

# The Camellia Bulletin

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DIAN HARTMAN

*(an interesting new japonica seedling)*

Courtesy Alpha M. Hartman,  
San Fernando, California

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## WHEN OCTOBER COMES

The first heavy rains of Fall have come, the morning air is clear and brisk—a pleasant prelude to approaching winter. Oleifera, Showa-no-sakae, Setsugekka and Cleopatra have sent forth their first messages in color, signifying that the Camellia Season once again is at hand. The seed pods have burst and the harvest—a bountiful one this year—is about complete. Here and there through the garden one catches a fleeting hint of the sasanqua fragrance—a mere suggestion, as it were, of the wealth of beauty soon to meet the eye. Yes, when October comes, the pleasures we look forward to in our garden for so long are about to be enjoyed.

The coming of the blooms cannot but excite the enthusiasm of a true camellia fan and it is an annual reminder of how grateful we should be for this wonderful hobby. Some twenty years ago, when not a single camellia graced our garden, the coming of winter always seemed something drab and foreboding, for it meant

the end of bloom and color everywhere, and a shedding of foliage as if in warning of approaching storm. Not so now, for winter means the coming to life of our camellias, as if this were not the end but rather the beginning of the garden's glory. When all else has fled the scene, as it were, the regal camellia bursts forth in her finest accoutrements, as if to impart faith that all is well and Spring is just around the corner.

Can there be a higher recommendation than this? Does any other plant so reassure us? Perhaps, in balmy climes, there are a few but surely none possessing such fine attributes!

So, as we start another season, let this be your thought: Camellia, we are grateful for your presence, not only for the beauty you bring to us in all your varied forms and colors but because you fill a gaping void in the horticultural year and thus brighten what would otherwise be our darkest days.

## VERSATILE SASANQUAS

William E. Wylam, Pasadena, California

Sun or shade—sand or clay—given a soil with a little humus and a minimum of care the Sasanqua will produce masses of bloom at a time of the year when few plants are in flower. One of the most valuable features of the Sasanqua is delightfully neat, small, shiny, evergreen foliage. This should afford it a place in the garden even though it would never bloom. Most Sasanquas have a definite odor and in some varieties, such as APPLE BLOSSOM, NODAMI-USHIRO and the beautiful, big, two-toned Sasanqua which I imported from Australia as FUKUZUTSUMI, there is a pronounced fragrance that is quite pleasing.

Botanists in recent years have eliminated several items, formerly included in the Sasanquas, and have distinguished between Autumn Flowering Sasanquas (true Sasanquas) and Winter Flowering Sasanquas (Hiemalis). However, many people persist in placing Sasanqua, Hiemalis and Vernalis all in one category and, to simplify this present paper, I shall

follow this practice although BILL WYLAM, CHRISTMAS CANDLES, EIFIN ROSE, HIRYU (AUSTRALIA), SHISHI GASHIRA, SHOWA-NO-SAKAE, SHOWA SUPREME, WINSOME and, possibly, KO-GYOKU should be listed as Hiemalis.

Many times the same variety of Sasanqua may be used with equal success in a number of different ways. However, to use these plants most effectively it is well to select suitable varieties for specific locations and uses.

In selecting Sasanquas for specific uses or locations, it is well to remember that, while the foliage of almost all Sasanquas is sun tolerant, the blooms of some of the white and pale pink varieties are best when grown in light shade. It is true with Sasanquas, as with Camellias in general, that dark pink or red flowers are usually more sun tolerant than white or light pink blooms.

I recommend that some of the more double Sasanquas, such as SHOWA-NO-

SAKAE, be grown as container specimens so that they may be moved into the shade during the period when flower buds are initiated and then returned to a sunny location when ready to flower. If grown in the sun all year they tend to develop entirely too many buds. By moving them at the proper times they will provide a better display of blossoms of superior size, color and texture.

One of the most important factors in sun tolerance is that the roots be protected from the direct rays of the sun. This, no doubt, accounts in a large measure for the noticeable difference in sun tolerance between mature, well established specimens and small, newly planted ones. A mulch is a valuable aid in establishing young plants. This mulch should be of some material that does not pack down quickly.

The culture of Dwarf trees, or Bonsai, is becoming increasingly popular in this country. Sasanquas are well adapted to this because of their dainty flowers, small leaves and slender stems. The new BONSAI BABY is especially adapted to this because of its compact growth and miniature flowers. Two others that are also well adapted because of their unusual anemoneform flowers are the sparkling pink, GHOII-GURUMA, and the creamy white, GIN-NO-SAI.

Sasanquas are also beautiful when planted so that they hang over water. It is well to select white or pale pink varieties as they reflect more clearly. I have used the full double, MINE-NO-YUKI, with its fluffy, white flowers and masses of dark green foliage, to contrast with HINODE-GUMO, a large white with fluted petals, lightly touched with pink. These are trained to form a bridge across one of the pools in the Oriental Garden at the Huntington Botanic Gardens. ROSY MIST, a soft pink single, and LAVENDER QUEEN, a large lavender pink, are both willowy growers and are very attractive trailing over a rock, sloping bank or pool edge. Others well suited to this include four McCaskill seedlings; CANDY REITER, scattered with many single flowers with soft pink ruffled petals; MOON MOTH, which holds its large white blooms unusually well for a single;

SEPTEMBER SONG, another soft pink single and FAIRY QUEEN, with delicate garlands of pink blossoms. All of these are delightful near pools or streams. Hanging baskets are again becoming popular and any of the above are well adapted for this purpose as are PALE MOONLIGHT, a large pale pink single, KASUMI-NOSODE, a large pink and white and KEN-KYO, a large saucer-shaped single white.

Many Sasanquas are fine material for background plantings. Among some of my favorites for this purpose is MININA, with clouds of soft, even pink blooms, that appear very delicate but actually have very good substance. This Sasanqua, like many of the light pinks, is best when grown in light shade. MOMOZONO, another light pink single, is an unusually strong grower. STELLATA and PAPAVER are in a class by themselves because their delicate pink coloring is deepest in the center of the flower instead of at the tips of the petals. STELLATA, while not as large a flower as PAPAVER, has more contrast. Two Sasanquas, which when mature specimens give stunning masses of color, are SHINONOME, with unusually large, soft lavender pink blossoms and HANA-DAIJIN with large semi-double flowers that have a sheen like rich pink satin. The large, deeper pink semi-double NODAMI-USHIRO is also desirable as a background shrub.

Among the whites SHINING STAR, an upright fast grower is a mass of white each autumn. SNOWFLAKE is one of the largest single whites. Both this and WHITE QUEEN are fine strong plants with many large flowers contrasting with the dark green foliage. SETSUGEKKA, while technically a two-toned flower as it often shows a delicate pink edge, is sometimes listed as a white as it also produces all white, or nearly white, large semi-double blooms that place it among today's finest Sasanquas.

Several two-toned (pink and white) Sasanquas, that I can recommend as background material or for large informal hedges or mass plantings, are HANA-JIMAN, NARUMIGATA, MOMOZONO-NISHIKI and YAE-ARARE. All of

*(Continued on page 14)*

## I WONDER WHY

Wendell Levi, Sumter, S. C.

