pertinent details of varieties treated in the most important camellia books of the last century. Following completion of this Index, the material was prepared for publication and printed by Mr. Peer.

"Old Camellia Varieties" presents an indexing of varietal material from ten of the old works on camellias. The approximately 1500 entries are arranged alphabetically by variety name, and cross references are made for important synonyms. Each varietal entry includes (1) a citation to the source of the material, (2) description of the flower form, (3) size of the flower, (4) description of the flower color, (5) description of the flower and other noteworthy details taken from the original text (much of this is in French, some in Italian), and (6) citations to additional old listings where applicable.

As published, this book is of immense value to the student of camellia varietal nomenclature. It will also prove interesting and a worthy addition to the library of any serious camellian. The work and generosity of Mr. Ellis, The Royal Horticultural Society and Mr. Peer have provided an excellent working copy of much of the old, important camellia literature—a real and outstanding service!

This reviewer cannot close, however, without expressing sincere regret that the scope of "Old Camellia Varieties" could not have been expanded to include entries from the few remaining monographic works of that era and additional publications which contained, in part, some important camellia material. That such a limitation existed is recognized and evaluated in the introduction to this book.

The format of "Old Camellia Varieties" is 9x11 inches, with 374 pages and introductory material. It is attractively bound in camellia-red buckram and titled in blue lettering. The exclusive selling agent is R. S. Peër, 8159 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 46, California. According to prerelease information, this book will be priced at \$5.00 and may be obtained through direct contact with Mr. Peer.—A. G.

NEW BULLETINS

Clemson Agricultural College has in the past year published a revision of Circular 377, "GROWING CAMELLIAS AS A HOBBY." This bulletin is the work of J. M. NAPIER, a well-known camellian from Darlington, South Carolina.

Although each treatment is relatively brief, as is necessary in a publication of 32 pages, "Growing Camellias as a Hobby" covers almost the entire range of camellia subjects—history, recommendation for camellias, varieties, flower variation, disbudding and flowering problems, location, soils, planting and care, pests and diseases, propagation, buying of plants, and additional items. The section on propagating camellias is particularly well treated and illustrated with black-line drawings.

This publication is available free of charge to those requesting it. Correspondence should be directed to the Extension Service, Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, South Carolina.—A. G.

The University of California has in the past year also published a revision of an earlier bulletin on camellias. This new publication is Manual 5, "CAMELLIA CULTURE FOR THE HOME GARDENER," prepared by H. M. BUTTERFIELD, Extension Horticulturist.

A review of Circular 164, the earlier camellia edition, was published in the 1951 January Quarterly and may be referred to for details. Manual 5 presents much the same subject material, but it has been rewritten and brought up-to-date; also several illustration changes have been made.

This publication is available for 25c to those requesting it. Correspondence should be directed to the office of Agricultural Publications, 22 Giannini Hall, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.—A. G.

DESCANSO GARDENS LEASED

Descanso Gardens, LaCanada botanical showplace, has been leased by the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, California, under a \$40,000-a-year lease with option to purchase for \$1,160,000 at any time within the five-year period of the lease.

Descanso Gardens, chiefly devoted to camellias, azaleas, roses and rhododendrons, comprises approximately 140 acres. The lease-purchasing agreement includes an additional 250 acres, containing the water sources upon which the Gardens are dependent.

The home of the owner, Manchester Boddy, and 16 other buildings are included in the lease. It is contemplated that the Boddy residence will be converted into a restaurant for the convenience of visitors, and a library and exhibit rooms for horticultural activities. County officials will continue to make a charge for admission to the Gardens and anticipate an annual income of approximately \$100,000.

ALL AMERICA CAMELLIA SELECTIONS

DAVID COOK, San Fernando, California

Many inquiries addressed to the office of the Secretary of All America Camellia Selections indicate an ever increasing interest in the progress that has been made to date with the trials of the first camellias to be tested in advance of marketing. Such an interest is evidence of the long felt need for such a program. We are happy to report that progress to date is most satisfactory.

The testing program of the organization consists of careful point by point scoring, under garden conditions, of entirely new varieties of camellias. Twenty-four judges

have been appointed, from entirely amateur ranks, to serve the eight official test gardens. At the present, three of these gardens are on the Pacific Coast and five are in the Southern and Southeastern states. A wide range of climatic conditions are assured with gardens located in San Fernando, California; Sacramento, California; Portland, Oregon; Lafayette, Louisiana; Semmes, Alabama; Fort Valley, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Several new camellia varieties are now undergoing tests at these locations. The plants are scored on the following points: novelty, habit, floriferousness, foliage, flower form, substance, opening color, finishing color, and fragrance. Each of these points is carefully considered and evaluated on a scale that totals 100 points for the absolute and probably impossible peak of perfection. Value points vary in judging *sasanqua*, *reticulata* and hybrid species, as the species compete only with others of their kind.

