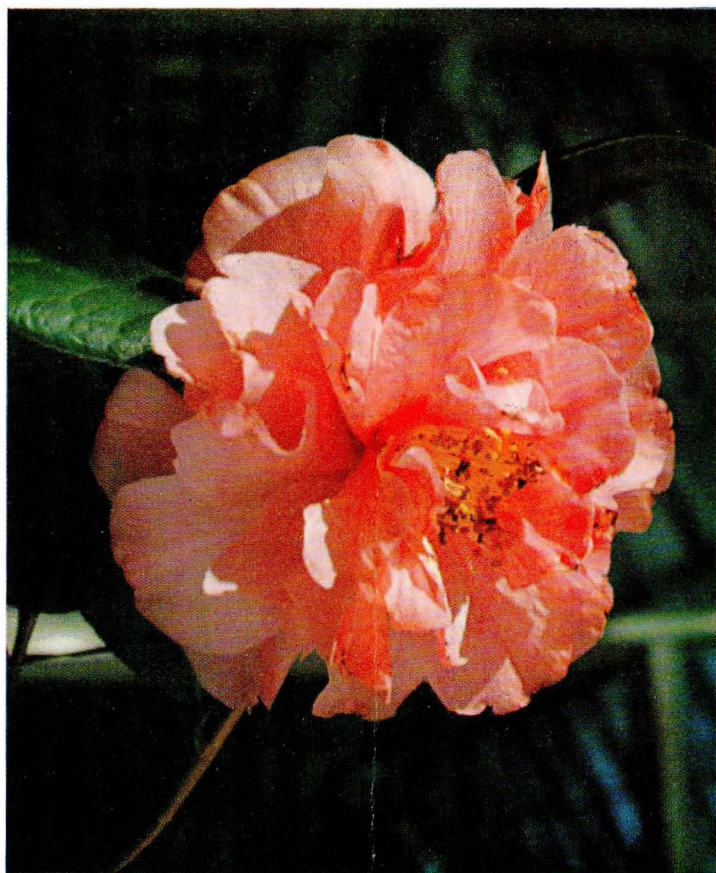


The Camellia Bulletin

Volume 14, Number 4

August, 1961



(Courtesy Royal Horticultural Society)

Camellia Hybrid HY-BALL

Published by
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
 Dr. Fred E. Heitman (CL 4-2177)
 1035 Lorinda Lane, Lafayette

VICE-PRESIDENT
 Lloyd F. Smith (AC 8-4445)
 3360 Glendora Drive, Martinez

SECRETARY
 George P. Neilsen
 4061 Golden Avenue, Concord

TREASURER
 S. Robert Juch
 1826 Drake Drive, Oakland

DIRECTORS

Kenneth C. Hallstone

Lovell M. Preston

Samuel P. Stevens

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
 Douglas G. Thompson
 3162 Lindo St.,
 Los Angeles 28 (HO 7-3646)

SECRETARY
 Mrs. Perry W. Clark
 1951 N. Edgemont St.,
 Los Angeles 27 (NO 5-6306)

VICE-PRESIDENT
 Raymond R. Noyes
 123 N. Arden Blvd.
 Los Angeles 4

TREASURER—Al Gamper, 2116 Via Venada, La Canada

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

PRESIDENT
 S. Lawrence Bouque
 1437 Marian Way,
 Sacramento

VICE-PRESIDENTS
 Harold C. Rambath (1st)
 Jack D. Hansen, Sr. (2nd)

TREASURER
 Charles C. Marks
 1821 Eastern Ave.
 Sacramento 25

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Mrs. Charles Marks, 1821 Eastern Ave., Sacramento 25

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

PRESIDENT
 Edgar Heffley
 1236 Avis Drive, San Jose

VICE-PRESIDENT
 Willis McEntyre
 San Jose, California

SECRETARY-TREASURER
 George Strickler
 626 Phelan Ave., San Jose

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

PRESIDENT
 W. H. Pike
 3630 Francis Ave.,
 Los Angeles 66 (EX 7-0873)

VICE-PRESIDENT
 Karl Blank
 1211 N. Edgemont,
 Los Angeles 29 (NO 2-1077)

SECRETARY
 Miss Mabel Luella Huck,
 3907 Somerset Drive,
 Los Angeles 8 (AX 2-6878)

