

AMERICAN CAMELLIA *Quarterly*

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OCTOBER, 1955



CAMELLIA SASANQUA • CRIMSON TIDE

Courtesy Camellias in America
Revised Edition, by H. Harold Hume

American Camellia Quarterly, Volume 10 - Number 4, October 1955

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American Camellia Quarterly

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A membership in the American Camellia Society will bring you a bound Yearbook that contains the latest information on culture, pest control, varietal nomenclature, history, descriptions and sources of new varieties, and exact scientific information on various subjects concerning camellias and a subscription to the American Camellia Quarterly.

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LOS ANGELES WELCOMES THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

RALPH PEER, Los Angeles, California

Plans for the Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society February 25-26, 1956, inclusive, are now well advanced.

Headquarters will be at the far-famed Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood. Members desiring to stay at this famous hostelry should make their reservations now. If a motel is preferred, there are several providing excellent accommodations in the same general area.

The Los Angeles Camellia Council has been enlarged to include the Temple City Camellia Society (Temple City).

It is felt that many visitors will arrive in California several weeks in advance of the meeting date in order to become acquainted with the scenic wonders of this state. A Visitors' Entertainment Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. E. C. Hubbs, 1370 San Luis Rey Drive, Glendale 8, California. If you would like to make a tour embracing the Camellia Shows which will be held in California during February and March, Dr. Hubbs will be glad to give you full information. According to data now available, shows will be held in the following cities in addition to the Combined Show for the Los Angeles Area to be held at Descanso Gardens, La Canada, California:

San Diego
Santa Ana
Pomona
Bakersfield

Fresno
San Jose
Oakland
Sacramento

Mr. Alton B. Parker, 6121 Rosemead Boulevard, Temple City, California, is Chairman for the Combined Show at Descanso Gardens. Members and nurserymen desiring information about display space will please communicate direct with Mr. Parker.

The Annual Meeting of our membership will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel and will be thrown open to all persons interested in camellias. There will be several guest speakers, and a panel of experts will endeavor to solve any and all camellia problems.

On two separate nights there will be a banquet and a cocktail party. Arrangements will be made for members and visitors to register at the Hotel Roosevelt. At that time, they may purchase a combined ticket covering all of the official entertainment and including admission to Descanso Gardens.

Several bus trips are planned to the Temple City Camellia Festival.

Visitors from many foreign countries have been invited, and we hope, therefore, to have an international gathering.

TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

HOYT W. LEE, Mobile, Alabama

From information at hand, it would appear that the Annual Meeting to be held in Los Angeles, California, February 25-26, 1956, will be well attended by members of the Society who reside in the South. A considerable number have already made plans to make the trip by rail. Some preliminary information may be helpful to others who desire to take advantage of this opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends during the pleasant hours that will be devoted to speeding across the country on de luxe Streamliners.

Members who are going to the meeting should take in as much of this wonderful

country as possible. This can be arranged by taking advantage of the diverse route arrangements offered by representatives of the railroads.

In view of the fact that travel to the West Coast is very heavy during the winter season, members are urged to make their reservations as soon as possible in order to be able to make the trip with other members.

Letters of inquiry with regard to different routes, schedules and reservations should be addressed to Mr. Fred W. Holder, District Passenger Agent, Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, 11 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama. Mr. Holder is taking a personal interest in this matter and is in a position to be most helpful to members of the Society who are in need of detailed information with regard to schedules and reservations.

CAMELLIAS — A CAPITAL IDEA

E. A. COMBATALADE

President, Camellia Society of Sacramento

President, Camellia Festival Association

For eleven festive days, thousands of men, women, and children of Northern California paused in their day-to-day routine to pay tribute to the exquisite camellia—Sacramento's official flower—as California's capital held its first annual Camellia Festival February 25-March 7.

The camellia story is as romantic as the flower itself. It is permeated with the mystery of the ancient Orient, the salty vigor of the rugged merchantmen, and the perfumery of a decadent court, to become revitalized in the pioneering strength of a new country.

The camellia was named for a 17th century Moravian priest, George Joseph Kamel (Camellus). While developing a new system of plant classification, the world famous botanist Carl Linneaus posthumously honored the missionary for his contributions to the natural history of the Far East.

Botanically, the camellia is a member of the tea family, originating in Eastern Asia. Often known as the Chinese rose, it was the pampered pet of the aristocratic Chinese garden, the companion of the Buddhist priests as they made pilgrimages from Korea to Japan. The camellia was first brought to Europe by captains of tea ships commissioned by their wealthy owners to bring back unusual plants.

Tea was first mentioned in England about 1615 by an agent of the East India Company. In England, the first published notes on the camellia appeared in 1702, by James Petiver, an apothecary, botanist, and collector of his day. Herbarium material of John Cunningham, an English East Indian physician stationed at Amoy, China, had fallen into Petiver's hands and had included a *Camellia japonica*. Linneaus, interested in the possibility of growing tea in Europe, negotiated with the East India Company to introduce tea plants and seeds. Many of these plants turned out to be camellias for the Chinese were wary of losing their tea monopoly and so introduction of these beautiful shrubs was unwittingly made. In 1792, Capt. Conner brought the varieties Alba Plena and Variegata to England. Camellias rapidly grew in public esteem. Seeds and seedlings were found to be readily produced in Italy due to excellent climatic conditions. However, the English developed the Chinese rose to horticultural importance from 1830 to 1860, when interest declined.

It remained for the French, about 1840, to recognize the aesthetic beauty of the camellia and to develop its appreciation to new heights. Dumas' immortal story "La Dame Aux Camellias," which became the play "Camille" and the opera "La Traviata," typifies the romantic esteem which the French people held for this most exotic of flowers.



1955 CAMELLIA FESTIVAL, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Left to right — James R. Garlick, Chairman Sacramento County Board of Supervisors; J. Knight Goodwin, Governor of California; H. H. Hendren, Mayor of Sacramento; E. A. Combatalade, President Sacramento Camellia Festival Association.

There is considerable discussion as to the date and place of the first camellias in the United States. John Stevens of Hoboken, New Jersey, is credited with importing a single red from England around 1797. In 1800, an English nurseryman, Michael Floy, brought an Alba Plena to America. In his nursery at Bowery Village and Harlem, New York City, he raised and named more camellias than any other American of his day.

During the gold rush of '49, there came to Sacramento a New Englander named James L. L. F. Warren. Mr. Warren had been a prosperous nurseryman and florist in Boston prior to getting the "gold rush fever." In 1850, instead of going to the mines, he opened a business under the name of Warren and Company New England Seed Store, at 15 J Street. The first advertisement of his firm appeared in the February 7, 1852, Sacramento Union. The ad read in part, "A splendid set of dahlia roots, roses, camellias, grape vines, bulbous roots, etc., will be ready for examination in our hall over the store on Monday." It is believed these were the first camellias to come to California.

Mr. Warren predicted in 1853: "This truly magnificent plant (the camellia) unsurpassed in loveliness will ere long become acclimated with us to form our pride as an ornamental tree in our garden." Little did he realize that eighty-nine years to the day after his first ad, Sacramento's city council would, by resolution, adopt the camellia as its official flower.

With more than a century of camellia culture, with thirty years of camellia shows

recognized by experts as by far the superior camellia show in the United States, with the state capitol of the fastest growing state in the nation as a backdrop, we of the Camellia Society of Sacramento felt we should share our camellia riches with the rest of the nation. After much discussion by members of the Society, it was decided that the best way was to hold a festival with a broad base of community interest in order to reach a great many groups. Yes, perhaps we should think in terms of developing a civic program, the scope of which would eventually be as broad as this fertile valley.

So, the idea of a Camellia Festival was presented to civic leaders in various spheres of community life. Their response was so enthusiastic a Camellia Festival Association was formed to work with the Camellia Society, both sharing the fun of letting one and all know about the flower God blessed with exquisiteness and versatility beyond compare in this "The Camellia Capitol of the World."

After preliminary meetings, it was felt that the schools and the large numbers of state employees in the area should be represented in the Association. Invitations were accepted by Mr. William J. Burkhard, Superintendent of Schools, Sacramento City Unified School District, and S. G. Hanson, General Manager of the California State Employees Association.

Many events for a festival were considered. A policy of a few major ones of high standard and certain success was adopted. A sound foundation must be laid to assure growth of the festival during the coming years. To this end the following features were selected by the Association and participation enthusiastically accepted by the sponsoring organizations.

Camellia Queen Contest — December 10, 1954 - February 12, 1955

Sixteen charming young ladies were presented by the three local colleges for the queen contest. The colleges were enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate in this community effort.

Greater Sacramento Chamber of Commerce Breakfast — February 25, 1955

The kick-off breakfast was sponsored by the Camellia Society of Sacramento and the Camellia Festival Association and was attended by 286 people to hear Ralph S. Peer and to be thrilled by the announcement of the queen contest winner. This was one of the largest breakfasts ever held in Sacramento.

Children's Camellia Parade — February 26, 1955

Staged by the Sacramento City Unified School District, County Schools, and City Recreation and Park Department. The parade attracted 87 floats and the Mexican entry in the International Section won the sweepstakes. The winning float depicted a troubadour serenading a very beautiful young lady.

Camellia Ball — February 26, 1955

The ball was an outstanding success with beautiful pageantry for the queen crowning ceremony. Some 600 people were in attendance. The Mercy Children's Hospital Guild and Sutter Hospitals Auxiliary, sponsors of the ball, feel that this event will become the outstanding social event in the community.

31st Annual Camellia Show, Municipal Auditorium — March 5-6, 1955

The show was presented by the Camellia Society of Sacramento and had the largest attendance in its history, with an estimated 28,000 people visiting the two-day show. Visitors were recorded from distances up to 175 miles away. Despite severe weather preceding the show, approximately 10,000 blooms were exhibited.