All entries undergo three-year trials during which time they are scored many times by the judges in each test location. At the end of each test period the varieties with the highest average scores are given consideration by the trustees of All America Camellia Selections. Those considered worthy are recommended by the organization for introduction as an All-America Camellia. The first trials which began in 1952 will have been completed by 1955 after which the variety or varieties selected as winning will be announced. It is expected that plants will be available immediately or very soon after announcements have been made.

As new officers the following were elected: President, Herbert C. Swim, Ontario, California; C. Elwood Stephens, Semmes, Alabama, Vice-President; and Secretary-Treasurer, David Cook, 13531 Fenton Avenue, San Fernando, California. Directors elected were: C. Norwood Hastie, Charleston, South Carolina; Martin Usrey, Monrovia, California; and Edward B. Arnesen, San Fernando, California. The elected executive officers complete the slate of directors.

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART GALLERY, BOTANICAL GARDENS AND CAMELLIA GARDEN

DAVID W. MCLEAN, Arcadia, California

The inclusion of the Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens in the itinerary for the brief stay in the Los Angeles area of King Paul and Queen Frederika of Greece, has aroused national interest in the institution founded by Henry E. Huntington.

Henry E. Huntington amassed a vast fortune during the days of transcontinental railroad pioneering. His activities were many and varied but mostly in the field of transcontinental transportation in all of its ramifications, and in the development of the Southern Pacific Coast area during pioneer days.

In addition to his business activities, Huntington was a lover and connoisseur of art and letters. Through the years he collected rare paintings and other objects of art; rare books and manuscripts.

At about the turn of the current century Mr. Huntington purchased some two thousand acres of land north of Los Angeles and employed William Hertrich as super-

intendent of the ranch. Two hundred acres were chosen as the site for a magnificent home estate. Here Huntington housed his art collection, built a splendid library building to house the priceless and irreplaceable books and manuscripts he had collected.

William Hertrich laid out the grounds, in addition to superintending and developing the ranch. Rare plants and trees were brought in from all parts of the world. While the first camellias were purchased locally, many were brought in from Japan. Many of the original plants are still growing on the property.

The city of San Marino, later developed from the subdivision of some of the 2,000 acres of ranch land, has grown to be one of the select residential communities of the Los Angeles area. The "home ranch" of two hundred acres was endowed by Huntington and now constitutes the Henry E. Huntington Memorial Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens.

It is not unusual for a San Marinese visiting in Canada or distant communities of our far-flung land, to find that his mention of San Marino brings the reply "Oh yes, I know. That's where the Huntington Library is located."

In 1944 the Southern California Camellia Society joined with the Huntington Botanical Gardens in sponsoring a Camellia Garden on the Huntington estate. The Society undertook to furnish plants and scions for a camellia garden in the Japanese Canyon of the Huntington property.

The Camellia Garden has become one of the major interest points of the institution. It now contains over one thousand labeled varieties. Through the years the Camellia Garden has spread up the slopes of the Japanese Canyon; paths have been laid out; the plants, labeled, grow on the slopes under gigantic oak trees.

Curator (now Curator Emeritus) Hertrich has received the White Memorial Gold Medal Award from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in recognition of his horticultural achievements, which includes the assembling on the Huntington Estate of one of the most complete collections of succulents in the world. His book *Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1905-1949, Personal Recollections of Wm. Hertrich, Curator Emeritus* is a fascinating story and has had wide sale.

Playing an important part in the later development of the Camellia Garden is the present Superintendent, Ronald Townsend, who will be remembered by many as a former Superintendent of the Stern Estate just outside of New Orleans.

The Art Gallery is housed in the Huntington home mansion which remains very much as Mr. and Mrs. Huntington furnished and used it. Famous paintings grace its walls. The broad, sweeping areas of lawn, made into vistas by rare trees and shrubs imported from all parts of the world, the view across the valley to the San Gabriel Mission, are reward enough to the visitor. In addition, the exhibits in the library are fascinating. One could spend a week (students and research workers spend months) in the library alone. Beneath the library, a bomb-proof vault has been constructed large enough to receive all of the priceless and irreplaceable art objects. Certainly the Huntington Institution is one of the items no visitor to Southern California should miss.