*I wonder why* some varieties of *Camellia japonica* are very cold resistant and others are so cold tender. There must be some physiological, chemical, or other definite cause for this. *I wonder why* we cannot get qualified scientists to run laboratory and other tests to attempt to locate the difference or differences between varieties. When this is ascertained, perhaps we could then add some substance to the soil which would make cold-tender plants more cold resistant. This should not be too much to hope for. "Science Marches On" in many phases of life—why not with our beloved Camellias? For example, in the American Horticultural Society *Gardeners Forum* (Vol. 2, No. 5, August, 1959) there's a report of two scientists in Beltsville, Maryland, making petunias remain short and compact by growing them in soil treated with Phosphon D, a new plant-growth regulating chemical. With our advance in knowledge hardly anything seems impossible.

*I wonder why* more is not written about the nature, description, and life history of peony scale and the methods for its elimination. Untreated, in three to five years it can kill a plant limb by limb or dwarf it so that it takes years to recover. Compared with it, tea and camellia scale are as mild as a baby's breath. Apparently this scale must be treated in the last two weeks in May and the first two weeks in June (in this area) when the crawlers are moving. At other times it appears to be protected in a shell stage, resistant to scaleicides. I have found parathion and malathion effective. The latter is safer for any but professionals. I should like to know more about this scale and *I wonder why* it has been treated so cursorily in our literature for the past ten or fifteen years.

*I wonder why* we cannot have authoritative tests, with controls, run by qualified persons or institutions made on fertilizers and fertilizing. The books and periodicals are filled with articles on the subject. There appears to be about as many theories as authors, but I can recall no scientifically-run tests.

We need to know the respective values of organic fertilizer, inorganic fertilizer, and a mixture of the two, as applied to Camellias.

We need to know the best time to fertilize: winter, spring, or autumn. We need to know how often to fertilize: in the fall and winter, in the spring, or in each month of the year?

To be sure of results we need one hundred (more is better) small plants (liners), all of one variety and of the same approximate age. These should be divided into lots of ten (or more) and planted in rows. Let a control row receive no fertilizer whatsoever. Let the other rows have organic matter, inorganic fertilizer, and a mixture of the two. Some should be fertilized only in the spring, others in the fall, or monthly, etc. Careful, written records should be kept. At the end of three to five years we should have authoritative results.

This should not cost too much or take too much time. My guess is that it will revolutionize our thinking. *I wonder why* it cannot be done.

*I wonder why* we cannot educate our nurseries to universally and properly root-prune their plants which are sold balled and burlapped (B&B).

I have carefully noted the root structure of all casualties in our garden for the past 20 years. In a great majority of the cases large roots had been cut, but no limbs pruned. There's a balance between roots and limbs (under the ground and above the ground) which must be maintained. Where say 40 per cent of the roots are cut, unless 40 per cent of the limbs and foliage are pruned the plant has a poor chance of surviving in the average garden. *I wonder why* nurseries do not move their plants at least every two years to prevent them from becoming too firmly established.

*I wonder why* the manufacturers of oil emulsions (for use against scale) do not tell us how long after using, the leaves and small limbs are sensitive to heat and cold. We know that they should not be used in weather too hot or too cold, but

how long before? In September, 1958, I used an oil emulsion spray. The coverage was insufficient and in October we sprayed again. On December 12 our temperature dropped to 11°F. We suffered many cold-killed or damaged small limbs on cold-tender varieties. These same varieties in nearby gardens, unsprayed, were not cold hurt. I should like to know how long the effect of an oil emulsion lasts insofar as very cold or very hot weather is concerned.

*I wonder why* more is not written about the damage that nematodes may do to Camellias. By "nematodes" is meant not the large earthworm (*Lumbricus terrestris*) which is so beneficial in aerating the soil, but small worms which can only be seen under the microscope and identified by an expert nematologist. Apparently the only article upon them indexed in the A.C.S.Y.B. for 1958 is the article by Self & Cairns, A.C.S.Y.B., 1955, p. 119. This article clearly sets out the damage to the roots of *C. japonica* by the root-knot species. *Camellia Culture*, 1959, covers nematodes in considerable detail but literature generally on the subject is lacking.

We have a very small section of our garden where our *C. japonicas* have far from optimum growth. A microscopic examination of the soil by Dr. Paul M. Alexander of Clemson College showed the presence in large numbers of root-knot, ring, and lesion nematodes. It was these worms which were thwarting the proper foliation, growth, and flowering of the half dozen *C. japonica* plants in this area. There are good nematocides on the national market. We used *Nemagon*, resulting in the elimination of the *nemas*, and with no apparent harmful results to the plants. As a matter of fact on September 29th we cut three blooms from an Arejishi, which was in this group, and these blooms were as pretty as the plant had ever produced.

In other sections of the garden, especially near a boxwood which was not flourishing, others were found, viz., dagger, stubby, root, and lance nematodes.

It is suggested that anyone having plants which are not flourishing, though receiving the fundamental essentials for optimum growth, have their soil exam-

ined for *nemas*. They may be the hidden cause.

*I wonder why* there is not more study of leaf gall, its nature and effect. The probable reason is that its first appearance and effect appear to be quite innocuous. Dr. Alexander tells me that this is a fungoid growth. Being such, its reproduction and spread should be somewhat similar to another fungoid growth with which growers are familiar, namely, flower blight. The presence of flower blight at first blush causes panic—that of leaf gall is more or less unimpressive. Quite conceivably though, unless the damaged leaves are picked and destroyed, this leaf fungus left to progress might in time spread to such proportions as to be quite a foliating problem. I should like to know more about the life cycle of this fungus. Assuredly, being a fungus, it is spread through the air by spores, but again *I wonder why* sasanquas are attacked so much more often than japonicas, and also *I wonder why* its incidence appears to be much more pronounced after a cold, as contrasted with, a mild winter.

*I wonder why*, with all the fine and outstanding Camellia Societies that we have in the United States, we cannot have an integrated and well-planned program for the study of the inheritance of color and form of Camellia blossoms. We know that in pigeons there are many more colors than there are in Camellias. There are five patterns in pigeons (selfs, T, checker, barred, and barless) which are analogous to shape in Camellias—singles, semi-doubles, etc. We know in pigeons that color and pattern inherit independently of each other. If someone should bring me a pair of pigeons of any, but different color (black, dun, red, yellow, blue, brown, khaki, silver, opal, milky, indigo, and a dozen or more others), I can forecast the color and patterns of their offspring if the pair is pure (*homozygous*) for their color (*phenotype*). This isn't the result of solitary study on the part of any one man. About 1910 a professor of genetics, Dr. Leon J. Cole of the University of Wisconsin, selected pigeons as the medium of genetic study for his classes. For the obtaining of Master's and Doctor's

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## CAMELLIAS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Mrs. A. E. (Mary) Johnson, Beaverton, Oregon

It has often been said that the over-all conditions in the Northwest, and the Portland area in particular, are nearly perfect for the growing of camellias. This is true to a degree and with some reservations. The comments which follow are based on personal experience in growing camellias in this area for the past fourteen years.

In discussing the varieties, we shall classify them according to those considered to be the most SATISFACTORY performers, those which are INDIFFERENT performers and those which have been found quite UNSATISFACTORY, as well as mentioning those varieties which have proven to be the most HARDY. Many will be as familiar as old friends, while others will be less well known to some. We shall also try to tell you about some of the camellias that have been developed in our area, especially those which have, through the years, proven themselves by their performance. It would be helpful for you to know about our growing conditions—weather-wise—and we shall also tell you something of our own personal experiences as well as those of other camellia-growing friends.