Annual Spring Opening — March 7, 1955

The merchants' annual spring opening followed the camellia theme in

their window displays. The beautiful windows of the leading merchants attracted thousands of visitors and awards were presented for the best displays.

The consensus is that our first festival was an outstanding success. Enthusiasm is high in all sections of the community over the anticipation of future festival developments. Plans for the future include participation by all communities in this tremendously fertile valley.

OUR SOCIETY'S ELECTION PROCEDURE

JOHN NILES SEWELL, Jacksonville, Florida

Members of the American Camellia Society in each of the twelve key states (Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington) have the exclusive right to choose their own State Directors. Similarly, members in each of the three Territories (Atlantic Coast, Gulf Coast and Pacific Coast) have the exclusive privilege of choosing two Directors-at-Large from their own Territory. The eighteen Directors thus elected by the members in turn elect the Society's Officers. The Directors and Officers together comprise the Governing Board which directs all the Society's affairs.

This procedure is based upon the democratic principle that all of the Society's members, in so far as it is practicable, can and should participate in the election of Directors for their particular State and Territory, yet prevents any possibility of interference from any other section of the country. It also means that the views of the Society's membership are reflected in the choice of its Officers by majority vote of the Directors who have been elected from all sections of the country. Officers are elected annually, but Directors are elected for terms of three years each under a system of rotation by Territories. For example, all of the current Directors for the Pacific Coast Territory took office at the annual meeting in Charleston in January, 1954, and the current Directors from the Atlantic Coast Territory took office at the annual meeting in Birmingham in January, 1955. The terms of the current Directors from the Gulf Coast Territory will end at the annual meeting in California in February, 1956.

The Society's Notice of Election forms invite nominations from members in each State and Territory involved in the next election. The By-laws require that the name of the person receiving the highest number of nominating votes for each Director *must* be printed on the actual ballot form for the ensuing election, together with such additional names as the Nominating Committee, composed of three members from the Gulf Coast Territory, shall select. However, the Nominating Committee must obtain the written consent of each nominee before placing their names on the ballot.

The method of selecting Directors and Officers is specified in the By-laws as printed on pages 250-252 of the *American Camellia Yearbook*, 1953, and revisions printed on pages 18-20, *American Camellia Quarterly*, January, 1955.

The forthcoming elections for the Directorate in the Gulf Coast Territory will serve as an example of election procedures (Readers should bear in mind the fact that the next annual meeting will be held February 25-27, 1956).

On or before October 28, 1955 (120 days before the next annual meeting), the Secretary will mail to every member in the Gulf Coast Territory a notice of election and request for names of nominees for the positions of one State Director from their respective States, and two Directors-at-Large from their Territory. Separate forms will be used for each of the five states that are represented by State Directors. The notice for each State will indicate (solely as an item of information) the names of their

incumbent State Director (1), and Directors-at-Large (2), However, by reason of the death of Dr. Guy D. Bethea, the name of only one Director-at-Large, Sigmund J. Katz, will appear.

Notices of election and requests for names of nominees for *Directors-at-Large only*, also will be sent to members who reside in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Any voting member may submit to the Secretary, not less than 90 days before the annual meeting, one nomination for Director from his State and two nominations for Director-at-Large from his Territory. (Voting members who reside in the States specified in the preceding paragraph shall cast their votes for Directors-at-Large only).

The Secretary shall promptly transmit to the Nominating Committee all nominations received at his office. As previously indicated, the name of the person receiving the highest number of nominating votes for each Directorate shall be included in the final ballot, together with such additional names as the Nominating Committee may select. Not later than December 28, 1955, which will be sixty days before the next annual meeting, the Secretary will send ballots to all voting members in the Gulf Coast Territory. The ballots sent into each of the five states will bear the name of the member who receives the highest number of nominating votes for State Director from that particular State, and the names of the two members who received the highest number of votes for Director-at-Large from the entire Territory, together with the names of others selected by the Nominating Committee. In addition, space will be provided for "write-in" candidates.

The completed ballots must be returned to the Secretary not later than January 25, 1956, which will be 30 days before the next annual meeting. The members who receive the highest number of votes for each Directorate will be notified of their election in time to take office at the annual meeting at Los Angeles, California, February 25-26, 1956.

Members should be careful to nominate and elect Directors who are not only qualified for the position, but who have the time and inclination to attend most of the meetings of the Board of Directors and Governing Board.

NO ROOM FOR A GREENHOUSE

W. S. DOMER, Washington, D. C.

As I am not a learned Horticulturist, Doctor of What-Have You, or a Greenhouse Authority, I should not be writing this article. I am just a camellia-growing ham, living in Washington, D. C. (where you are not supposed to be able to grow camellias), and feel that there may be some other hams who might enjoy knowing about my experiments. Not being an authority, I can make definite statements, because everybody knows that I am wrong anyway!

I wanted to lengthen my blooming season, which amounts to about two months (March and April). In Washington this requires a greenhouse. My lot is small, triangular in shape, and with the rigid building restrictions here, I was stymied. I could grow all the plants outside but I could not cover them with a glass house.

I had a happy thought: I might use the garage. My garage is built under the concrete slab of the porch, three-quarters below grade. My thought was that with the use of fluorescent lights, I could imitate, possibly, South Carolina weather.

Not knowing anything about this sort of thing, I started telephoning and writing everyone I could think of, trying to get some information. The area covered by these inquiries reached from the Department of Agriculture here to the University of California and all through the South. Everyone was willing to be helpful, but knew

nothing about this line of endeavor. All letters and telephone calls ended up: "Sorry, I cannot help you, but please keep accurate notes." Someone came up with the idea of using 200-foot-candles and incandescent lamps in addition to the fluorescent ones.

With no help, I began the trial and error method. I did not want my camellias to grow, but only to bloom; so I figured to give them enough light to imitate daylight during the daylight hours. The chimney ran up the inside wall of the garage, so I knew they would not freeze. Three dual-tube commercial fluorescent fixtures and six incandescent fixtures, with reflectors, were installed.

As this was to be my "Greenhouse," I painted the walls with light green Sta Dri concrete paint. Mistake number one! Sta Dri is a water proof paint, keeping out any moisture that might come through the blocks and mortar of the walls, thus reducing the humidity.

I next installed a water outlet, hoping that with the aid of a hose and fog nozzle, I could maintain humidity. A high and low recording thermometer was hung on the wall. Forty-watt daylight fluorescent tubes were installed, together with incandescent lamps equalling 100 watts to the fluorescent tube. Lights were to be turned on at 8 A.M. and off at 6 P.M. Temperatures should range from a minimum of 35° to a maximum of 70°.

I was now ready for business. In December I moved in camellias which were planted in Redwood tubs and egg cans. They were, for the most part, corsage varieties with blooming seasons from early to late. I will not be unfair to varieties by mentioning their names, as this was the beginning of a noble experiment, as mentioned, governed by trial and error method.

My results were gratifying, considering the lack of knowledge and experience. I had blooms from January until the end of the season, not as many, perhaps, as might be expected, but there were some very good ones. Some blooms bullnosed, and some opened partly and stayed that way for weeks to months, never opening properly.

Temperatures should be raised so the minimum should not be less than 40° and probably 45°. The maximum was all right, holding to 72° when the outside temperature late in the season got up to 85°.

I have learned that light degrees should (and they will be) checked by light meters to 200-foot candles. The fluorescent fixtures should be mounted on chains, so they can be raised and lowered. Incandescent lights should be used in conjunction with the fluorescent lights, to control the infrared rays.

Humidity is the important bug-a-boo. In this installation, everything is concrete except the wooden doors of the garage. Even with the daily fogging and the leakage around the doors, there is not enough humidity. Air circulation may have a bearing on this condition. This year I intend to install a "Frisco Fog," controlled by a humidistat to circulate and maintain the humidity. I am going to try to maintain humidity at 60 percent. This is a figure picked out of my hat and may have to be changed. If anyone has any knowledge regarding the humidity factor, I would appreciate hearing from them.

This year I will move my plants in about the middle of September and will try to keep accurate notes, so that next year I hope I can bring this article up to date with some constructive ideas.

All cheers and jeers will be gratefully received!

IN MEMORIAM



Mrs. John H. Churchwell

Mrs. John H. Churchwell, Jacksonville, Florida, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 1955. Death occurred as a result of a sudden illness which developed while she was enjoying a vacation at Waynesville in the mountains of western North Carolina. She died as she would have preferred—without a lingering illness, especially one of helplessness.

Edith Fletcher Churchwell was born in Forsyth, Georgia, on December 12, 1892, but had made her home in Jacksonville for the past thirty-one years. She was the widow of John H. Churchwell and the niece of the late Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, for whom one of her favorite camellias was named. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Martha Churchwell Pavelka, a son, John H. Churchwell, Jr., and four grandchildren, Jacksonville, Florida, and by two sisters, Mrs. Thomas Nesbitt and Miss Annie Kate Fletcher, and a brother, T. Edgar Fletcher, all of Cordele, Georgia.

The sixty-two years of her life's span do not begin to measure the fullness of her life. Her love of flowers and of people was her outstanding characteristic, and both flowers and people always responded to her genuine interest in them. She was a real gentlewoman in every sense of the word.

Mrs. Churchwell was one of the founders and a Life Member of the American Camellia Society. She served as the first State Director from Florida, holding this position until 1950 when she felt obliged to resign. However, the culture of camellias continued to be her favorite hobby. She was also a patron and life member of the Garden Club of Jacksonville, a member of the Jacksonville Orchid Society, the America Orchid Society, American Plant Life Society, The Hemerocallis Society and a number of civic and charitable organizations.