The Camellia Garden, like the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, is open to the public daily from one P. M. to four-thirty P.M. Visitors should phone the Huntington Botanical Gardens in advance for information and designation of the time for the visit; your admission tickets will be waiting for you at the entrance.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q. What materials are recommended for use as a mulch for camellias?

A. There is a difference of opinion with regard to the desirability of different materials. The type generally used depends on the material that is most readily available. Peat moss, leaf mold, moss waste, pine straw, pine bark, oak leaves and old peanut hulls, tung hulls, pine or cypress sawdust may be used to advantage. Peat moss is most resistant to decomposition. Pine bark and oak leaves decompose most rapidly. Pine bark and pine sawdust are best suited for maintaining an acid condition of the soil.

2. Q. What are the advantages of a mulch?

A. A mulch is beneficial in that it conserves soil moisture, modulates extremes in soil temperatures, improves soil structure and, in the case of some materials, maintains an acid soil reaction.

3. Q. Should the mulch be removed when applying fertilizer?

A. No. Removal of the mulch will injure many feeding roots that are close to the surface. Direct contact with the fertilizer will injure other roots. The proper procedure is to scatter the fertilizer on top of the mulch and sprinkle it with the hose.

4. Q. Is a heavy application of mulch or compost detrimental to plant growth?

A. It should not be. However, the accumulation over a period of years of deposits of decomposed organic material may bring about a condition similar to that caused by setting the plant too deeply in the ground. These accumulations of decomposed materials should be removed periodically.¹

5. Q. Is it better to make grafts four or five inches above the ground rather than about two inches above ground level?

A. Some growers prefer to graft high so that they will have plenty of room to regraft the same stock in the event the first one does not take. Others prefer to graft low, as they believe that this discourages the growth of suckers. A low graft union is not as noticeable as one made higher up on the stock.

6. Q. When preparing a stock that is over 2½ inches in diameter, should the split be made through, or off center?

A. It is better to make the split off center in order to reduce the pressure on the scion.

7. Q. After the graft has been made, should the union be covered with some material such as clay, sand, vermiculite, petroleum compound or grafting wax?

A. This is another debatable subject. Commercial nurserymen who graft in large numbers usually cover the unions with top soil, although they have found vermiculite, and petroleum compounds to be satisfactory.

8. Q. What is the reason for removing the glass cover, and when should it be done?

A. Removal of the cover is desirable in order that the tender new growth may harden. Covers should be removed when the new growth is about two inches long.

¹For further information on mulches, see "Values of a Mulch" by R. J. Wilmot in the 1946 Yearbook, and "The Effect of Several Organic Mulches on Soil Reaction, Nitrates and Growth of Camellias", by J. Herbert, in the 1951 Yearbook.

12. Q. Should camellia plants be set in partial shade or full sun?

A. Planting in partial shade is the usual recommendation, although excellent results have been obtained from plants set in full sun. However, the direct rays of the New grafts that are exposed to direct rays of the sun should be shaded for a few days.

9. Q. At times, two scions are inserted in the larger stocks. In instances where one scion takes and one does not, is it desirable to remove the glass cover or leave it in place until the second scion starts to grow?

A. The cover should be removed after either scion shows new growth.

10. Q. Can grafting be done successfully during the summer months?

A. Yes. At times the summer graft will not make its first flush of growth until the following spring. At other times new growth may start during the first summer, in which event the graft must be protected from cold injury during the following winter. Air-layering or marcottage may be practiced during the summer months.²

11. Q. Should first-year grafts be fertilized?

A. No. The root system is large enough to take care of the growth of the greatly reduced top for the first year or two following grafting.

²See "Summer-Grafting" by Wm. E. Woodroof, 1947 Yearbook; "Air-Layering Camellias" by Fletcher Pearson Crown, "Air-layers and Their Protection Against Cold," by Walter D. Hava, in the 1952 Yearbook; and "Tip-Grafting Camellia Plants," by W. E. Bailey, in the 1953 Yearbook.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

William T. Wood, Chairman of the Illges Award Committee, urges all camellia growers who have won Awards of Merit or Highly Commended Certificates for seedlings to send him full information regarding the seedlings and awards. This applies to awards received in the past as well as in the future. This information is needed by Mr. Wood and his associates on the Committee in the consideration of seedlings that are eligible for the Illges Medal.

Mr. Wood's address is 240 Second Street, Macon, Georgia.

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morning sun are particularly injurious to plants and blooms following a night of exposure to frost or light freeze. It is desirable to provide some shade for the first two years after moving plants, particularly young ones, from partial shade to full sun.