To begin with, our average annual rainfall over the past several years has been 39.91 inches. The temperature has risen as high as 107° on occasion during summer and as low as an official 3° below zero—in the winter of 1950. At that particular time there were unofficial recordings of as low as 10° to 20° below zero, within a radius of 30 miles of Portland! The average daily humidity during the winter months in this area is 80% and the average humidity during the naturally drier summer months is 47%. The average daily maximum temperature for the year as a whole is 62.3°, while the minimum is 46.8°, thus an annual average temperature of 54.6° year-round.

Air currents over the entire area are predominantly from the west and are conditioned by the close proximity to the Pacific Ocean, which moderates both the colder temperatures of winter and the heat

of summer. We do occasionally experience extremes, both in cold and heat, and it has been these extremes in temperature, particularly the extremely low temperatures coming on quite suddenly, that have caused some loss or damage to our camellias. Most growers in this area have come to rely upon mulches of one type or another, being sure that it is put on generously, to a depth of at least four inches. We had the misfortune to lose some 400 plants of a collection that had reached blooming size during the sub-zero freeze in 1950. Since that time, we, as a good many others, have learned to give our plants the added protection of sheltered locations, as well as deep mulching. It is *not* considered wise to grow camellias, or other plants for that matter, in containers above ground and unprotected during the winter in the Northwest. For this reason, many camellias are afforded the protection of glass in this area. Some are grown entirely in containers under glass, others grown in the ground of the greenhouse. Some grow their plants in the ground outdoors and have other camellias growing indoors in containers, which arrangement seems to strike a very happy medium.

The following are but a relatively few of the varieties that have, over the years, been unquestionably

### SATISFACTORY

LADY CLARE: This variety we have placed at the head of the list of Northwest favorites, for its performance here is magnificent. This is also true of the variegated form ONIJI and it is hoped that the striped version—DESTINY—will prove equally good. Although the latter is new to this area, we see no reason why the family traits should not be present in this newer offspring.

FINLANDIA: including the entire family—FINLANDIA VAR., MONTE CARLO, MONTE CARLO SUPREME, FINLANDIA ROSEA VAR. (King Lear), and all of the other fine members of this family group.

MRS. BERTHA HARMS: This is a magnificent flower; in fact, one of the

largest blooms of any variety we grow here, yet maintaining a delightful delicacy.

**ELEGANS (CHANDLER)**: including particularly C. M. Wilson, also a number of the other fine members of this family group.

**DONCKELARII**: plus the many named strains of this variety, particularly **VILLE DE NANTES** (also, an unrecognized strain of the latter grown locally having a more open bloom which lays quite flat, with a sunburst of stamens rather than the tight central cluster and without "rabbit ears").

#### KUMASAKA

**MATHOTIANA**: and the many, many descendants of this parent, both old and new.

**ST. ANDRÉ**: the flowers of this variety grow to tremendous size — an all-around good performer.

**TRI-COLOR (SIEBOLD)**: with an even longer list of relatives and, most particularly, **FRED SANDER**, **DAINTY** (California) and **CINDERELLA**. These, we are aware, do not do well in many sections of the country but their performance in this area leaves little to be desired, especially when given a northern exposure, which these varieties seem to prefer.

There are, of course, many other fine varieties but time and space do not permit enumerating all of them — the above we feel are *tops*. While discussing top favorites, mention must be made of **HYBRIDS**. To date, only about three of these have been grown here long enough to have earned a place among the **ALL-TIME GREATS**:

**MARY CHRISTIAN**: This variety seems to have gone far ahead of the others in popularity, perhaps due to the fact it was available somewhat sooner through the trade. **J. C. WILLIAMS**, **DONATION**: All three are so extremely hardy and their performance so nearly perfect here that they are certainly making an enviable reputation. From England, where they were developed, we learn that we cannot really know these hybrids until they have attained the height of fifteen or more feet and nearly that much in breadth.

In this particular location there are a number of other camellias that perform well during most seasons but which occasionally fail to measure up. We would list the following as

#### FAIRLY SATISFACTORY

**MAGNOLIAEFLORA**: This is, and in all probability always will be, one of the most treasured varieties. It has that certain irresistible coloring and flower form, as well as a fine growth habit and handsome foliage. What more could anyone wish, except, perhaps, that these delicate blush-pink blooms were not so easily damaged by adverse weather. As seems to be the case with many of the delicately colored varieties, the plant is quite hardy.

**DAIKAGURA**: the older red and variegated forms, as well as the newer sports such as **HIGH HAT**, **CONRAD HILTON** and others, are unquestionably fine flowers but, due to the very early blooming season, are not always dependable in this area, although the plants of all seem to thrive here. Because of frequent damage to the flowers during cold weather, this family group hardly can be placed in the Satisfactory classification.

There are a number of other varieties which fall into the same category and these are listed below.

A few varieties of camellia are, of necessity, placed in a lower classification, the following being the most notable of those we would list as

#### UNSATISFACTORY

**DEBUTANTE**: it is most disappointing in this region for several reasons, the first being that it blooms so early that a very small percentage of its flowers are undamaged. Furthermore, it does not maintain a constant color, for when it begins to flower during the dark winter days having little or no sunlight, the flowers are so pale as to give the appearance of a dirty cream or white. However, under glass it is a lovely variety and often attains almost unbelievable size. As nearly everyone knows, it is one of the longest lasting flowers.

**PINK PERFECTION**: People still choose to grow this variety, although it has very distinct faults. It persists in drop-

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## DR. WALKER M. WELLS

## In Memoriam

It was with a sense of profound personal loss that his friends learned that Dr. Walker M. Wells passed away September 23, 1959, at his ranch home near Selma, California. It was at this same ranch that he was born 56 years ago. His great energy and intellectual curiosity took him into many widely separated fields of endeavor, but having been raised on a farm, it must have been there that he acquired his love for the land that remained with him for the rest of his life and which brought him back to the home ranch when a severe heart attack first forced him to retire from active medical practice.

As a student at Stanford University, majoring in botany, Walker Wells received his Bachelor's Degree in 1928. He thereupon turned his attention to the field of medicine and after nine years of study and teaching at Stanford, began the practice of medicine in 1937 in Oakland, serving later on the staff of Peralta Hospital. A highly successful physician and surgeon, he was loved as much for his warm-hearted devotion to his patients as he was admired and respected for his professional skill.

## I WONDER WHY (Continued from page 6)

degrees by his students a pigeon breeding program was laid out. This program spread to many parts of the world. Today, after about fifty years, much is known of the inheritance of the physical characteristics of pigeons. In the Camellia world dozens of good new seedlings appear every year. They are being named, and oftentimes registered, in such number that few, if any, can keep up with all of them. Unfortunately, though, they are "chance" or "parents unknown" seedlings, and at best only the mother plant is known. There are a few outstanding students of Camellias who are making controlled crosses. From the plants produced from these controlled seeds the plants with outstanding or interesting blooms are retained. The plants with poor blooms, it is believed, are discarded. To understand

Dr. Wells had many avocations, in all of which he excelled, since he was that rare combination of enquiring student and meticulous practitioner in anything he undertook. His main interest, however, remained always in the field of horticulture and for many years he was an avid collector of new and rare plants, not only of the flowering type but also of shrubs, vines and trees useful in agriculture. These came from many parts of the world and his greenhouse became the source of many gifts to his friends of rare and interesting specimens. One such plant was the camellia hybrid, "Sylvia May," named for his daughter, which he imported from England and which has proved to be a most valuable acquisition to more than one hybridizer.