Our lives have been enriched by the friendship of Edith Churchwell.

—John Niles Sewell

Robert Park Erdman

Commander Robert Park Erdman, Savannah, Georgia, died at the Naval Hospital, Beaufort, South Carolina, August 18, 1955. He was born in Ridgeway, Pennsylvania, on October 19, 1898.

Commander Erdman lived a full and useful life. After graduating from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1919, he saw active service on warships of various types in the Asiatic, European and American theatres. In 1944 he served as senior member

of a naval mine warfare mission to Russia and learned to speak the Russian language. He also served on the staffs of Rear Admirals Clark Howell Woodward and Charles S. Freeman, Commanders of special service squadrons in Panama, and Rear Admiral George J. Myers, Commander of the 16th Naval District at that time.

Commander Erdman's interests extended into civic affairs. At various times he served as President of the Propeller Club, Chairman of the fund drives of the American Red Cross and American Cancer Society, and at the time of his death he was President of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in Georgia.

To members of the American Camellia Society, Commander Erdman was best known as one of the editors of the American Camellia Catalog. After his retirement from the Navy in 1946, he became interested in camellias and soon became an authority and lecturer on the subject. His camellias won many prizes in various camellia shows.

To Commander Erdman's wife, Anne Vere Fairfax Dashiell Erdman, Miss Anne Dashiell Erdman, daughter, and Mrs. Harry H. Erdman, mother, go the deep and abiding sympathy of the members of the American Camellia Society.

EARLY BLOOMS

The number of blooms of different varieties that made their appearance early in the 1955-56 season justifies a remark made by Mr. Marvin M. Mann, St. Matthews, South Carolina, when he reported a perfect bloom of Mathotiana on June 25, 1955. He stated:

This is another testimony of nature to the valor of the old warrior whom we can hear call, from the summer's scorching sun to the chilly blasts of the north, "My head is bloody but unbowed."

Some of the early flowers, together with the names of the owners or reporters follow:

Arejishi

- July 10, Mrs. L. D. Drumm, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 11, Mrs. H. S. Hagerty, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 12, Dick Lashley, Greenville, S. C. (two on this date and three on July 26).
- 17, O. C. Cotton, McComb, Mississippi
- 18, Robt. O. Rubel, Jr., Mobile, Alabama
- 22, J. A. Rubenstein, Long Beach, Mississippi
- 22, Q. C. Roberts, Ocean Springs, Mississippi
- 24, Robert R. Beaton, Portsmouth, Virginia
- 26, Cecil W. Mathews, Gainesville, Florida
- 28, Dr. E. C. McRee, Port Arthur, Texas. (Dr. McRee stated that six other members of the Men's Garden Club of Port Arthur had Arejishi blooms this date.)
- 30, Jas. G. Bailie, Augusta, Georgia
- Aug. 5, C. Allen Favrot, Covington, Louisiana
- 11, A. Rester, Bogalusa, Louisiana
- Late August, Dow Pender, Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina.

Daikagura

- Aug. 1, Dr. Gilbert E. Fisher, Birmingham, Alabama (2, Ward strain)
- 12, W. H. Bacon, Richmond, Virginia
- 13, J. A. Rubenstein, Long Beach, Mississippi
- 15, Fred Ray, Montgomery, Alabama

Hibiscus

- July 25, Russell Berry, Macon, Georgia

High Hat

June 27, I Edw. Wile, Shreveport, Louisiana

Aug. 22, Mrs. Herman Grieco, Memphis, Tennessee

Kiki-toji

Aug. 25, J. A. Rubenstein, Long Beach, Mississippi

Mathotiana

June 25, Mr. and Mrs. Bolen, Orangeburg, South Carolina

September Morn

July 19, Russell Berry, Macon, Georgia

Aug. 5, James G. Bailie, Augusta, Georgia

13, A. Rester, Bogalusa, Louisiana

14, W. H. Bacon, Richmond, Virginia

"Late August," Dow Pender, Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina

Showa-no-sakae

July 31, Henry B. Rehder, Wilmington, North Carolina

"Late August," Dow Pender, Jr., Raleigh, North Carolina

Woodville Red

Sept. 16, T. D. Johnson, Montgomery, Alabama.

SIGNS POINT TO BIG BOOM FOR CAMELLIAS

HENRY MITCHELL¹, Memphis, Tennessee

Camellias are not likely ever to be the glory of January gardens here as they are in coastal regions, but unless I misread the cards they are going to be much more common in gardens than they are now.

It goes without saying that, given a greenhouse, there is no trick to them, but not everybody has a greenhouse. It is as an outdoor hardy shrub blooming in the fall and late winter that the camellia must make its claim to space in the average small garden.

By now we have got used to the idea of hedges of the single forms of *C. Sasanqua*, which is offered in hedging sizes by some nurseries. Each year sees more and more varieties of this species appearing in gardens. In the rush of admiration for the fairly big semi-doubles, there is some danger of ignoring the remarkable beauty (and showiness) of the single, fragile kinds.

There was a time when these camellias were regarded here as tender, and even now they are not recommended for planting along the margins of cotton fields or in ditches, but given a good spot in a garden where plants are not altogether forgotten, for months on end they are good.

But it is *Camellia japonica* that most gardeners get excited about. Its flowers range in size according to variety, from less than two inches to more than five inches across, and from white through pink, scarlet and crimson to a sort of purple, and in the other direction to a sort of yellow.

While camellia enthusiasts stoutly maintain that the evergreen foliage of the plants is handsome enough to merit growing camellias for their leaves alone, that is a matter of taste. If I were choosing a dozen evergreens for foliage, camellias would certainly not be among them. But when you consider that they are about as good looking in foliage as an evergreen privet PLUS the advantage of their showy flowers at a time when flowering shrubs with specimen blooms are few, you are likely to decide the combination is hard to beat.

In small city gardens there is not room to grow many plants. For foliage and

¹Mr. Mitchell is Garden Editor of the Memphis, Tennessee, *Commercial Appeal*.

bloom—to give an example—there can be little doubt that the common evergreen magnolia greatly surpasses in magnificence any camellia.

But how many gardens have space for a big magnolia? And, if there is space to cram one in, how many gardeners will sacrifice convenience for its beauty? Among the inconvenient features of the magnolia, for instance, may be mentioned the sad fondness that grackles have for its shelter in winter, roosting in vast quantities; the dense dismal shade of the tree which is no ornament near the house on a winter day with the sun only feebly shining; the litter of its leaves and seed pods, and the absolute refusal of grass to look decent under its branches.

If gardens were planted altogether in order to grow the most beautiful things available, it would be unthinkable to leave out the magnolia. But, as we see, sometimes you have to compromise.

The camellia, then, with smaller flowers, less handsome leaves, and a distressing lack of fragrance, has the supreme merit—or at least the very agreeable one—of tidiness and small size, remaining always a shrub.

It also has a long blooming season. You will notice a picture in the paper today showing Mrs. H. Grico with a High Hat (a pink sport of the fine fall-blooming Daikagura) blooming now. That does not mean we should all leap out to purchase it as a desirable shrub for midsummer bloom, but simply to point out that some camellias bloom before serious cold weather ruins the blooms.

Other camellias hold off blooming until the worst of the cold weather is over, and can be regarded as good flowering shrubs about the time the first daffodils bloom in February.

All camellias, so far as I know, form their flower buds the summer before they bloom. Sometimes it is August before they are large enough to be noticeable, but usually by July the gardener can tell by the number of flower buds already set what his chances are of a good crop of flowers in the fall and winter.

For fall blooms (before Christmas) the standard camellia is Daikagura and its varieties and sports. And, of course, the Sasanquas.

Sometimes the old, and beautiful, Herme deigns to bloom well in November and December, and its vaguely sweet-scented flowers are wonderful then, but sometimes it waits until the eve of the bitterest day in January to open, and the bloom is ruined.

But most camellias, including Herme of course, have the fine habit of not putting all their flowers in one basket, so to speak, and if a freeze ruins a few open flowers, the next mild spell will bring out others to replace them. When the forecast threatens a drop to 20 degrees, you can always go out and pick the open blooms and bring them inside, so that all is not lost. Naturally, when we have a winter in which the temperature drops to zero, the buds are killed altogether and there will be no more camellias that winter.

Also, there are some camellias, like the well known (and alas infinitely desirable) Alba Plena which not only drops all its buds in even a normal winter here but also proceeds to die to the root. While this is "known to everybody" it is still true that many gardeners who have the notion that japonicas are too tender got their notion from an attempt to grow Alba Plena or some other tender variety. Alba Plena was the first camellia I planted and it died in the first freeze. On the other hand, a number of camellias pulled through the winter in which we had 11 degrees below zero without permanent harm.

Camellias are easily transplanted, and with care can be moved any time, but fall is best, or that varying period in late winter and early spring just before new growth starts. Since they require, in most gardens, a little preparation of the soil and a little

judgment in site, you will perhaps permit next week's column to delve into their few—but important—requirements.

Camellias are by nature woodland plants, and a wretched choice for planting on the south wall of a house where they are too frequently attempted. But that probably belongs in next week's column on their culture. Perhaps it will be repeated.

FIRST TWO-DAY OUTDOOR CAMELLIA SHOW

R. FRED MCGEE, Florence, S. C.

Two-day outdoor camellia shows have been considered impractical in this area due to cold, heat, and windy weather. In our case, it was an outdoor show or no show at all this season.

As in most all areas of the South and Southeast, camellia blooms received such cold damage at intervals during the mid and late seasons that all regular scheduled shows, including ours, were canceled. The cold spells during the season had held back blooms of all varieties to some extent. During the week ending February 26, 1955, we had about eight or nine days of warm spring-like weather. The warm spell brought out the blooms that had been held back, and this area was receiving its best camellia blooms of the year.