13. Q. What size plants should the beginner buy?

A. A well-developed four-or-five-year-old plant on its own roots, or a two-year-old graft on an eight-to ten-year-old stock.

14. Q. How long will camellia plants thrive in containers?

A. Camellias will live and thrive in containers as long as the containers are of a size sufficient to take care of the roots. A ratio of six square inches of root space for each foot of plant height is advocated. European growers have kept camellias in containers for as long as fifty years, the plants being eight to ten feet high and with a spread of six to eight feet.³

15. Q. Will moving a seedling every year or two induce earlier blooming?

A. Yes. This is probably due to the pruning of the roots incidental to transplanting. Seedlings may be induced to bloom at an early age by paying special attention to their growth and culture. George Sawada, Crichton, Alabama, has found it possible to get blooms in two years,⁴ and Dr. W. E. Lammerts, La Canada, California, has reduced this period to eighteen months.⁵ J. M. Jones, Savannah, Georgia, has speeded up flowering by placing wires around the branches of the seedlings.⁶

³An excellent article, "Growing Camellias in Containers" by Claude Chidamian appeared in the 1947 Yearbook.

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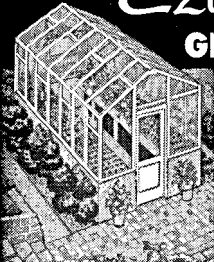
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16. Q. What is the best time to spray for the control of scale insects, and what materials are recommended?

A. The proper time to spray is when you think it will do the most harm to the pests and the least harm to the plants. As a general rule the first application should be made in the spring after danger of cold weather has passed, and a second application should be made in about ten days. The re-treatment is necessary in order to cover areas of the plants missed the first time, and to kill the scale crawlers that emerged after the first treatment. The best time to control peony scale is in July when the crawlers are present. Florida Volck (an oil emulsion), and parathion and malathion (organic phosphates) are recommended. However, oil should not be applied when temperatures are above 85 degrees, or late in the season. Oil-treated camellias are likely to be severely injured by early frosts. Parathion or malathion may be used at any time without risk of plant injury. However, these materials should be used with caution and in strict compliance with the directions of the manufacturers.

17. Q. Can sulfur, Bordeaux mixture or Copper A be mixed with oil?

A. Sulfur and oil do not mix, and the combination should never be applied to camellias. If the plants have been treated with sulfur, the oil spray should not be applied sooner than three weeks following such treatment. Bordeaux mixture and Copper A are compatible with oil, and a combination spray may be used as a fungicide and pesticide. The fungicides Flordo and C-O-C-S (copper oxychloride sulphate) are compatible with parathion, but over extended periods these materials tend to lower the efficiency of parathion when used in combination.

18. Q. Should camellias be pruned and, if so, when?

A. Camellias should be pruned to remove wood injured by cold, disease, or bruising, and to improve the shape or thrift of unsightly or ailing plants. Do not prune plants injured by cold until after new growth sets in. This delay is desirable in order that the operator may determine the extent of the injury and to avoid the removal of uninjured wood. With regard to the time to prune for other causes, C. Norwood Hastie, Jr., advises that the proper time is right now.⁷ If you wait until after the plant blooms, you will be tempted to wait a little longer to see what new growth appears,

⁴"How To Make Seedling Camellias Bloom In Two Years" by George Sawada, 1952 Yearbook.

⁵"Progress Report on Camellia Breeding," 1948 Yearbook.

⁶"Injuring Camellias to Induce Flower-bud Formation," 1952 Yearbook.

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and the first thing you know another year has passed and no pruning has been done.

19. Q. What can be done to control camellia flower blight? Can it be eradicated?

A. Remove and destroy infected flowers on the plant, as well as the fallen flowers, mulch and debris on the ground under the plants. Treat the soil under the plant with ferbam, sulfur, cyanamid, pentachloronitrobenzene, T. C. A. or Krenite 26.⁸ Fortunately, the causal organism does not spread from flower to flower like azalea petal blight, but from infected flower to the ground and back to the bloom. For this reason it is believed that the disease may be eliminated from a planting through the application of sanitary measures.

20. Q. Do bees injure camellia buds and flowers?

A. Yes. They start to attack the buds of some varieties before the blooms are fully opened, discolor the stamens and bruise the petals. This injury is incidental to the pollination of the flowers.

21. Q. Are squirrels injurious to camellias?

A. Yes, they eat flower buds in the spring and the seeds in the fall.

22. Q. Where can I obtain a color chart?

A. A standard horticultural color chart can be obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster SW1, England, at around \$10.00 for a set of two volumes. In the past the Horticultural Book Service, 200 Detroit Avenue, Concord, California, sold this color chart. It is not known whether or not they are still available from this source.