In spite of his heavy professional schedule, Dr. Wells found time to serve as President of the Northern California Camellia Society and as a Director at Large of the American Camellia Society. Members of both Societies who knew him well will miss this lovable, generous and enthusiastic friend and know that no one can ever fill the void left by his passing. Oct. 9, 1959. HAROLD L. PAIGE

the inheritance of such matings or species crosses a careful record should be kept of *all* the seedlings—good, bad, and indifferent—for it is especially from the poor ones, which should outnumber the good ones, that a knowledge of the inheritance of the matings is obtained.

It would be simply wonderful if our Camellia Societies would interest trained plant geneticists in this problem and get them to lay out the sundry tests and pairings which should be made so that we could better understand the inheritance of color and form of the Camellia. *I wonder why* this can't be done.

As I ponder these and other questions, I have great confidence that the day will come when we shall have a well-rounded knowledge of the Camellia and I will no longer have to *wonder why*.

## CHECK LIST OF POINTS FOR JUDGING A CAMELLIA

In connection with the American Camellia Society's program of Rating Camellias, it was necessary to compile as thorough a check-list of points to watch for as possible, for the guidance of the appraisers in scoring. The work of rating the first group of varieties is now under way; meanwhile, upon reflection it seems worthwhile reproducing herein, for the benefit of all who may wish to have a handy itemized list of the points to watch for—good and bad—in evaluating a camellia, we show below in full (except for instructions not pertinent to this purpose) the reverse side of the Score Card form now being used:

### Merits:

1. **VIGOR**—Plant health characteristics—disease resistance and hardiness—*not* rapidity of growth. Strength of root system and branches, ability to leaf out well.
2. **GROWTH HABIT**—Plant form, overall beauty as a shrub except for foliage, symmetry as distinguished from legginess, density, compactness. *Caution:* consideration should be given to the fact that there are uses for tall and slender, low and spreading camellias, as well as the more conventional forms.
3. **FOLIAGE**—Amount and quality of leaves, color, glossiness and the ability to resist sunburn, fading and yellowing.
4. **FLOWER FORM**—Beauty and distinctiveness of petal and stamen formation and arrangement, orderliness in formal types, height and over-all grace in irregular double and peony types, contrast of center and guard petals in anemoneform blooms, perfection of stamen cone where that type is involved.
5. **FLOWER COLOR**—Good color is true color that does not fade nor purple (as in reds, for example), that is chalky in whites, that is delicate or pleasing, that has brightness, sheen, iridescence, good venation. Consider attractiveness of markings in variegateds.
6. **SUBSTANCE**—Keeping qualities of blooms, on plant and when cut, resistance to weather and other damage, ability to hold form well, lack of tenderness.

7. **SIZE & OVER-ALL EFFECT**—Not simply largeness—the size should be in keeping with the form and color to make the most pleasing over-all effect, whether very large (as in a *reticulata*) or very small (as in a miniature). Mere bigness without form results in coarseness. (This does not refer to mass blooming effect, covered under Item 9.)
8. **DURATION**—Length of blooming period, both as to each flower and the plant as a whole. Relates to ability to hold flowers well and to yield blooms for a long period. Short bloom life may be compensated for to some extent by heavy blooming.
9. **GARDEN EFFECT**—Value as a flowering shrub for color in the garden; neatness of habit in dropping spent blooms, which do not have to be picked off (self-grooming), quantity of blooms open at one time and over-all effect as a garden shrub when in bloom. (Many camellias with glamorous individual flowers fail this test.)

### Demerits:

- a. **BUDS FAIL TO FLOWER:** Relates to Bud drop and Balling (bull-nosing) particularly. Normally, this happens only under given weather conditions or affects only part of the buds, otherwise the plant would be completely worthless. Penalize according to the loss of value. (e.g., if all buds drop 1 year in 3, penalize  $\frac{1}{3}$ ; if half the buds refuse to open half the time, penalize  $\frac{1}{4}$ ).
- b. **FLOWER DISTORTION**—Also relates to weather damage to buds prior to opening (usually those that expose tips prematurely and get frost-bitten). Refers to tendency to deviate from typical form or to have unsightly vegetative markings (not variegation) after opening (e.g., PRINCE EUGENE NAPOLEON).
- c. **UNDEPENDABILITY**—Failure to perform consistently (set buds regularly) or subject to inconstancy by reason of weather changes, etc.
- d. **TOO MANY, TOO FEW BUDS**—The setting of too many buds necessitates much work disbudding in order to

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## A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

Mrs. M. J. (Lilette) Witman, Macon, Georgia

I have often heard it said that the camellia is strictly a man's flower but I have never been able to share this view. It is true that camellia societies, which have sprung up all over the country in the course of the last decade, generally have been organized by men. It is also true that the majority of camellia show judges, except in the case of arrangement classes, are gentlemen. True also that, in camellia nurseries, husbands foot the bills, and that, at home, it is their unquestioned privilege to care for the precious shrubs, feed, spraying, pruning them. Yet when one comes to think of it it is the women, not the men, who "do things" with camellias as they do with all flowers. Camellias provide a fascinating subject of conversation in ladies' gatherings during the winter months. Their favorites are mentioned enthusiastically, and the relative merits of different varieties are warmly debated.

It has been my observation that the ladies show a strong preference for the small and medium-sized blooms, the very types they most enjoy wearing, such as Herme, Magnoliaflora, Eugene Lizé, Dr. Tinsley, Hana Fuki, Berenice Boddy, Mrs. Lyman Clarke, Nina Avery, Thelma Dale and her variegated relative Charlotte Bradford, Hishi Karaito with its pantelets of white lace, and of course, always, the lovely Dresden-China-like Pink Perfection. Many of the recent introductions have also found great favor with women. They rave about Spring Sonnet, Ann Miller, Donation, Sierra Spring, Helen K., Billie McCaskill and a number of others too numerous to be enumerated here. Although the ladies are captivated by the finer whites like Alba Plena and White Empress, it is really to the whole tribe of pinks they have lost their heart, especially the delicately tinged and moireed. Given their choice most women would select a pink seedling to bear their name. Pink being the feminine color par excellence, it would flatter their vanity. The types of blooms mentioned above are those with which they endeavor to create artistic arrangements for shows, and if

you take a peek in their homes you will also find these same types decorating their tables and mantelpieces. I have often heard it said that in every woman there is a potential decorator—there is also a budding landscape architect. Indeed, when it comes to locating the proper place for those newly acquired shrubs, husbands give free rein to their wives, and bow to their proverbial superior artistic sense. In camellias what women admire the most is the graceful form of the bloom, the transparency or lustre of the petals, their delicate color tones. On the shrubs they prefer a profusion of flowers rather than a sparse few of enormous size. In this they differ from men, also in the fact that, being naturally frugal, they think it is wasteful to thin out a fine crop of buds. They agree that the six- and seven-inch blooms are breathtaking novelties, but they find these awkward on a dinner gown, impossible to arrange in a container, and on the shrubs they don't like the fact that the big ones are top heavy, often requiring unsightly props.