BULLETIN EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR
 David L. Feathers
 1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette

ADVISORY BOARD
 Woodford F. Harrison
 Harold L. Paige

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
 J. Carroll Reiners
 1555 Potrero Way, Sacramento

Roy T. Thompson
 2723 Hermosita Drive, Glendale 8

Mrs. M. J. (Lilette) Witman
 Route 1, Macon, Georgia

The Camellia Bulletin, in keeping with the fundamental concept of the amateur organizations it serves, is a non-profit enterprise published quarterly (Nov., Feb., May and Aug.) by the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. Its principal objects and purposes are furtherance of the enjoyment and benefits derived from the culture of camellias and the dissemination of knowledge related thereto. By special arrangement with, and through the co-operation of, the Pacific Camellia Society, The Camellia Society of Sacramento and the Los Angeles Camellia Society, this Bulletin is also available in conjunction with membership, which is open to the general public upon application to the Secretary of any of the societies mentioned, at the respective addresses shown above. For full membership in the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc., and with respect to all persons resident in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo, the annual dues are \$5.00—outside that area, limited membership privileges, including the right to all Society publications, are \$3.00 per year. MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of each month November through May, at 8 p.m. in the Claremont Junior High School Auditorium, Oakland, and include an informal flower display and refreshments. All matter regarding the content of the Bulletin should be addressed to the Editor. CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be reported promptly to **your Secretary**, as the Post Office will not forward periodicals. Remit dues to Treasurer.

ROOT AND LEAF BALANCE OF THE TRANSPLANTED CAMELLIA

J. Carroll Reiners, Sacramento, California

Camellias are one of the easiest plants to move because they belong to a broad class known as surface rooters and have a fibrous root system. The mere cutting of camellia roots induces proliferation to an amazing degree. Since we know the camellia is generously endowed with a capacity for root regeneration we need not worry about the future of the plant after it is properly moved.

The references in the above statements are confined to the smaller size of camellias which the home owner can safely move. Plants of 15 or more years of age are apt to be more sensitive to shock and thus more difficult to move successfully. A professional mover should be consulted, as he understands the techniques of root pruning before digging and boxing, and "hardening off" in the box before moving.

I must mention here a note of caution when plants are of sufficient size to require boxing. Never rush the mover, and *insist* upon the following procedure if you have a *valuable* plant. The operation by the professional mover may be considered in three steps:

1. Dig around the plant and construct the box only on the four sides without moving the camellia. Leave the plant for a minimum of three months for observation. Within 90 days new roots will develop around the inside surface of the box.

2. After three months and if the plant is still healthy, excavate beneath it in order to complete the boxing by construction of a bottom for the box. For additional observation, leave the boxed specimen at its present site for another three months.

3. If the camellia is healthy after the second three month period, then prepare the new planting site and have the specimen moved and planted.

The camellia amateur can move smaller plants at any time of the year but only with considerably more difficulty during the dry months. Digging during humid periods in the late fall and winter is rec-

ommended. Moving the camellia during these periods of high humidity enables the plant to stand the shock of root severance, minimizes the chances for foliage dehydration, and promotes a rapid regeneration of root hairs at the cut root segments.

Plants which are in the ground and left undisturbed develop what is commonly referred to as a balanced root and leaf system. The root and vegetative growth has been adapted to the local exposure, moisture and available nutrients. On a hot day a well established older plant will not wilt because it has this balance of root and leaf growth.

Nature's ratio of root to leaf is disturbed when we dig up the camellia and if the change of balance is too great, the leaves will dehydrate or wilt, and even fall off in extreme cases of root damage. The loss of leaves following digging is Nature's way of trying to re-establish a balance between root and leaf before the plant dehydrates to the extent of dying. This latter condition indicates that there was a too severe root reduction due to drying or cutting too closely to the plant. Letting the earth break away from the roots would tear away the almost microscopic root hairs and limit the capacity of the remaining roots to absorb enough sustaining moisture to maintain the turgid condition of the leaves.

The following seven steps are important to moving camellias from the ground:

- I. SOIL MOISTURE: Be sure that the soil is of the right degree of moisture content which will assist in easier digging and also keep the earth from falling or breaking away from the roots. Clay type loams hold together in a ball more easily than sandy soils; therefore be sure that the latter is thoroughly wet before digging. Moisture conditioning of the soil should be done a day or two before ground breaking.