Tuesday morning, March 1, I stopped by the garden of one of the largest collectors in Florence, Mrs. Peter H. McEachin (Miss Peg) and was amazed at the magnificence of the blooms. I then visited the gardens of several other collectors and was greeted by the same magnificence. I bemoaned the fact that our show scheduled just a week before had to be canceled.

Mrs. McEachin greeted me with this statement, "Fred, I have had a brainstorm, sit down and let me tell you about it." She continued, "We have canceled our show and the reservation for the Armory is out of the question. We will not have time to get credit with the American Camellia Society, but if we could get Mr. Charlie Womack to let us have the use of the patio and garden space just to the back of his residence, we could get together and put on a local show at least."

The garden at Mr. Womack's begins at the patio and extends back to cover approximately five acres. The first part is fairly well lighted, and landscaped with camellias of many varieties as borders for a green lawn and all of it is sheltered by large pine trees.

We decided to try to reach Mr. Womack by phone, but learned that he was out of town for the day. Our hopes went down very much, since we felt that we must have the show on the weekend of March 5 and 6 as we could hold enough blooms by refrigeration to put on a respectable show. Mr. Womack called Mrs. McEachin that night and was told about the brainstorm. He offered to cooperate not only by letting us have the space, but by letting us have such labor and trucks as might be needed. He took the responsibility of getting enough tables for the show also. We agreed to call a meeting of the interested camellia growers Wednesday evening, March 2. At this meeting was the nucleus of the group (no organization, club, etc.) that took the responsibility for putting on the show. Mrs. McEachin was made General Chairman. Mrs. Alex Brunson was placed in charge of publicity. With the help of Mr. Womack's secretary and his list of some eighty-two newspapers and thirty-eight radio stations, news breaks went out that evening announcing that the show would be held Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6. Mr. Tyree Moose did a wonderful job from early morning to late at night contacting large collectors, small growers, newspapers, and radio stations, putting out publicity and telling everyone that a show was to be held in Florence.

As a result of all this effort, there was a total of 2,382 blooms in the show.



A partial view of the outdoor camellia show held in Florence, South Carolina

They were brought in from as far away as Wilmington, Rockingham, Wadesboro and Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Myrtle Beach, Georgetown, Charleston, Columbia, and Cheraw, South Carolina. Your writer was in charge of classification and placement. Dr. M. R. Mobley assembled a group of judges all certified by the American Camellia Society. The best flower in the show was a Flame entered by Mr. and Mrs. T. Ed Anderson of Timmons ville, South Carolina. Second was a Lotus (grown in the open) entered by Mrs. S. O. Russell, Sr., of Florence. Third was an Eleanor Hagood grown by Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt of Georgetown, South Carolina. No sweepstakes awards were given. The best seedling was entered by Mrs. Marion Lucas of Florence, and second-best by Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt. Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Levi of Sumter, South Carolina, had the best display by large collectors.

There was an attendance of 2,716. Many came in through the rear of the garden and were not accounted for. Many persons came from good distances and stayed overnight. The attendance would have been at least a thousand more, but a wind and rain-storm came up about 5:00 p.m. Sunday and it continued to rain beyond 7:00 p.m.

The remarkable thing about this show was the way the blooms held their beauty and shape even until clean-up time Monday morning, March 7. Of course, there were some that dropped their petals during the rain and windstorm Sunday.

We consider the show successful in all respects—number of blooms entered, financially, and cooperation of the wonderful people who assisted in putting on this show. But for the cooperation of Mr. Womack, who did not enter a bloom, it would have been impossible. Mr. Womack had a beautiful pink seedling on display but not in competition. I have just learned that this seedling has been registered with the American Camellia Society under the varietal name of Winifred Womack.

A silver offering was taken which paid all bills and the balance was turned over to the Garden Club Council for beautifying the grounds of the Florence Museum.

A FURTHER REPORT ON RETICULATA CUTTINGS

ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN, El Monte, California.

Members of the American Camellia Society may be interested in a further report on my experiences with *Camellia reticulata* cuttings mentioned in the January, 1954, issue of the Quarterly.

On June 16, 1953, I put in one cutting of Shot Silk, and on June 23 I put in two more cuttings of that variety, and three cuttings of the variety Captain Rawes. The medium used was the same as that used for *C. japonica* cuttings—one part of peat moss and two parts of clean sharp sand. The cuttings were treated with a No. 3 Harmodine powder, and placed in unheated cold frames.

On November 21, 1953, I removed the Shot Silk cutting made on June 16; the roots were so well developed that I had to use a four-inch pot for the cutting. The two cuttings of this variety made on June 23 were also removed and planted. They had good calluses and small bunches of roots.

As of August 25, 1955, one of the Shot Silk cuttings had put on top growth, and it bloomed in 1954. The other two have put on top growth, and are budded. The Shot Silk which has put on two cycles of growth appears to have more of a tendency towards a bushy type of growth than grafted plants.

The three Captain Rawes cuttings made on June 23 were also examined on November 21, 1953. Two were callused and had small bunches of roots. They were transplanted into three-inch pots in a regular potting mixture. These two Captain Rawes, together with the three Shot Silk, were set in the glass house, which, like the cold frames, were unheated; a fairly high degree of humidity was maintained.

The third Captain Rawes cutting was also examined, but as it had made no progress towards rooting, it was returned to the cold frame.

On August 25, 1955, the status of the three Captain Rawes cuttings made on June 23, 1953, was as follows—one is dead, and neither of the other two have put on top growth.

In 1954 we put in twenty-seven *reticulata* cuttings, nineteen took root, and two (one Crimson Robe and one Purple Dawn) have put on top growth.

This year I put in forty-five cuttings—three each of fifteen varieties, including Captain Rawes and excluding Moutancha. Already I have suffered some loss in the cold frames. However, it is too early to make any predictions as to what the take will be.

With the exception of the variety Moutancha, I have found Noble Pearl the most difficult to graft. I make this statement in spite of the fact that I made one graft of Moutancha and it took!

Thursday and Friday the temperature went to 120°. It dropped to a mere 100° yesterday, but it is predicted that today, September 6, the temperature will go up again. The behavior of my *reticulata* cuttings, some 300 in number, during this hot weather convinces me that this variety can certainly stand the heat. Not a single one shows signs of burning. On the other hand there has been some leafburn among the *japonicas*, particularly the large ones in the ground.

We are all looking forward to the visit of the American Camellia Society to California next February, and hope you will be pleased with our camellia blooms.

THE 1956 ARRANGEMENT CONTEST

MRS. W. JACK BRYANT, Orangeburg, South Carolina

The theme of the 1956 Arrangement Contest of the American Camellia Society remains "Camellias' Travels Through the Ages," and the number of Classes will be five.

RULES

1. The competitive period shall be from November 1, 1955, to April 15, 1956.
2. The contest will be open to exhibitors in Camellia Shows held in cooperation with the American Camellia Society.
3. Exhibitors shall be limited to one entry in each Class.
4. Photographs of entries of Blue Ribbon Winners shall be sent to the Chairman of the Arrangement Contest. These photographs shall be on black and white glossy paper, clear cut in design, and 5 by 7 inches, or larger, in size. All photographs sent to the Chairman shall become the property of the American Camellia Society.
5. A description of the contestant's entry, including class, design, materials used and containers, together with schedule, shall accompany each photograph. This description, together with the name and address of the contestants, shall be typed on a separate piece of paper, and *not* on the back of the photograph. *Do not use paper clips or pins in connection with photographs.*
6. Photographs and descriptive matter shall be sent before April 30, 1956 to the Chairman of the Arrangement Contest, Mrs. W. Jack Bryant, 225 Carolina Avenue, N.E., Orangeburg, South Carolina.

THEME AND CLASSES

THEME: "Camellias' Travels Through the Ages"

CLASS I—CHINA (MING DYNASTY)

- A. Tall vase
- B. Low bowl

Containers: Chinese adaptation of bronze, brass, plain or decorated porcelain, enamel ware, pillow vase or iron ware.

CLASS II—JAPAN

- A. Moribana Style
Container: Flat or low bowl of pottery or metal.
- B. Nageire or Heika Style
Container: Perpendicular vase of pottery or metal.

CLASS III—EUROPE

- A. France, Baroque or Rococo Style
Container: Glass, porcelain, tole, metal, or stone.
- B. Italy, Neo-Classic or Empire
Container: Oval- or boat-shaped ceramics, porcelain, stone, bronze or silver.

CLASS IV—ENGLAND

- A. Formal—Late Georgian
Container: Epergne, basket, tureen, urn or compote.
- B. Informal
Container: Goblet, jar or jug.

CLASS V—AMERICA

- A. East Coast
Container: Colonial or Victorian in feeling.
- B. West Coast
Container: Contemporary Modern.

CONDITIONS

1. Classes named and interpretations shall be adaptations in spirit of historic styles suggested accenting a camellia or camellias.
2. Schedule Chairman may select A or B of a Class, or both, for inclusion in local schedules.
3. Color harmonies will be left to the discretion of local Schedule Chairmen.
4. Fresh flowers and other plant material may be used with camellias; also, stands or bases for containers will be allowed in all Classes.
5. Driftwood will be allowed in Class II-A.
6. Accessories will be permitted where desired for the interpretation of specific Classes.

JUDGES

Judges rated as Nationally Accredited by the National Council of State Garden Clubs shall officiate in Show Classes.

AWARDS

Most outstanding arrangement in Contest—Silver double vegetable dish, to be retained permanently by the winner.

First in each Class—American Camellia Society membership for one year.

Second in each Class—Current American Camellia Yearbook.

Third in each Class—Current American Camellia Yearbook.