In the hustle and bustle of modern life most men have little time to pause and contemplate the magnificent sights around them. They are born restless, competitive, with a constant desire to excel. In camellias they are particularly attracted by the blooms that win shows for them. It is a personal triumph when they can show to friends their horticultural accomplishments in the form of a new seedling or of an unusually large flower they have raised. (By the way, gentlemen seem to have a decided preference for the vivid reds and the reds variegated.) Since the introduction to this country of the famous Yunnan reticulatas, with their oversized blooms, men have been eager to produce japonicas that could rival their size. Within the past few years their dreams have come to be a reality with the appearance of the D. W. Davises, the Tomorrows, the Drama Girls, and many others, exceeding six inches in diameter. Unfortunately, as show judges they have eyes only for these handsome giants. Let us take a look at the

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

The American Camellia Society's 15th Annual Meeting to be held in Jacksonville will be its first convention in Florida. Scheduled for January 28, 29 and 30, 1960, it will be possible for people from the Pacific Coast to make a trip to Florida at the height of the winter season and at the same time take part in what promises to be the Society's largest convention to date.

The schedule of activities planned for the Jacksonville convention reflects an earnest desire to provide a wide variety of subjects to all camellia growers. Jacksonville's 24th annual camellia show will be held on January 30 and 31, 1960, in the new Garden Center Building which was completed last year at a cost of \$220,000 on property already owned by the Garden Club of Jacksonville. This Club (the ladies' organization which is the largest of its kind in the world with more than 3,300 members) and the Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville will be joint hosts for the convention in addition to being joint sponsors of the camellia show itself.

Convention headquarters will be the Hotel Robert Meyer, a 550-room hotel which was completed in 1959.

A trip to Florida should of course include a visit to south Florida although camellias are not commonly grown in the southern half of the state because the climate is more suitable to tropical plants. Anyone traveling to Florida by plane or train should consider renting a U-Drive It car as the best means of visiting many interesting places. Attending the Central Florida Camellia Society's excellent camellia show in Orlando on January 23 and 24, 1960, will allow plenty of time for an automobile trip to south Florida and return to Jacksonville by the following Wednesday night so as to be on hand when the convention activities start on the morning of Thursday, January 28, 1960.

Anyone who can spend a little more time in the southern states after the Jacksonville convention can choose between many fine camellia shows in various interesting and historical spots on subsequent weekends.

**Tentative Schedule of Activities for  
THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY'S 15TH ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, January 28, 1960**

- 8:00 A.M. Registration, lobby of Hotel Robert Meyer.  
to Registration fee of \$20.00 entitles each person registering either Thursday or Friday to one ticket for each event listed.
- 5:00 P.M.
- 10:00 A.M. Buses leave Hotel Robert Meyer for trip to gardens of Mrs. W. M. Bostwick on Hecksher Drive and Frank D. Bisbee on Trout River Drive near Jacksonville, returning to the hotel in time for lunch.
- 2:00 P.M. A "choose your own subjects" session in the Hotel Robert Meyer devoted to classes on different subjects for different groups at the same time. Some of these will be repeated so that, for example, one group can watch at fairly close range a demonstration of grafting with newly designed grafting tools while another group (also not too large) enjoys a display of selected color slides with these two groups changing places for a repetition of these two events. This session will also include (principally for the ladies but the men will be welcome too!) a class on artistic arrangements under the direction of Mrs. Fred J. Hay, Chairman of the American Camellia Society's National Arrangements Contest.
- 4:30 P.M.
- 5:30 P.M. to Reception for Past Presidents of the American Camellia Society in the Windsor Room of the Hotel Robert Meyer. Refreshments.
- 7:00 P.M.
- 8:30 P.M. Illustrated story of Jacksonville's development, including its outstanding urban redevelopment program, which is almost amazing in its scope,
- 10:00 P.M.

as the welcoming address of the Honorable Haydon Burns, Mayor of Jacksonville. Followed by movie in color of the outstanding camellia show at Shreveport, Louisiana.

### Friday, January 29, 1960

- 8:00 A.M. Registration, lobby of Hotel Robert Meyer.  
 5:00 P.M.
- 9:00 A.M. Buses leave Hotel Robert Meyer for all day trip. First stop at Marineland for its show which includes a very unusual act by trained porpoises.  
 5:00 P.M. Second stop at St. Augustine for lunch at the fabulous Ponce de Leon Hotel (completed in 1888 at a cost of two and one-half million dollars and sight seeing in the oldest city in the United States. Third and last stop at Julington Nurseries near Mandarin, a 30-acre nursery specializing in camellias, then returning to the Hotel Robert Meyer.
- 6:30 P.M. Inter-Society Meeting in Windsor Room of Hotel Robert Meyer, including presentation of Illges and Peer Medals, etc., and panel discussion on camellia show judging and exhibiting (from the viewpoint of both the judges and exhibitors), and possible report on the Society's camellia rating plan.  
 10:00 P.M.

### Saturday, January 30, 1960

- 9:00 A.M. Registration, lobby of Hotel Robert Meyer.  
 to Registration fee of \$12.50 per person for late arrivals entitles each registrant to tickets for Saturday events only. Saturday morning open for shopping or visits to points of interest such as Gerbing's Nursery at Fernandina Beach (about 35 miles from Jacksonville).  
 12:00 Noon
- 1:00 P.M. Luncheon at the Hotel George Washington.
- 3:00 P.M. Jacksonville's 24th annual camellia show opens. Shuttle buses for convention registrants will operate between Hotel Robert Meyer and show site (the Garden Center at Riverside Avenue and Post Street) starting at 2:30 p.m. with last trip leaving Garden Center at 5:30 p.m.
- 7:00 P.M. Fellowship Hour on Mezzanine of Hotel Robert Meyer. Refreshments.
- 8:00 P.M. Annual banquet of the American Camellia Society in the Windsor Room of Hotel Robert Meyer. Introduction of newly elected officers and directors to the Society's members. An outstanding speaker will talk on an unusual subject.

### JUDGING A CAMELLIA (Continued from page 10)

get good flowers and some varieties will renew the buds two or three times even so; too few buds is a less common condition but lessens the value of the plant when it is a trait (a common occurrence with *reticulatas* and some other very large flowered kinds).

- e. FLOWER DISINTEGRATES — Relates to shattering of bloom after it falls, as distinguished from flower life (Duration) and primarily concerns gardens where neatness and sanitation are important.

#### Premium for Special Qualities

Our concept of rating is to compare

camellias on the basis of the characteristics common to all. Abnormal or unique features, which a few possess, have limited appeal and would offset basic deficiencies if all points were combined. Thus these unique features, when present, are considered as special qualities for which premium points are given but not combined with the points earned for normal characteristics. Instead, the total of both is shown separated by a "plus" sign (+). The rating of any camellia containing "plus points" indicates it possesses some

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**VERSATILE SASANQUAS** (Continued from page 4)

these have extra large white blooms with the petals edged or suffused pink or rose. Each of these, while in the same classification, is sufficiently different in shape, formation or growth habits to be distinctive. FUKUZUTSUMI is also pink and white but the extra large, semi-double blooms are so suffused with rose that they often appear all pink. HIODOSHI, with beautifully marked petals like watered silk, is another of my favorites. Possibly NAVAJO should be included in this group although its more brilliant colorings at times gives the appearance of a red.