A simple color chart containing 108 color blocks may be purchased from the New England Gladiolus Society, Room 12, Horticultural Hall, Boston 15, Massachusetts. The price is \$2.25 for the mounted chart and \$1.25 for the unmounted one.

23. Q. Can you give us a rule that would be helpful in the pronunciation of Japanese names?

A. The following suggestions offered by K. Sawada are taken from the 1947 Yearbook:

"A" is pronounced a, somewhat like a in "arm," but not exactly. It is not the broad sound of a, as in "palm" (ah sound). "E" is pronounced a (long a, as in "they"). "I"

⁸For detailed information on the control of this disease see "The Flower Blight Disease of Camellias" by Frank A. Haasis, "Control of Camellia Flower Blight with Eradicant Fungicides" by Frank A. Haasis and E. G. Nelson, and "Camellias in the Fringe Area" by Alan J. Hofheimer" in the 1953 Yearbook.

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is pronounced e (long e, as in "police"); "o" is a long o; and "u" is somewhat like oo in "rumor" (roomer); "g" is given the hard sound, as in "good."

The correct pronunciations of a few Japanese names follows:

Arejishi	ah'-ra-jee"-shee
Beni-wabisuke	ba'-nee-wah'-bee-soo-kay
Daikagura	dah'-ee-kah"-goo-rah
Fukuzutsumi	foo-koo'-zoo"-tsoo-mee
Hoshiguruma	ho-shee-goo-roo-mah
Mikenjaku	mee'-ken-jah"-koo
Shira-giku	shee'-rah-gee"-koo

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF SHOW DATES

Herewith is presented additional show dates that were received too late to be included in the October Quarterly.

January, 1954

Abbeville, La.—Madame et Mademoiselle	9-10
Reidsville, Ga.—Associated Garden Clubs of Southeast Georgia	12
Bainbridge, Ga.—The Bainbridge Garden Clubs	15
Birmingham, Ala.—Birmingham Men's Camellia Society	16-17
Cochran, Ga.—Cochran Garden Club	20
Tifton, Ga.—Tifton Garden Club	20
Chipley, Fla.—Chipley Garden Club	23-24
Lake Charles, La.—Men's Garden Club of Lake Charles	23-24
Vienna, Ga.—Vienna Garden Club	26
Walterboro, S. C.—Walterboro Council of Garden Clubs	28
Ocala, Fla.—Marigold Circle of Pioneer Club	30-31
Waycross, Ga.—5 Federated Garden Clubs and Men's Garden Club	30-31

February, 1954

Cheraw, S. C.—Cheraw Civic League Garden Club	3- 4
Greenville, Ala.—Pride of Greenville Garden Club	6- 7
Adel, Ga.—Adel Garden Club	6- 7
Yonges Island, S. C.—St. Paul Garden Club	6- 7
Glendale, Calif.—Pacific Camellia Society	13-14
Ft. Valley, Ga.—Garden Club of Ft. Valley	17
Fayetteville, N. C.—Fayetteville Garden Club	27-28

March, 1954

Charlotte, N. C.—Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte	13-14
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The following are additions to the list of accredited judges which was printed in the October, 1953, Quarterly:

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Bessemer
 Lefkovits, Norman
 Nordan, Majors
 Mobile
 Abbot, J. Lloyd
 Montgomery
 Belser, T. A.
 Nation, Mrs. Harry E.

CALIFORNIA

San Diego
 Atherton, Lucien C.
 Bradford, J. W.

GEORGIA

Adel
 DeVane, Mrs. Lamar W.
 Atlanta
 Hubbard, H. M.
 Coleman
 Ingram, Mrs. H. R.
 Moultrie
 Powell, C. H.
 Tifton
 Gill, Dr. Denzell L.
 Unadilla
 Leggitt, Miss Willie

LOUISIANA

Covington
 Israel, Mayer
 Monroe
 Hamilton, Dr. A. Scott
 New Orleans
 Mansfield, Norman

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson
 Mrs. Lucius L. Mayes

NORTH CAROLINA

Gastonia
 Kincaid, Mrs. Paul P.
 Kincaid, Paul P.
 Wilmington
 Lomar, Miss Ruth
 Rehder, Henry B.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Cheraw
 Wannamaker, Mrs. L. C.
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 Mrs. Robert K. Wise
 Dillon
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 Habel, Dr. James M., Jr.