Photographs of the winning entries will be reproduced in the 1956 Yearbook.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

The Secretary's desk has been appropriated by the Editor since July so the news from that sector will be rather brief.

The perfect Daikagura reported on August 15 by Mr. Fred Ray, Montgomery, Alabama, was probably the last as well as the first flower on that particular bush. Mr. T. D. Johnson, Montgomery, Alabama, has informed the Secretary that shortly after that flower appeared squirrels destroyed every one of the many flower buds on the plant. After these little pests develop a taste for camellia flower buds and seed pods, they can play havoc in a garden. Sam Harn solved his squirrel problem by taking out a city permit authorizing the shooting of squirrels within the city limits, and then inviting members of the Police Department to hunt in his "game preserve."

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One member of the Society who started his letter reporting an early bloom with this comment, "Depend on me to come out in the lead at least *once*," will be disappointed when he reads the score on this year's early flowers.

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It is a well known fact that Directors of the American Camellia Society are men of prominence and distinction who are well known throughout the country. Therefore, no one should be surprised at the following incident, reported in Time Magazine and sent to the Secretary by Dr. C. H. Savage, Sr., Prichard, Alabama.

"Neither Snow Nor Rain. In Gulfport, Mississippi, the postman correctly delivered to J. R. and T. S. Clower a letter from Waco, Texas, addressed: 'Downtown Furniture Store Run by Two Brothers who Look Alike, Across Street from Dime Store, Appliance Store at One End of Street, Dry Goods Store at Other.'"

Some day the Secretary is going to send letters in envelopes bearing only the following addresses, "The Dean, American Camellia Society" and "Poet Laureate, Camelliadom," and will bet a specimen plant of Beachacoma against a yellow camellia that the letters will be delivered without delay to Judge Arthur W. Solomon, Savannah, Georgia, and Mr. Harvey S. Short, Pasadena, California.

Mr. George J. Farnham, 2225 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, California, has obtained, through the cooperation of the Huntington Gardens and Library, 200 color slides of camellias, 2 inch x 2 inch, which he is ready to rent to Camellia Societies or Garden Clubs who are looking for interesting program material.

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Austin Griffiths, Jr., a Fellow of the Society and a former Editor of the Yearbook, has given up his residence in Gainesville, Florida, and returned to California. For the present Mr. Griffiths can be reached in care of his mother in Anaheim, California.

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William E. Wylam, Pasadena, California, has traded his "messed-up" copy of the July Quarterly for a complete one. We are happy to learn that the "messaging-up" was not the fault of the Editor, but the printers—several pages were missing.

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Mr. Harry Sommerhauser, Chattanooga, Tennessee, is continuing his campaign to interest gardeners in that part of the country in camellias and the American Camellia Society. He stated that the cold weather last winter separated the sheep from the goats, in so far as varietal resistance to low temperatures is concerned, and he can now place his O.K. on the list of varieties suitable for the fringe area recommended by Charlie Abbot, Abbot's Sunny Knoll Nursery, Mobile, Alabama.

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Here is an opportunity for members of the Society to help a young lady in distress, and at the same time prove to the youngsters that romance still prevails, in the minds at least, among their elders. The oldest granddaughter of Mrs. Anna Lea Harris will be married in the First Methodist Church, Rockingham, North Carolina, on November 26. The young lady has set her heart on having the attendants carry bouquets of Daikagura blooms, and the flower girls carry Pink Perfections. Alas for love's young dreams! The freeze of last March damaged Daikagura, and other varieties, so severely that the prospects for the blooms of her choice are very dim indeed.

Your Secretary went out on a limb by telling Mrs. Harris that an appeal for Daikagura and Pink Perfection blooms published in the Quarterly would bring a flood of flowers sufficient to decorate the bride, her attendants, the church, and the grandmother.

The Secretary hopes that members will prove that he is correct by sending blooms of these two varieties to Mrs. Harris. This is especially desirable when consideration is given to the fact that Mrs. Harris could solve her problem very easily by ordering flowers from the West Coast. This she does not intend to do for she has no desire to violate the camellia flower blight quarantine of her own state.

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An International Flower Show will be held in New York during the week of March 11-17, 1956. Three of the lower floors of the former John Wanamaker Department Store, Broadway and Fourth Avenue, will be used for the exhibits. The International Flower Show is a joint project of the New York Florists Club and the Horticultural Society of New York. Mr. R. B. Farnham, Essex House, 157 West 53rd Street, New York 19, New York, is Executive Director of the International Flower Show.

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The Secretary has ordered three more copies of Prof E. G. Waterhouse's *Camellia Trail*. This is a systematic nomenclatural study of 16 *Camellia japonicas* originated in Australia and 11 introduced ones. In the 21 plates, 27 varieties are illustrated. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary at \$25.00 the copy.

Mr. Fred W. Clarke, Mobile, Alabama, has used his skill as an architect and gardener to develop an old bayou located on the beautiful and historic Dog River waterways system six miles south of Mobile into a natural garden of great beauty and charm. To the many dogwoods, hollies, magnolias and other natural growth have been added hundreds of camellias and azaleas. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke have been developing the gardens for the past eight years. The gardens may be reached from Mobile or Theodore.

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Members of the American Camellia Society certainly do move around. Rev. Frank S. Persons, Opelika, Alabama, wrote to the Secretary from Tanana, Alaska, where he was visiting his daughter, Jean C. Persons, M.D., medical officer in charge of the Alaska Nature Health Service Hospital.

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In a recent letter, Mr. Herbert C. Shipman, our only member in Hawaii, stated that Mrs. Charles R. Grandy of Norfolk, Virginia, had been a recent visitor.

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We have quit trying to keep up with Mr. Ralph S. Peer of Los Angeles, California. When last heard from, September 11, he was getting ready to fly to London, England, with Mrs. Peer.

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Dr. Gilbert E. Fisher, Birmingham, Alabama, made a trip of an entirely different nature. He went to John Hopkins Hospital last April for an operation. He returned home about the middle of June. In a recent letter Dr. Fisher stated that he was back at work and feeling fine.

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Mr. and Mrs. George Du Brul, Dallas, Texas, spent several weeks in God's Country (Florida) during the past summer. Excellent food and "Cracker" hospitality evidently did not agree with Mr. Du Brul. Following his return to Dallas he underwent an operation—from which he has fully recovered.

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Last on the list of convalescents, but first in the mind and hearts of members, is the name of the President of the Society. Mr. Calder W. Seibels has learned the hard way that all work and no play will weaken even the strongest constitution. The latest report on his physical condition came from Mr. T. A. Bowdoin, Columbia, South Carolina, who visited Mr. Seibels in the hospital a short time ago. According to that report Mr. Seibels was in good spirits and seemed to be improving quite a bit.

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The Society's first camellia seed distribution project got off to a good start. We wish to thank the following members whose contributions made possible the distribution of seeds to some fifty applicants: T. S. Clower, Gulfport, Mississippi; J. L. Kahn and Filo H. Turner, Pensacola, Florida; B. F. Diamond, Malcolm Bell, Jack Holmes, Mrs. Raymond Demere, George S. Clarke and Clarence G. Anderson, all of Savannah, Georgia. Credit for interesting residents of Savannah in this project should go to Judge Arthur W. Solomon.

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The Fall Meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled to be held at the Dinkler Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on October 9, 1955.

CAMELLIAS IN LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

A. V. LENT, Sorrento, Florida

My wife and I are busily and happily engaged in restoring the camellia planting started by my father, Victor E. Lent, many years ago. Father first became interested in camellias around 1905, when he saw two Alba Plena plants in the garden at Eustis belonging to the Moran family. His attempts to get cuttings from these bushes were not successful, so he ordered five plants from the Berckmans Nursery, Augusta, Georgia. Three of these plants are still alive. Latifolia (Gloire de Nantes) is about 15 feet high and is the largest; Latifolia Variegated (Fanny Bolis) is not quite so vigorous. The third plant, Lady Hume's Blush, is a very slow grower on its own roots. We believe that it might do better when grafted on a faster growing understock.

There are about 90 plants in the collection, ranging in age from five to 50 years. Some are late bloomers and are not satisfactory for this locality. Varieties that are hardy and bloom from early to mid-season are: Alba Plena, Arejishi, Brooklynia, Cameo Pink, C. M. Wilson, Herme, Glen 40, Governor Mouton, Lady Clare (Empress), Mathotiana (Julia Drayton), Monarch, Mrs. Vansittart, Pink Perfection, Prince Eugene Napoleon (Pope Pius IX), Prof. C. S. Sargent, Rev. John G. Drayton (Mary E. M.), Sara Frost and Teutonia—Red, Pink and White. We have some plants whose varietal names have not been determined.

There are also a number of Sasanquas. We like that species very much and have planted a number of different varieties which we will use in our landscaping plan. We have found Sasanquas to be both hardy and showy. They have a definite place in camellia plantings in this area. They bloom early—some flower into mid-season—and furnish lots of color.

Contrary to general belief, camellias *can* be grown in full sun in this section of the state. However, for the best results the plants should be provided with partial shade for the first two years, or until they have become established. Among the natural shades, we believe pine trees are probably the best, and Plumoso palms the worst. The root systems of the latter are so dense that they rob the camellias of water and fertilizer. Oak trees and camphor trees are also objectionable, unless there is plenty of soil moisture.

Mulches are very essential in the culture of camellias in this area where the soil is very sandy. We prefer oak leaves, but use grass, weeds, sawdust and pine needles—in fact anything that will conserve soil moisture, keep the ground cool, discourage weed growth and add humus to the soil. When cultivation is desirable, the soil is never disturbed below a depth of one-half inch. Deeper cultivation will destroy many of the feeding roots that are close to the top of the ground.