Two of the newer McCaskill seedlings that are attracting attention in the red and near-red group are CHRISTMAS CANDLES, with many brilliant upright flowers, and the large, rose colored, ruffled beauty which the McCaskill's did me the honor of naming BILL WYLAM. The strong growing Hiemalis I imported from Australia as HIRYU, and which is being sold as HIRYU (AUSTRALIA) until the true name can be determined, is a sparkling two-toned red. Two of the newer reds that I believe have a great future are ASAHI-NO-UMI and HINODE-NO-UMI. Both are large rose red to crimson singles but differ in form as well as intensity of color.

For foreground and specimen plants there are many fine Sasanquas among which the well known and ever popular SHISHI GASHIRA and SHOWA-NO-SAKAE need merely be mentioned. Not as well known is the new SHOWA SUPREME, peony form, pink, a seedling of SHOWA-NO-SAKAE raised by the Nuccio's, which in time will probably replace its parent because of the many superior qualities. I like GOSSAMER WINGS which, while a bushy grower and a profuse bloomer, has twisted, upright petals that give an airy effect like clouds of pink butterflies. Another Sasanqua that should be used more often is the exquisite two-toned pink, SPLENDOR, with large, good textured, semi-double flowers on a vigorous, gracefully spreading plant. I, personally, consider it one of Sawada's best Sasanquas.

We have recently had a number of semi-double to double, light to pale pink, introductions, many of which have plants that tend to be bushy, upright growers. Among those which have proved popular because of their good qualities are JEAN MAY, with large, shell pink, nearly double blooms; CHERIE, with slightly smaller, true pink blossoms and PINK SNOW, which, while it does not show many blooms while young, covers the spreading expanse of a mature plant with a burst of flowers that nearly hides the foliage. Among newer introductions that show real promise is COTTON CANDY with large semi-double, clear pink, ruffled flowers. This is an unusually early bloomer and seems to want to contest the honor of opening the season with the novel variegated blooms of TAIMEI-NISHIKI.

Another new Sasanqua that is deservedly attracting attention is BETTIE PATRICIA. This is a vigorous, upright grower and, while the large rose form flowers are listed as rose colored, it is to my eye a Debutante Pink. I have grown ELFIN ROSE for several years and can unreservedly recommend this bushy grower that blooms over a long season. The good textured, bright pink, azalea-like blooms have proved sun tolerant and lasting. While widely known as hedge material, CLEOPATRA is well adapted for use as specimens as it is thought by many to develop the finest natural shape of any Sasanqua.

The compact growth habit and masses of semi-double pink and white blooms make WINSOME ideal as a pot or specimen plant. Another Sasanqua that is outstanding as a specimen plant is KO-GYOKU which, with many delicate pink buds and pink and white double to semi-double blooms, is perhaps the best Sasanqua available when judged for quality of flower.

Sasanquas are widely used as espaliers and wall covers. One that takes a minimum of training is CHARMER, a strikingly distinctive flower of white with petals edged coral-rose. Another that takes well to training is the very large semi-

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It has generally been the practice of camellia growers to harvest the Japonica and Sasanqua seeds in late September or early October before the seed pods break open. The reason for this is that by this time of the year the seeds are mature and ready for germination. Also, seeds gathered before the pod opens have a softer shell and germinate faster than those whose pod has opened, in which case the seed shell usually is hard and dry.

Another reason for the "harvest" before the pods open is that they are easily found on the plant and the seeds are therefore much easier to locate than when they have fallen to the ground and perhaps rolled away or become hidden in the leaves or mulch.

There are several schools of thought on the germinating of seeds. One, to put the seeds in a jar of damp peat; another, to put them in a polyethylene bag of damp peat which may be moved around to determine if the seeds have sprouted without dumping all the contents out of the container. Still other growers just plant the seeds in flats or boxes and let them grow. This latter method results in slower germination than the first two procedures, unless bottom heat is available. But if bottom heat is applied the soil mixture must be watered more frequently to avoid drying out. However, this is the best way if one wishes to label

the seeds by variety or cross.

There has been a good deal of discussion on the subject of pinching off the tap root. It seems to have been the consensus of the growers that if the tap root is pinched off to about one inch in length, the seedling will develop feeder roots faster. The more roots the sooner the seedling becomes pot bound, therefore it blooms sooner than if the tap root is allowed to stay and grow.\*

These practices have generally been followed in the seed culture of all species of camellia. But with the growth of interest in hybridizing *Reticulatas* in recent years, it has been learned that some of the practices mentioned herein do not produce successful culture insofar as *Reticulatas* are concerned.

We have it on good authority that *Reticulata* seed pods should be left on the plant until the pod opens by itself. It is felt that *Reticulata* seeds are not mature and do not germinate if picked before the pod splits open on the plant. A daily watch will catch the seed before it falls. It is also said that *Reticulatas* should *not* have the tap root pinched off. If this is done the seedling dies or is a poor plant.

Apparently *Reticulatas* are peculiar unto themselves in these respects. It might be well to heed this advice when we propagate *Reticulata* seedlings. At least it can do no harm to try it this way.

\*There are definitely two schools of thought on this point. It has been established beyond all doubt that camellia seedlings bloom at a very early age when the seed is planted in a deep (6") seed flat, and the tap root left on when transplanted into 1-gal. crimped cans. The roots soon become heavily congested, the tap root winding around the inside of the can, which severely restricts the root system. It is this constriction that causes early blooming. We say this notwithstanding there are scientific arguments for cutting off the tap root. Of course, if one intends to plant the seedling out into the ground, the presence of a tap root is bound to result in a more self-reliant plant.—Ed.

**CAMELLIAS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST** (Continued from page 8)

ping a high percentage of its buds and often a large plant will not open a flower during a whole season. However, when it does bloom the distinctively colored and formed, formal double blooms are quite desirable.

There are hundreds of fine camellias—some new, some older—but it is rather difficult to make a *limited* selection such as this, of the best, the indifferent and the unsatisfactory. The following is a list of many of the varieties grown in this area in addition to those itemized above, arranged according to the same classification, but it is by no means complete:

**SATISFACTORY**

AMABILIS	GIGANTEA
APPLE BLOSSOM	GOSHOGURUMA
BERENICE	HANA FUKI
BODDY	HERME
ADOLPHE	MONJISU
AUDUSSON	NAGASAKI
FLAME	PURITY

**KIMBERLEY****REGINA DEI GIGANTI**

VICTOR EMMANUEL (Blood of China)

**WILLMETTA:** This last one originated in the state of Washington. It is a very pretty single of delicate pink coloring, small to medium size, with attractive, nearly round, dark, glossy foliage. It is extremely hardy and has a slight fragrance. This variety makes very slow growth—the bloom is excellent in arrangements.

**INDIFFERENT**

FRIZZLE WHITE	MRS. FREEMAN
MASTERPIECE	WEISS
TE DEUM	
YUKI BOTAN (Pride of Descanso)	

**OREGON'S OWN**

It will possibly be of interest to list separately a number of locally developed camellias, some of which will be found in most areas while others have not been

**POINTS FOR JUDGING** (Continued from page 10)

special, unusual qualities of interest primarily to the collector or connoisseur.