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BARGAIN SALE

In order to provide storage space for the reserve supply of 1953 Yearbooks, it is desirable to dispose of some of the editions of 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1952. These books, new and in the original containers have been sold at \$3.00 per copy. The four editions will be made available to the first one hundred applicants at a price of \$10.00, postpaid.

The Yearbooks may be used as gifts to friends, or to complete your files. Remember that the editions of 1946, 1947 and 1951 are out of print and most difficult to obtain. When the present supply of 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1952 Yearbooks is exhausted, they too will be unobtainable.

Send your orders, together with checks or money orders, to Sam P. Harn, Secretary, American Camellia Society, Box 2398, University Station, Gainesville, Florida.

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WHERE TO FIND IT

With the thought that the more recent members of the American Camellia Society might be interested in some of the articles published in the Yearbooks from 1948 to 1952, there is presented herewith a *partial* list of contents of the several editions. This list is by no means complete. A complete list of contents will be published at a later date.

Copies of the editions of 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1952 are available at \$3.00 each. As indicated elsewhere in this Quarterly, the set of four Yearbooks—1948, 1949, 1950 and 1952—may be purchased for \$10.00. Editions of 1946, 1947 and 1951 are out of print.

PLANTINGS AND GARDENS

Title	Author	Year
Camellias in the North West	Mrs. O. B. Thorgrimson	1948
Camellias in Raleigh, North Carolina	Mrs. R. L. McMillan	1948
Magnolia Gardens	C. N. Hastie, Jr.	1948

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How Camellias Behaved Through Two		
Snowstorms in Virginia	Evelyn Collins Hill	1948
Camellias In Knoxville, Tennessee	Eleanor W. Haasis	1948
Camellia Japonicas Survive Hard Winter		
1948	Frank Stanford Persons, II	1948
Notes on Georgia Camellias	James Stokes	1949
Camellias in Marshallville, Georgia	John D. Wade	1949
Growing Camellias in Charlotte, N. C.	Cora A. Harris	1949
Camellias in East Texas	Charles R. Ober	1949
Growing Camellias in the Portland Area	Mrs. J. S. Birrel	1949
Camellias in Columbia, S. Carolina	Chapman J. Milling	1949
More About Hardy Camellias	P. W. Zimmerman	1949
Camellia Cottage	F. F. Whitfield	1950
The Covina-Azusa-Glendora Camellias	Roy T. Thompson	1950
The Gracious Lady and Rosebud Farm	Herbert V. Mitchell	1950
Old Camellias of the Gulf Coast	Edwina N. Mogabgab	1950
Camellias in Vicksburg	Mrs. F. D. Pond	1950
Camellias in and Around Washington,		
D. C.	Jerry Hill	1950
Camellias in Sand Dunes	Filo H. Turner	1952
Camellias at Orton Plantation	Kenneth M. Sprunt	1952
Virginia's Camellias	Frederic Heutte	1952
Camellias in Arkansas	Sterling Cook	1952
Old Camellias of Louisiana's		
West Feliciana Parish	Margaret Lawrason	1952
Early History of Camellias in the		
Mobile Area	Robert C. Rubel	1952

SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS

The Clower Seedlings	Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower	1950
My Experiences With Camellia Seedlings	R. L. Wheeler	1950
Growing Camellias From Seed	Fred T. Bergstrom	1950
Tallahassee Seedlings	Lawrence A. Truett	1952
Exposure of Camellia Seeds to X-Rays	Herman V. Allington	1952
"Injuring" Camellia Seedlings to Induce		
Flower Bud Formation	J. M. Jones	1952
How to Make Camellia Seedlings		
Bloom in Two Years	K. Sawada	1952

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INSECTS AND DISEASES

Camellia Scab	A. G. Plakidas	1948
Camellia Root Rot	D. L. Gill	1948
Leaf Beetles Attacking Camellias	A. N. Tissot and H. Harold Hume	1948
Tests With New Insecticides	R. A. Hetrick	1948
Insects Affecting Camellias	A. E. Morrison	1949
Corky Outgrowths on Camellia Leaves	A. G. Plakidas	1949
Control of Insect Pests of Camellias	L. C. Kuitert	1949
Camellia Flower Blight	Roy A. Young and J. A. Milbrath	1950
Control of Insect Pests of Camellias	L. C. Kuitert	1950
Camellia Root Rot and Its Control	D. L. Gill	1952