Fertilizer is applied in February, May, July and early September. A Camellia special fertilizer, or a good garden brand analyzing 6-6-8, is used for the first applications. In September we use castor pomace, or some other organic material. At some time during the year the garden is given a good application of tobacco stems. After September we do nothing more than water and weed the plants.

When it is necessary, we spray with an oil emulsion or Parathion for the control of tea and camellia scale. When we took over the place, the plants showed very little scale injury, although the larger bushes had not been sprayed for five years. It is our belief that many plants are killed each year, not from infestations of scale, but from too much attention. Some gardeners become alarmed at the sight of a few scales and spray the whole bush with oil regardless of whether it is hot or cold.

The variety Pink Perfection seems to be much more susceptible to the common root knot nematode than most other varieties. However, we have seen some thrifty, healthy Pink Perfection plants growing in soil that was, no doubt, infected with root



Victor E. Lent and one of his favorite camellia bushes.

knot. We were very happy to learn that inspectors of the Florida State Plant Board and the Citrus Experiment Station at Lake Alfred have not found camellias to be hosts of the new citrus nematode *Radophalus Similis* (thorne) Cobb.

We hope that this story about our camellias at Sorrento, and the satisfactory manner in which some of the plants have performed for some 50 years, will be of interest and value to gardeners who are thinking about growing camellias in the central part of Florida. We have worked very hard to get Dad's garden back into shape, and are looking to the coming flowering season with great expectations.

GROWING CAMELLIAS OUTDOORS IN DALLAS

MRS. R. KYLE DUVALL, Dallas, Texas

I started growing camellias outdoors, fourteen years ago, quite by accident. One day in February, 1940, I took my yard man with me to buy some azaleas. We returned with the azaleas plus three camellias. The camellias were two Lily and a Tri-Color, all about 24-30 inches tall. Incidentally, these three are still growing in my garden and the larger of the two Lily camellias is now 12 feet tall. These three camellias were planted in very large holes in which we first put a mixture of aluminum sulphate, sulphur, and I'm not quite sure what else. (My yard man had come from Louisiana and seemed to know what he was doing.) We lined the holes well with peat moss and then placed the camellias in the holes, taking the nails from the burlap and turning it back. Of course the plants were watered well. Perhaps it was because we planted them on the north of the house, the only place available at that time, perhaps it was because we set them high, or, could it be because I loved them so? Anyway, they grew, and are still growing in the same spots.

Does anyone ever stop with three camellias? I didn't! I started buying and reading every book I could find on camellias, and before long I had a very large bed prepared for more plants. We removed all dirt to a depth of three feet, and replaced it with a

two-inch layer of gravel for drainage. We then filled the bed with a mixture composed of two parts peat moss and one part sandy loam, together with a liberal supply of well-rotted barnyard fertilizer. We let this stand for three or four weeks and then started planting camellias and azaleas. Since the original planting I've gradually replaced the azaleas, except a border of Hinodegiri, with more camellias. This bed is on the north and east of the house and so the plants are protected from the hot west sun and winds. I think the bed preparation and exposure is very important in growing camellias. Too, I always set my plants at least three inches high when they are planted to allow for settling. I like for them to be at least one inch above the surrounding soil after they settle. The plants are approximately four to five feet apart.

The plants are fed the last of March and again the last of April. This early feeding allows them to harden off before the cold weather. I prefer cottonseed meal, when it is obtainable, as it has an acid reaction.

My camellias do not have red spider because I hose them off frequently, at least twice a week. If I notice scale, white fly, etc., I spray with a good oil emulsion while the weather is still cool.

In the fall I throw the red oak and pecan leaves around the plants but I remove what's left of the mulch when spring arrives.

During the winter, if we have had no rain, I see that the camellias have a good watering once a week. I try to have the beds good and wet whenever I hear that we are to have a hard freeze, but I never cover the plants.

My collection of camellias include early, mid-season and late blooming varieties so that I can generally count on plenty of blooms for a period of five to six months. In the back of my camellia bed may be seen a row of small pots and cans sunk in the ground. Growing in these containers are my seedlings from my very own bushes. Tricolor seems to produce the greatest number of seeds, but I've had seeds several years from Jarvis Red, Akebono Var., Imperator (French), and others. When the seedlings are large enough the pots are broken or the cans are cut and the plants are then planted in the bed.

The following camellias are growing outside, in the ground, and are never covered: Arejishi, Blood of China, C. M. Wilson, C. M. Hovey (Colonel Firey), Covina, Daikagura, Debutante, Derbiana, Fimbriata, Herme, High Hat, Jarvis Red, Imperator (French), Kelvingtonii, Kumasaka, Lady Clare, Lallarook (Laurel Leaf), Lilyi, Magnolia Queen, Otome Pink, Mathotiana, Pax, Pink Ball, Prince Eugene Napoleon (Pope Pius IV), Prof. C. S. Sargent, Rev. John G. Drayton, Rosea Superba, Pride of Greenville, Scarlett O'Hara, Tricolor, White Empress and Elegans.

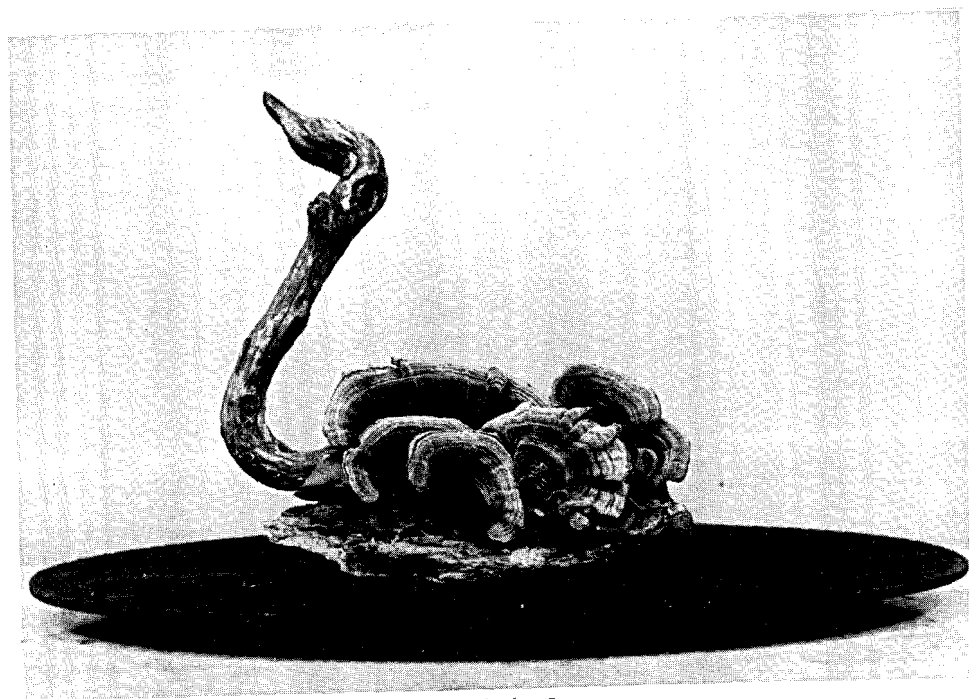
THE USE OF DRY MATERIALS FOR ARRANGEMENTS

JANET F. WATERHOUSE, Gordon, N.S.W., Australia

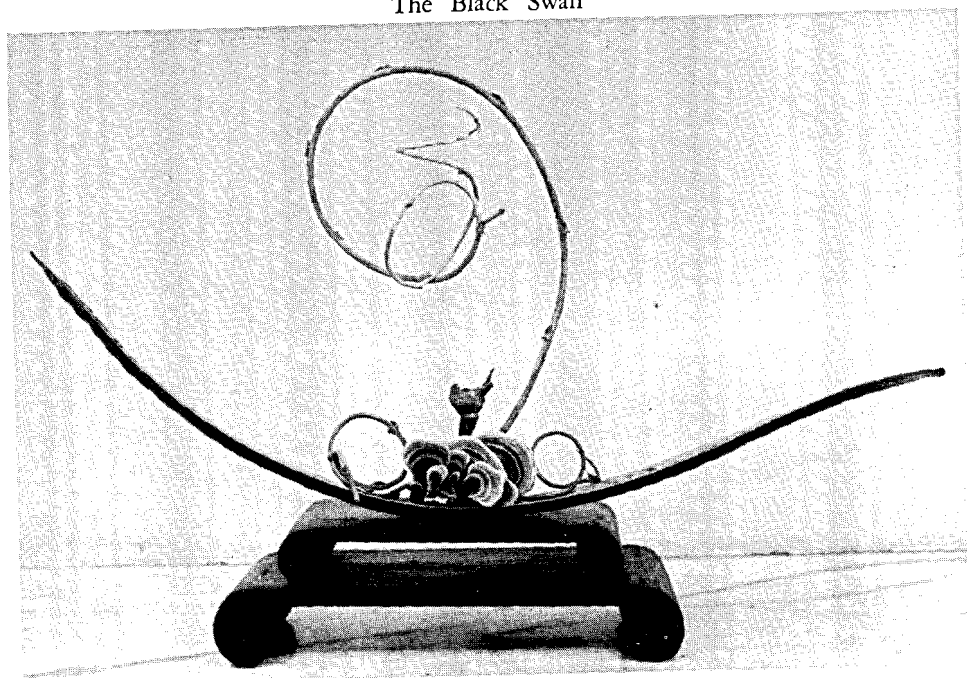
While arrangements made with dry materials will never supplant those made with fresh flowers, they have an important role which is peculiarly their own. Furthermore, the ever-growing interest in dried arrangements is proof that they are not only gaining in popularity but they are filling a long-felt need.