**(I) Blooms Unusually Early**

An exceptionally early bloomer advances the season and has added value because it provides flowers when they are

propagated commercially at this writing:

**ALBA QUEEN:** white, large peony-form, with loose, fluffy arrangement of petals and an occasional streak of red.

**MONTE CARLO:** medium large, irregular semi-double of luminous, light pink.

**MONTE CARLO SUPREME:** the same but with a high percentage of white moired variegation.

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE:** large, rose-pink semi-double with high center.

**PRESIDENT LINCOLN:** medium to large red of anemoneform.

**SWEET BONAIR:** creamy white, medium to large semi-double, fluffy, long stamens, fragrant.

The above six varieties were either originated, developed or introduced by the late Barney Goletto.

**MRS. BERTHA A. HARMS:** a graceful, large wavy white semi-double with a faint pink cast, having creped petals. A cross of LOTUS x LADY CLARE made by Mr. H. H. Harms of Portland.

**LILY PONS:** a water-lily-like white flower, with long, narrow, troughed petals and long golden stamens.

**WICKE:** a miniature, the small blooms ranging from red to pink to variegated.

**VILLE DE NANTES RED SPORT:** Developed locally some years ago but not widely distributed—an extremely full-centered bloom, sometimes with a mass of stamens radiating to fill center—stamens spread, not clustered—blooms varying to spherical form showing no stamens—typical foliage.

**PINK VILLE DE NANTES:** The writer has not seen the flower but said to be similar to LADY CLARE in color but true VILLE form—purchased as a rooted cutting several years ago by a local collector, has bloomed once with about ten identical flowers—will be propagated if it holds up.

scarce. Even a low-rated camellia might be of interest if quite early (as witness the sasanquas) and the plus-points will indicate it possesses desirable qualities, nevertheless.

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## MORE ABOUT SEEDLINGS

What we do not know about camellia genetics is legion — what we do know is scant and unconnected, besides being somewhat new because of recent origin. This much can be said: we are certainly dealing with a plant that is the result of so many crosses, largely natural, that it is almost impossible to identify any particular "lines" or "breeds." Perhaps it is this mixed-up background that accounts for the common trait of not breeding true from seed and sporting on the plant so frequently. Perhaps, also, we should begin the work of trying to unravel some of the mysteries of camellia genetics by starting with those seed-parents which come closest to breeding true and, through controlled crosses and inter-breeding, seek the key to the heredity characteristics of the camellia. This must, of course, be a long-term program and thus one for the younger generation to which, unhappily, the writer does not any longer belong. However, this gets beyond the scope intended in this article, which is designed merely to supplement what appears elsewhere in this issue on the subject of seedling culture.

Successful seeding culture consists of a number of things:

- (1) fresh, viable seed that is clean and free from mildew;
- (2) shallow planting, with the "eye" downward so that the roots will not have to make a "U turn" to get into the soil (the seed should be slightly exposed or barely covered);
- (3) a porous, light, moisture-retaining soil-mix, that will very infrequently require watering;
- (4) protection of the seed-flat—from the elements, birds, mice, snails and accidents.

If these simple rules are followed and the seed planted in October or November, the seedlings should be up in a few months and ready for transplanting by March to June. Transplanting can be done best when two sets of leaves have formed and hardened off.

To elaborate a little: the best time to plant camellia seed is when the pod breaks open, exposing the seed. We even antici-

pate this at times by forcibly opening the pods and planting any seed that is dark-colored and has a hard shell. The easiest way to gather seed is to harvest the pods before they open and put them in drying trays—the sun will soon cause them to split open. There is an ideal time to shell them—when the husk (capsule) is midway between wet and dry—still green but supple and having released its "grip" on the seeds. When completely dry and brown, some pods will have dropped all the seeds but others will have enclosed one or two in a vise-like grip, so as to require the use of pliers to remove them.

In nature, the camellia drops its seeds to the ground, which then germinate from contact with the damp soil and perhaps under cover of a leaf or two or through slipping into a crevice get some overhead protection. Thus it will be seen that burying them is unnecessary if not actually detrimental because of the tendency to induce rotting.

Rot being the greatest hazard, it is well to dust the seed with a fungicide, such as Captan, etc., before planting. It is also essential that the planting medium be loose and well-aerated as a soggy condition will spell doom to germination. Combinations of coarse sand, Perlite, vermiculite, sponge-rock, etc. with coarse peat moss are commonly used, the proportions depending upon the individual's preference but generally being in the ratio of about 2 sand to 1 peat. Sand and sawdust should work out all right, also, but we would add a little compost or other food-bearing material, just in case you do not get around to transplanting the seedlings before the food supply contained in the seed itself is exhausted. Screening of the peat is not advised, unless a half-inch or larger mesh is used—the particles should be coarse.

After the first thorough soaking, do not water more often than is necessary to keep the flat from losing its dampness. The shell must become damp in order to rot sufficiently, thus permitting the seed to escape confinement—little moisture is required beyond this until the seedling leaves out. Too frequent watering, even

from the rains, will often cause the seed to rot.

A pane of glass over the flat when kept outside will be found very helpful and, of course, a hotbed is ideal. While the ordinary nursery-type seed flat can be used, we prefer to make our own 18" x 24" flats out of 1/4" x 6" redwood woven fencing material, as this depth permits closer planting (3" apart) and gives the roots greater latitude than the shallow flats permit. If placed outdoors, it would be well to cover the flat with metal screen or glass for protection. Burlap will also be found excellent, as it tends to retain the moisture and break the force of the rainfall or watering, which often will dislodge the lighter seeds. However, the burlap must be removed when the first

growth shoots appear and other protection (from snails, mice, etc.) will then be necessary.

If allowed to grow in the flat until two sets of leaves have formed, the root system will by that time have developed sufficiently so as to justify the use of crimped gallon cans for transplanting. In this limited soil area, seedlings will usually bloom in three or four years, so that further transplanting is unnecessary until the ultimate disposition of the seedling is known.

As a general rule, experienced growers feel that a camellia seedling should bloom for at least three years before one can be certain that the form and color of the flower has been established. It often hap-

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#### **A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW** (Continued from page 11)

show winners as reported in the 1959 ACS July *Quarterly*: Tomorrow won twenty shows, Drama Girl won nine, Giulio Nuccio seven, Mrs. D. W. Davis four, while Ville de Nantes held her own with thirteen. Compare these results with those of the shows in the early fifties, also as reported in the ACS July *Quarterlies*: The show winners then were Magnolia-flora, Pink Star, Eleanor Hagood, Virgin's Blush, K. Sawada, Eugene Lizé, Lila Rosa, Elegans, Sweeti Vera, Glen #40, C. M. Wilson, Lindsay Neill, High Het, Imura, Thelma Dale, La Reine Var., Herme, White Queen, White Empress, etc., perhaps the largest being Ville de Nantes. Women are notorious for their eager adoption of new styles in clothes and for their ready willingness to try a new recipe. With camellias it is a different story. They are loyal to the older, proven varieties while men are inconstantly chasing the new. Perhaps the sole exception to this statement is the loyalty of men of the South to Ville de Nantes — loyalty proven as late as last winter when, in spite of stiff competition from newer and larger varieties, the Ville was selected Queen at thirteen southern shows. Nevertheless, it seems that in their hectic chase of the "latest" most men have forgotten the so-called "rages" of only a few years ago. Is there any white that can surpass Frizzle

White, White Empress or Elizabeth Boardman? Has any pink appeared that is superior to Thelma Dale or its variegated sister, Charlotte Bradford? One cannot help wonder with deep concern what has happened to the winners of yesteryears. Have they suddenly lost their beauty and charms? Can they ever win again? It is distressing that the old proven standbys, truly unexcelled, have in the space of a few years been completely overshadowed by newer, larger varieties, regardless of the performance of the latter, their usefulness, and in many cases their coarseness. If we had more women on the flower specimen judging panels things might be different. Certainly the ladies' influence would be felt, and they might provide a much-needed balance wheel.