GRAFTING

Large Ones Can Be Grafted	William L. Gray	1950
Graft-Cutting Method of Propagating Camellias	Shogo Yamaguchi	1950
Commercial Grafting of Camellias In England	G. H. Pinckney	1952
Top-working Camellias at Magnolia Gardens	C. Norwood Hastie, Jr.	1952
Sealing Camellia Grafts	Stewart C. Forbes	1952
Post-Grafting Surgery	Gordon W. Richmond	1952
A New Cover for Camellia Grafts	Claude Chidamian	1952
Air-Layering Camellias	Fletcher Pearson Crown	1952
Air-layers and Their Protection Against Cold	Walter D. Hava	1952

CUTTINGS

Rooting Responses of Several Varieties of Camellia Japonica	Onis D. Hyatt	1948
Hormones, Chemicals and Camellias	James Stokes	1948
1947 Camellia Cutting Experiments	K. Sawada	1948
The Effect of Fungicidal Dips on Rooting Camellia Cuttings	Henry F. Swanson	1949

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Studies on the Propagation of Camellia Japonica Using Leaf-Bud Cuttings and Root-Inducing Substances	H. Hamilton Williams	1950
Propagation of Camellias by Cuttings	R. F. Stevens	1950

SOILS

Vermiculite as a Soil Amendment for Growth of Camellias	Walter J. Friedman, Jr.	1949
Soils and Soil Treatment for Camellias	Harry L. Daunoy	1950
Soil Acidity and Camellia Growth	Nathan Gammon, Jr. and R. J. Wilmot	1950
Soil Environment as a Medium for the Growth of Camellias	James Vlamis	1952
The Relation of Soil Reaction to Successful Camellia Culture	Roy P. Tucker	1952
Krilium as a Soil Conditioner	Gaylord M. Volk	1952

CULTURE—INDOORS

Camellias as House Plants	Albert J. Irving	1949
Greenhouse Camellia Culture	Royal Gick	1950
Growing Camellias on a Porch	Mrs. F. E. Newbold	1950
I Took My Camellias and Went Underground	Charles L. Gay	1952
What! Camellias in Wyoming?	J. A. Deffeyes	1952

SHOWS AND SHOW OPERATIONS

Designing the Camellia Show Layout	Hubert B. Owens	1949
Proposed Procedure for Staging a Camellia Show	Frank M. Exley	1949
Definitions of Terms Used in Camellia Shows	Mrs. W. T. Wood	1949
History of the Temple City Camellia Festival	Mrs. Frank L. Maxey	1950
Camellia Show Schedule Considerations	Ira S. Nelson	1952
Judging Isn't Easy	Jerry Olrich	1952
Camellia Flower Classification as it Relates to Show Operation	Evelyn Frances and Barlow W. S. Hollingshead	1952
A Proposed New Classification System	Albert Fendig	1952
Flower Classification—A Survey of Various Systems		1952

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ARRANGEMENTS AND FLOWERS

Commercial Camellia-Flower Production	Joe Richards	1948
Flower Arrangements with Camellias	Mrs. Arthur P. Teele	1948
Camellias for My Lady	Mrs. L. Houston Reusch	1949
The Fine Art of Arranging Flowers	Mrs. W. T. Wood	1950
Camellias in Arrangements	Carl Starker	1952
Packing Camellia Blooms for Shipment	Joe Richards	1952

MISCELLANEOUS

Landscape Use of Camellias	William S. Wiedorn	1949
The Spelling of Camellia Varietal Names	Austin Griffiths, Jr.	1949
Registration of New Varieties	R. J. Wilmot	1949
Protecting Camellias	Dmitri Vail	1950
Color Photography of Camellias	Herbert V. Mitchell	1950
Plant Patents	S. Henry Edmunds	1950
Patented Camellias	Sam P. Harn	1952
Magic of the Lighted Garden	Myrtle Fahs Bender	1952

OBITUARY

Sherwood Lindsay Neill

The inevitableness of death in nowise dulls the sorrow when a good citizen and good friend is removed from our midst. Sherwood Lindsay Neill enjoyed a span of life far beyond that which can be normally expected, living until his 86th year, but his recent death leaves a breach in the ranks of Columbus' outstanding citizens which the passage of time will find difficult to fill.

Mr. Neill was a life-time resident of Columbus, Georgia, and was active in many phases of the city's civic and social life. He had retired several years ago from his association with the Muscogee Manufacturing Company, but had maintained an active interest in the affairs of his community.

Mr. Neill needs no memorial that his memory be kept fresh among his many friends and associates in Columbus. His contributions as a member of the community and his personality will long be remembered by those privileged to be his fellow citizens. But, unlike most of us, his name is memorialized.