Nowadays, influenced by the Japanese, no doubt, Flower Arrangement in its broadest sense is regarded as one of the Arts, and as such must conform to certain basic principles. Just as artists work through the medium of paint to create their pictures, flower arrangers use flowers and plant material.

For this reason, *design*, which includes proportion, balance, and rhythm, is all important. However simple an arrangement may be, the better these principles are observed, the more successful the artist will be in creating an arrangement that is not merely pleasing but is one that has *distinction*—and that, surely, is our ultimate goal.



The Black Swan



Look Before You Leap

No other art costs so little in terms of money, yet it is a field rich in material and one that offers a wonderful scope for ingenuity and originality.

In recent years the term "driftwood" has often appeared in flower show schedules. Personally, I use the term in its broadest sense—wood of any description, whether it be found on the seashore, by the river bank, or the road side, or in the garden. Fortunately, there is no time factor involved. Dried material such as driftwood persists for a long time, and an arrangement can be built up gradually.

The advantages of working with dried material and driftwood are many.

To those who live in arid regions, such as the out-back regions in my own country, with months of sun and little water, dried material should prove to be an ever-stimulating source for creative effort. Likewise, decorative dried arrangements are a real boon to the flat or apartment dweller, who is dependent upon the florist for flowers. By day or by night, in sunshine or in rain, the arranger with dried material on hand is always provided with ample scope for experimenting.

I know of no other branch of the Art of Arrangements in which the family and friends can play such an active part. Those who are not primarily interested in making an arrangement can scout for material, thereby contributing to no little degree, to the final success of an arrangement. The search for suitable material is never-ending, and in the search we become more observant and, as the interest grows, the eye becomes keener and the mind more discriminating. Whenever children bring material to me, I incorporate it in the arrangement whenever possible. But my best scouts are gentlemen of all ages. To them, I am deeply indebted.

Now for the main disadvantage of dried material, a really serious problem which I have not solved to my satisfaction. Without hesitation, I would say the lack of storage space is the real disadvantage of dried material. For this reason, I offer this counsel—do not collect very large pieces of material.

Someone might properly ask this question: Is there not a tendency for a dried arrangement to become too permanent? This criticism would be justifiable were it not for the urge to continue to create something fresh. After all, however important the result may be, and far outweighing the success achieved, it is the ever-present need for self-expression that spurs us on.

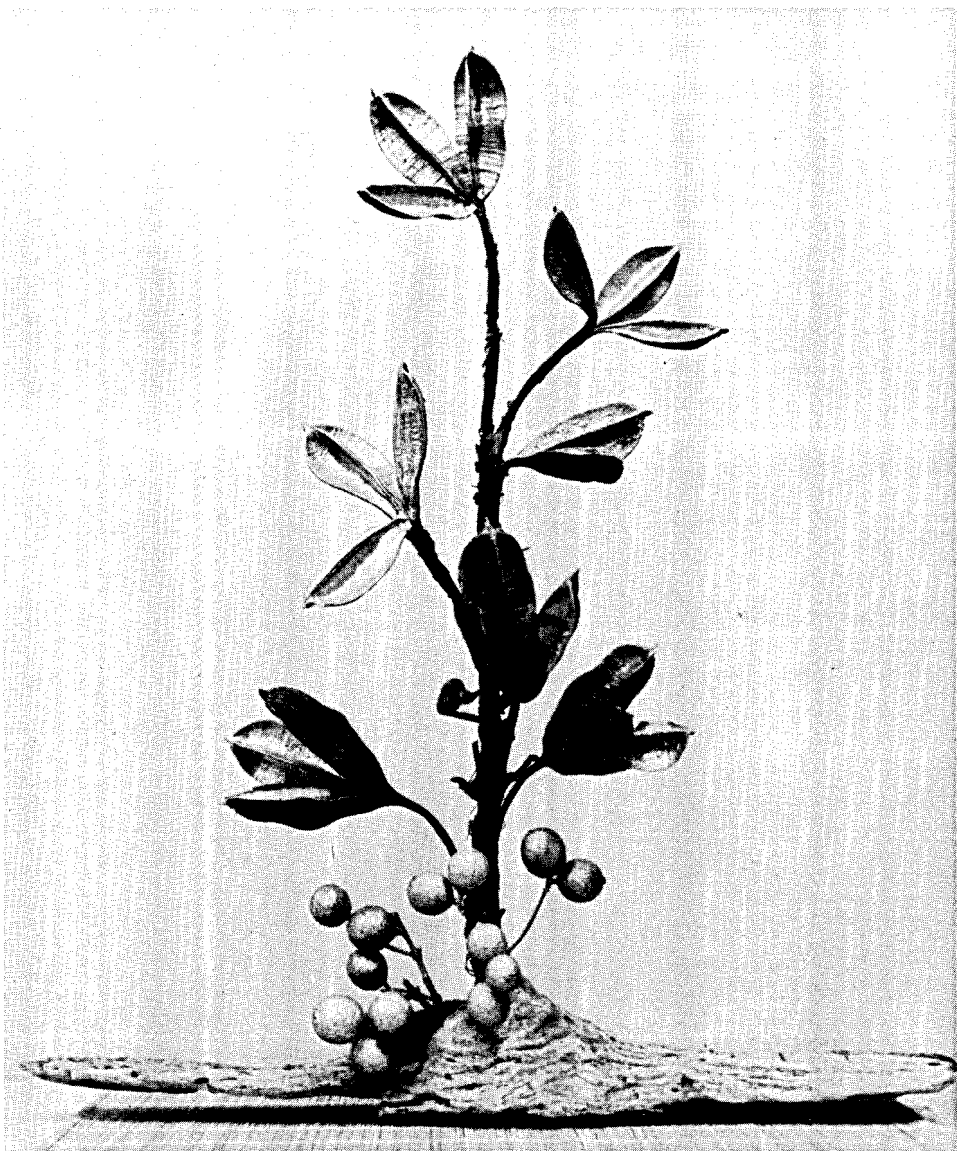
To be really successful, an arrangement must have an appropriate setting. This means that it should be placed at an appropriate height, and against a plain background. Even without the glorious coloring inherent in fresh flowers, beauty of line and composition can be achieved by using the simple things around us.

I am enclosing photographs of several arrangements which may be of interest to readers of the *Quarterly*.

The Black Swan—The head and neck of the "swan" consists of one piece of wood supported by grey plasticene on bark, to which one piece of grey fungus is attached. The rest of the fungus is simply laid on to suggest the feathers of a swan. To give height and sense of movement, the arrangement is placed on a thin, dull black board which, again, has a low flat board beneath it.

Look Before You Leap—A study in line and rhythm. The curved base is half the seed pod of the poinciana. Supported on a small needle-holder is a dead twig of wisteria. Inserted beneath it is a small "mountain devil," a seed pod of *Lambertia formosa*. To emphasize the curves, small pieces of wisteria are added, while the curved brown fungus hides the holder. By using two simple stands it gives the illusion of being air-borne.

Gilding the Lily—A Christmas decoration, therefore more sophisticated. Seed pods from the Illawarra lily were broken off and wired to an upright stick, the lower ones being larger and heavier. The insides were gilded to accentuate the colour contrast,



Gilding The Lily

as also the round seed pods of the *Gardenia globosa* added at the base of the arrangement as a further note of interest. In the center of the driftwood was a natural hole. The bamboo mat contributed to the colour harmony.

In conclusion, I would like to quote from John Taylor Arms, to whom I owe so much, and who is so highly regarded throughout the United States and abroad:

"So feel beauty, think beauty, express beauty, that the world may become a better place in which to live."

ATTENTION — CAMELLIA SHOW OFFICIALS

Don't forget to order your set of Varietal-Name Display Cards. The accepted names and synonyms of 250 of the most popular and widely encountered varieties are printed in large letters on heavy cardboard (see Page 11, January 1955 Quarterly). Show Registration, Classification and Placement Committees will find these cards to be of the greatest value. The Secretary also has a few of the Nomenclatural Cross-Reference Lists which should be in the hands of members of these Committees.

Varietal-Name Display Cards (including one Cross-Reference List) \$5 the set. Additional Cross-Reference Lists may be obtained at 25 cents the copy; \$2 for 12 copies; \$3.75 for 24 copies; and \$4.75 for 48 copies.

Place orders with the Secretary, Box 2398, University Station, Gainesville, Florida.

THE COVER

Sasanqua Crimson Tide, a new introduction from the Tom Dodd Nurseries, Semmes, Alabama, was released for the first time in 1954-55. The plant is a rapid grower, upright and compact, with dark green foliage. This variety is one of the earliest bloomers, and the glowing red ruffled flowers are borne profusely during a long season. The flowers average 3½ inches in diameter, and have from 9 to 11 petals. In color Crimson Tide is slightly darker than the Sasanqua Hiodoshi.

This variety was named by Tom Dodd, Jr., after the football team of the University of Alabama, which is known throughout the country as the "Crimson Tide."

NEWS FROM CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

The Central Louisiana Camellia Society held its annual chicken barbeque on September 22, 1955. The feature of the meeting (other than the chicken) was a symposium on camellias. Dr. R. H. Hanchey and Dr. W. D. Kimbrough, Baton Rouge; Dr. Ira S. Nelson and Prof. James Foret, Lafayette; Prof. Onis Hyatt, Lake Charles and Mr. Ernest A. Judice, President of the Louisiana Camellia Society, New Orleans, participated in the symposium.

The Louisiana Camellia Society will hold a clinic for camellia judges and camellia show managers in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 30, 1955. The purpose of the clinic is to train new judges and show managers, and improve current show practices. Dr. Ira S. Nelson, Show Chairman, Lafayette, has extended an invitation to attend the clinic to everyone who may be interested in judging and in camellia shows.