Men must be awaiting with increasing excitement the blooms of staggering sizes that, I hear, the future may hold with the help of Giberellic acid. But the ladies, too, may look forward to a future full of thrills. Through inter-specific hybridization an entirely new race of camellias is being created, with new flower forms, new exquisite colorings of the petals, never obtained before. There is no doubt that these dainty new hybrids will find a multitude of feminine admirers and devotees.



Dr. John H. Clairmont, one of the founders of the Pacific Camellia Society, and its president for two terms, died July 15. He was 72 and had been in poor health for two years. In 1946 he helped organize the Society, was its first Vice-President and its second President. For many years he was a member of its Board of Directors. Later, he became President of the Southern California Camellia Society for two terms, and was Chairman of its Board of Editors for many years until his death. One of the most memorable camellia shows to be put on in Glendale was that of 1949 under John Clairmont's direction. It was held in the Glendale Civic Auditorium and was visited by sixteen prominent camellia people from the South. In the camellia history of this area John Clairmont will be remembered as one of the true pioneers.

Seed pods on *Donation* have a somewhat hairy, or velvety texture, much the same as those on *reticulatas*. I wonder if this isn't a clue to a hidden relationship between the two species?

It might not be a surprise to other camellia growers, but it was a surprise to me to find seeds this year on *Mathotiana*, *Strawberry Blonde*, *Donation*, *Kramer's*

*Supreme*, *Governor Mouton*, *St. Andre*, *Ella Drayton*, and *Star No. 1*.

Another surprise, and a rather sad one, was the news that the Owen Henry's of Ramona have put their rarely beautiful country place on the market. To camellia people in Southern California, this artistic assemblage of hills, rocks, trees, and camellias, not to mention the open hospitality of the owners, has become a veritable camellia shrine which no one travelling to San Diego would think of passing by. Let us hope that the new owners, if and when they materialize, are camellia-minded.

I was advised recently that if I wished to get a solid red *Reg Ragland*, to graft a scion from a solid red *R.R.* on to a seedling understock which had bloomed solid red. However, nurserymen who have grafted thousands of camellias tell me that only the presence of a virus will cause variegation, and that the thing to look out for is not the color of the flower on seedling understock, but the presence of virus. Since seedling understock is unlikely to have virus, one's chief concern is to make sure that the understock is a seedling which has never before been grafted.

#### POINTS FOR JUDGING (Continued from page 16)

##### (II) Unusual Hardiness

Hardiness must be "Good" to "Supreme" to merit *any* award. The reasoning here is the same as above—if it will stand *real* cold it need not be top grade.

##### (III) Unique Flower or Florescence

Gigantic size, that is extraordinary; distinctiveness of form or color that puts it

in a class by itself; a flowering habit, such as axillary blooming, that is unique; fragrance that is quite pronounced; fimbriation of petals, unusually formed leaves. These are not common characteristics nor necessary to make a camellia completely satisfactory—they are of interest to the camellia fancier moreso than to the general public, thus specially rated.

**VERSATILE SASANQUAS** (Continued from page 14)

double white, shaded rose, FUKUZUT-SUMI. The single red Sasanqua, CRIMSON BRIDE, is splendid as an espalier or trained like a vine around the gray trunk of an Oak.

Where utmost sun tolerance is demanded, I can recommend for wall covering the old and deservedly popular semi-double, pink CLEOPATRA; ROSEA, a large single, rose pink with crepe-like petals and HUGH EVANS, a good single pink that is a strong open grower which, when grown against a wall, naturally assumes a fan shape. It has unusually handsome foliage. COLLEEN, a seedling of CLEOPATRA, is possibly the most sun tolerant of all true Sasanquas. A few years ago, when we had an unusually hot October, I saw a plant of this growing in the sun and the graceful, airy, single pink flowers were still perky although most other flowers were drooping from the effect of the heat.

TANYA is also sun tolerant and small, shiny leaves and medium growth habit make it especially adaptable as a low ground cover, narrow border or low to medium-high hedge where the bright rose flowers can twinkle up at you. For a higher hedge, I prefer the unusually cold hardy as well as sun tolerant DAWN (VERNALIS) which, while not a Sasanqua (although it is still listed as such by many

nurseries and superficially resembles a Sasanqua) has numerous semi-double, lasting flowers of white flushed pale pink and works well in many situations where other Camellias would probably fail. CLEOPATRA is also excellent for sunny situations. For a hedge in light shade, SETSUGEKKA or KO-GYOKU for whites or BRILLIANCY with heavy, glossy green foliage and many rose pink flowers are very attractive.

As a ground cover, where sun tolerance is a factor, in the Oriental Garden at the Huntington, I am getting excellent results with mass plantings of SHISHI-GASHIRA, CLEOPATRA, COLLEEN and DAWN (VERNALIS). Under less severe conditions, the double white, MINE-NO-YUKI, with rich, dark green glossy foliage is probably still the favorite white for a ground cover although several new whites that the McCaskill's have developed will, no doubt, be very popular when they become known. AUTUMN SNOW, MOON MOTH and BRIGHT SHADOWS are all well adapted for use as ground covers.

Sasanquas can be grown in any part of the garden and there are many others besides those I have mentioned. Use your imagination and see how well you can utilize those you have.

Sasanquas are indeed versatile!

**MORE ABOUT SEEDLINGS** (Continued from page 18)

pens that the bloom will improve as the plant matures, but there is no assurance of this and, in fact, there are many instances in which, when the seedling finally becomes fixed, the flower does not hold up to its promise. We have even known the color to change!

One should, of course, always keep an eye out for the unusual. An unusually large seed, an unusually formed seed, an unusual pod in shape, color, surface or size, should be given special regard. The parentage should be taken into consideration, although there is no guarantee in this respect. Such all-around fine camellias as EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, BERENICE BODDY, the ELEGANS family and offspring, KUMASAKA and the VAN SITTART family, just to name a few have

characteristics one would like to see in a seedling.

By all means, do not hesitate to plant the smaller seeds. Some of the finest camellias we know yield only small seed, and we carefully gather all sizes. The size of the seed is not necessarily indicative of the size of the flower.

One year we planted four seeds from a hand-pollination: WATERLOO x DEBUTANTE (white by soft pink). All coming from the same pod we got all whites, two being semi-doubles, one a single, and one a formal double. Another year, we planted two seeds from the same pod. We got: 1 white, flushed light pink high-centered irregular semi-double and 1 anemoneform deep blood red! So, you never know. But just keep trying—anything.