The lovely Lindsay Neill camellia, which he discovered growing in the yard of

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the Muscogee Manufacturing Company, will always remind us of this outstanding citizen. It is an enviable circumstance when an individual leaves a memory enshrined in a beautiful flower. The works of a lifetime could be no better rewarded.

Columbus (Georgia) Record, October 19, 1953

UP FROM THE SOUTH

ALBERT J. IRVING, Brewster, New York

The camellia is rapidly becoming the champion flower of many plant hobbyists and garden enthusiasts all over the country. One indication is the rapid growth of the American Camellia Society. Although incorporated as recently as 1946, it already has more than 5,000 members.

A recent poll indicates that the camellia (pronounced ca-mell-yah down South) is second only to the rose in popularity. Incomplete returns show that at least fifty exhibitions devoted solely to this favorite flower will be held this winter.

The revival of the *Camellia japonica*, which started some years ago, has been strong in the Southeast, along the Gulf Coast, into Texas and the Southwest. Of course it extends along the Pacific Coast from southern California northward to Oregon and has even spread into the Northeast. But in the last area, camellias must still be grown indoors.

Nowadays, the production of new varieties and original investigation goes on at a terrific pace. Some of this research is directed toward winter hardiness in areas never before thought possible for the survival of the plant.

The long, normally cool autumns in the Northeast are conducive to the production of well-matured or hardened plant structures. In this condition, certain varieties, even with their flower buds, may withstand temperatures as low as zero, while a less matured plant may be severely injured at 25 degrees. In most regions where camellias are commonly grown as outdoor shrubs, the climate does not permit this hardening of top growth. These plants then face winter with soft growth and are severely damaged by a sudden low in temperature. Research at the University of Alberta, Canada, indicates that it may soon be possible to protect camellias and other plants chemically against winter damage.

For the present, with my plants in Brewster, N. Y., I must be content with the fact that camellias grow with only a reasonable amount of coddling. For these are not high-temperature plants. While the camellia is most tolerant of abuse, I find the perfection of the plant and good flower production are in direct proportion to the amount of care given.

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greenhouse with a night temperature of 40 degrees. It is a shade-loving plant and does best with half shade in summer and winter. As with all broadleaved evergreens, camellias must be grown in acid soil. To obtain this reaction acid peat moss (not all peat moss is acid), cottonseed meal or a small amount of sulfur may be added to the soil mixture. In addition the soil must be well drained and contain considerable humus.

As to feeding, the plants grown in the Northeast should have received a light application of a complete liquid fertilizer or manure water in December. The same substance should be applied in February when new growth begins and a third application is given in April to stimulate the new growth and bud development. During March, April and May, when new growth is forming, the soil should always be kept moist. Otherwise camellias are watered infrequently, just as the soil becomes medium dry.

No plant is troubled less by disease or insects than the camellia. Then, too, it is easily propagated from cuttings taken in August. It is also possible to grow good plants in the house, in a glass enclosed porch or passageway, if the night temperature can be kept down to 50 but not below 35 degrees. Humidity should also be provided somehow.

When choosing plants, it is best to purchase pot-grown plants, particularly for indoor culture. Most root systems of field-grown plants are not compact enough.

For the beginner at least there is a list of ten varieties to consider, as selected by a poll of the American Camellia Society. The varieties are all grown outdoors in the South, where they are hardy. But for the present, Northeastern growers will have to consider them as indoor varieties only. Two rather large flowered kinds are Mathotiana, a rose-shaped, dark red double flower and Elegans (Chandleri), a variegated pink and white with prominent yellow stamens. Alba Plena is an old, white variety with complete, double imbricated flowers. Then there are Hermes (Hikaru-Genji), a large, loose peony form that is semi-double with pink and white petals and some yellow stamens, and Donckelarii, also a large semi-double with deep red splashed petals and yellow stamens.

A small perfectly formed flower is Pink Perfection (Frau Minna Seidel) with double shell pink petals. Debutante, madder pink, is a peony type. Two other large-flowered varieties are Daikagura, a loose peony form, rose red with prominent stamens and Prof. C. S. Sargent, a heavy peony form, rose pink deepening to a dark red. Lady Clare (Empress) is a very large semi-double with deep pink petals and prominent stamens.

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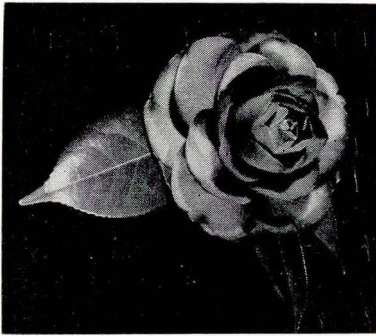
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