The Dallas Camellia Society held its first meeting of the season on September 23. Steve Dodd, General Manager, Cabell's Nursery and Garden Center, was the featured speaker. C. Jack Cowart doubles in brass as President of the Society and Editor of the *Bulletin*. The Program Committee has "signed up" Dr. Ira S. Nelson, Dr. R. K. Womack, Shreveport, Louisiana, Mr. J. Howard Asper, San Marino, California, and other authorities for future programs.

The South Carolina Camellia Society has canceled its show scheduled for November

19 and 20 at Florence. Members of the Society were fearful that by reason of cold injury to flower buds caused by the March, 1955, freeze, there would not be enough early flowers to warrant the exhibition.

Another report from the battle of the giants mentioned in this column in the July Quarterly. A member of one club accounts for the difference in membership in this way: membership in his club is restricted to men only, and members who join and attend club meetings do so of their own free will; membership in the rival club is open to husbands and wives, and the wives see that their husbands join the club and attend the meetings—or else. That appears to be a logical explanation.

Members of camellia societies who boast of the size of their membership had better keep an eye on the newly formed Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Milton H. Brown, Secretary, reports that the membership of that newly formed organization had reached 109 on July 22, 1955.

The list of judges for the camellia show to be staged by the Men's Camellia Society of Savannah, Georgia, on January 21-22, 1956, will include the names of a number of well-known camellia enthusiasts from California: Mr. Edward Metcalf, President, Southern California Camellia Society, and Mrs. Metcalf; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Paige; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller; Dr. and Mrs. Reuben Tellam; Mr. Roy Thompson and Mr. Frank Williams have accepted invitations to officiate.

CAMELLIA SHOW DATES

1955

Florence, S. C. (South Carolina Camellia Society) Canceled Nov. 19-20
Charleston, S. C. (Men's Camellia Club of Charleston County) Dec. 11

1956

JANUARY

Quitman, Ga. (Quitman Garden Club)	7- 8
Covington, La. (Woman's Auxiliary to Christ Episcopal Church)	7- 8
Valdosta, Ga. (Valdosta Garden Clubs)	12-13
Thomasville, Ga. (Thomasville Garden Club and Men's Garden Club)	14-15
Lafayette, La. (Louisiana Camellia Society) Camellia Pageant	13
Lafayette, La. (Louisiana Camellia Society) Camellia Show	14-15
Summerville, S. C. (Summerville Camellia Society)	14-15
Beaumont, Texas (Men's Garden Club of Greater Beaumont)	14-15
Gainesville, Fla. (Men's Garden Club of Gainesville)	15
Dothan, Ala. (Cherokee Garden Club and Wiregrass Camellia Club)	21-22
Savannah, Ga. (Men's Garden Club of Savannah)	21-22
Alexandria, La. (Central Louisiana Camellia Society)	21-22
Slidell, La. (Ozone Camellia Club)	21-22
Moncks Corner, S. C. (Men's Camellia Club of Berkeley County)	21-22
St. Simons Island, Ga. (Cassina Garden Club)	25
Jacksonville, Fla. (Garden Club of Jacksonville and Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville)	28-29
Orlando, Fla. (Central Florida Camellia Society)	28-29
Panama City, Fla. (Panama City Garden Club and Lions Club)	28-29
Macon, Ga. (Middle Georgia Camellia Society)	28-29
Hammond, La. (Men's Garden Club of Tangipahoa Parish)	28-29
Lake Charles, La. (Lake Charles Men's Garden Club — Southwest Louisiana Camellia Society cooperating)	28-29

Biloxi, Miss. (The Irish Hill Garden Club)	28-29
McComb, Miss. (Men's Camellia Club of Pike County)	28-29
Charleston, S. C. (Garden Club of Charleston)	28-29
Port Arthur, Texas (Men's Garden Club of Port Arthur)	28-29

FEBRUARY

Birmingham, Ala. (Men's Camellia Society)	4- 5
Hattiesburg, Miss. (Hattiesburg Camellia Society)	4- 5
Aiken, S. C. (Aiken Camellia Club)	4- 5
North Charleston, S. C. (North Charleston Camellia Society)	4- 5
Bessemer, Ala. (Men's Camellia Society of Bessemer County)	11-12
Montgomery, Ala. (Montgomery Camellia Society)	11-12
Columbus, Ga. (United Garden Clubs of Columbus)	11-12
Gulfport, Miss. (Gulfport Garden Club)	11-12
Columbia, S. C. (Columbia Garden Club)	11-12
Fort Valley, Ga. (Fort Valley Garden Club)	15
Dillon, S. C. (Dillon Council of Garden Clubs)	15
Atlanta, Ga. (Atlanta Camellia Society, North Georgia Camellia Society, Buckhead Lions Club cooperating)	18-19
Shreveport, La. (Men's Camellia Club of Shreveport)	18-19
Georgetown, S. C. (Georgetown Garden Club)	18-19
Wilmington, N. C. (Men's Tide Water Garden Club of Wilmington)	25
Los Angeles, Cal. (Southern California Camellia Society and Pacific Camellia Society)	25-26
Jackson, Miss., (Jackson Camellia Society)	25-26
Florence, S. C. (Men's Garden Club of the Pee Dee)	25-26
Sumter, S. C. (Bland Garden Club and Gardenmakers of Sumter)	25-26

MARCH

Cheraw, S. C. (Cheraw Camellia Society)	1- 2
Rock Hill, S. C. (Rock Hill Camellia Society)	7- 8
Sacramento, Cal. (Camellia Society of Sacramento)	10-11
Dallas, Texas (Dallas Camellia Society)	10-11
Suffolk, Va. (Nancemond River Garden Club)	10-11

APRIL

Washington, D. C. (Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley)	7- 8
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LIST OF ACCREDITED CAMELLIA SHOW JUDGES

The names of members in good standing who have been designated as judges by the Chairman of the Exhibitions and Awards Committee of the American Camellia Society appear in the following list. Conditions that govern the appointment as an accredited judge include continuous membership in the Society for a period of two years (twenty-four months), including the year during which the application is made, a general knowledge of camellia species, varieties and forms, and the ability to identify at least fifty varieties of camellias. The application must be endorsed by two accredited judges of the Society. Preliminary applications should be addressed to the Secretary.

The list begins at the top of the next page.

LIST OF ACCREDITED CAMELLIA SHOW JUDGES

ALABAMA

Auburn:

Good, Henry G.

Bessemer:

Lefkovits, Norman

Mauldin, R. S., Sr.

Nordan, Majors

Birmingham:

Brooks, M. Thomas

Fisher, Dr. G. E.

Gay, Charles Linn

Hamilton, Elbert A.

Lange, Ray L.

Poe, W. Lee

Turlington, Dr. Lee

Dothan:

Cannon, Mrs. Mark S.

Cannon, Mark S.

Latiolais, Dr. S. G.

Lee, Alto V.

Mazyck, Dr. Arthur

Poyner, Mrs. B. P., Jr.

Poyner, B. P., Jr.

Fairhope:

Bradford, J. T.

Moyers, R. R.

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Perry, Mrs. Orion S.

Greenville:

Beeland, Mrs. Robert, Jr.

McFerrin, Mrs. Oakley

Stanley, J. Glen

Steindorff, Henry W.

Talbert, Erastus

Loxley:

Windbigler, H. L.

Mobile:

Abbot, J. Lloyd

Davis, Mrs. Ray

Davis, Ray

Lee, Hoyt W.

Sawada, K.

Smith, Gregory L.

Twitty, Thomas E.

Monroeville:

Agee, Walter L.

Montgomery:

Alley, J. T.

Belser, T. A.

Johnston, Mrs. T. D.

Johnston, T. D.

Jones, Alden

Nation, Mrs. Harry E.

Parker, W. Glenn

Pfingstl, Mrs. Emmett

Powers, Mrs. B. C.

Semmes:

Blackwell, R. L., Jr.

McDade, Clint

Stephens, C. R.

ARKANSAS

El Dorado:

Garrett, Mrs. Rufus N.

CALIFORNIA

Altadena:

Nuccio, Julius

Anaheim:

Griffiths, Austin, Jr.,

Beverly Hills:

Williams, Frank D.

Campbell:

James, Vernon R.

Concord:

Stoeckle, W. L.

Coronado:

Kohl, Edward F.

Covina:

Viney, Mrs. William

El Cajon:

Miller, Mrs. Stanley W.

Miller, Stanley W.

Fresno:

Rowell, Milo

Wilson, Homer C.

Glendale:

Clairmont, Dr. John H.

Dekker, Mrs. Albert

Thompson, Roy T.

Hayward:

Domoto, Toichi

La Canada:

Asper, J. Howard

Lafayette:

Feathers, D. L.

Paige, Harold L.

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Jones, Charles S.

Peer, Ralph S.

Oakland:

Hopfer, O. E.

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McCaskill, V. O.
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Short, Harvey F.
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Wylam, William E.

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Tellam, Dr. Reuben W.

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Smyth, W. B.

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Lawson, Dr. John D.
Mohr, Arthur
Morrison, A. E.
Olrich, Jerry

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Goodall, Lester B.

San Dimas:

Cothran, C. D.
Thomas, Clark W.

San Gabriel:

Marshall, Leslie
Tourje, E. C.

San Jose:

Moniz, T. J.

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Taylor, C. F.
Tompkins, Mrs. Horace
Yaste, Mrs. Guy

Seffner:

Davis, D. W.

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Gamble, Breckenridge
Lewis, Paul
Martin, Mrs. W. D., Sr.
Truett, Lawrence A.

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Stabler, David K.

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Shackelford, Hugh

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Cobb, Miss Martha

Arabi:

Posey, Mrs. Charlie D.

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