- II. NEW LOCATION: Prepare the new location for the camellia before the plant is dug from the ground. Be sure the hole is amply large for easy plant place-

ment. If the cultivar is to be put into a container, have the moist soil mixture and container prepared.

III. SHARP TOOLS: Never attempt to dig with dull implements. The shovel or spade should be filed to a very sharp edge so that when it is forced into the soil it will cut cleanly with a minimum of damage to the roots or of disturbance to the soil in the root ball.

If you plan to do much plant moving, purchase what is known as a "drain or trenching spade." This tool has a blade $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 15 inches long. With a sharp blade one can quickly circle the camellia by thrusting the spade vertically into the soil, more easily and much deeper than with an ordinary shovel.

Moving a plant from the ground to a container requires one additional step after the plant is dug. Use a *sharp* butcher knife to trim down the root ball to a size to fit the container. Slice through the earth and roots while the root ball is on top of the ground. An occasional root too large for the knife can be cut with a pruning shear. Square off the bottom of the root ball with the knife so that the plant will not have air pockets beneath it after it is placed.

IV. PLANT QUICKLY: Do not allow the freshly dug plant to remain out of the ground longer "than you can hold your breath." Remember that the fine roots and root hairs are all living tissues which shrivel and dry very quickly when exposed to the air. The longer the plant remains exposed, the greater will be the shock to the specimen and the slower its recovery.

V. PUDDLE PLANT: Puddle the plant into its new location or container as soon as it is placed and the dirt back-filled around it. Shove the end of the running hose into the loose soil around the camellia to drive out the pockets of air.

VI. PRUNING: Prune back the top growth consistent with the extent to which the roots were damaged — MAINTAIN A ROOT BALANCE. After you have dug the plant, make an estimate of how much of the root system was left behind, and then prune the top growth accordingly. Overprune the top growth rather than risk having the camellia drop its

leaves because there was insufficient roots to support normal leaf transpiration.

VII. FERTILIZE: Fertilize only lightly. Newly moved plants are very sensitive to fertilizer salts. However, there is reason to believe that nitrogen in a very weak solution is beneficial. Agricultural experiences on large scale plantings of certain crops have proven the desirability of the use of "starter solutions" consisting of a small amount of nitrogen in the water at the time of planting. These dilute applications will not produce any deleterious effects but will assist the plant in a more rapid recovery from the shock of root damage.

SUMMARY: The moving of camellias by any process which damages the root system must be well thought out, sufficiently prepared and quickly executed. Select a humid day, use sharp tools, and place the earth ball quickly into a previously excavated hole. Water the plant immediately and then prune the top growth commensurately to your estimate of the former root and leaf balance.

A CAMELLIA LETTER

W. P. Fulton, Dallas, Texas

My Darling Honey Child: Tomorrow, I Believe is going to be a Holiday. Be sure to wear your Party Dress. The Carnival Parade will begin at Daybreak just a few minutes before Sunrise. The Beautiful Drama Girl wearing her Pink Pettycoat and a Big Beauty Boutonniere will be escorted by Little Man wearing his High Hat. Another Guest of Honor will be Little Miss dressed in Red Velvet and Red Giant with his Candle Stick. The Circus Girl, the Debutante of last year's Feast! along with the Gold Dust twins will bid a Good Morning to the Celebrity. I hope that the weather will be like the Breath of Spring. If it is, the Country Doctor with his Colonial Lady will stand in High Society.

Sally, be Cheerful, Sugar Baby. I long to see you at early Dawn, in the Tea Garden. I have your last Love Letter. Baby Sis with her Wings will be with me.

*Yours Truly,
Hijinks.*

A DISCUSSION OF HYBRIDS

David L. Feathers, Lafayette, California

The year 1961 probably will mark the coming of age of the Hybrid Camellia, which heretofore perhaps has been considered by some as merely a novelty. This is pointed up by the American Camellia Society's acceptance last March of the generous offer by Mr. Aubrey C. Harris of Shreveport, La., to establish an Annual Hybrids Award, which means that the hybrid camellia will now take its place with the japonica and sasanqua in enjoying this type of incentive to development of better forms. As one of the conditions precedent to qualifying for the award is that the hybrid must have won a Highly Commended citation, it is obvious that this will encourage the local camellia shows to provide separate classes for japonica and hybrid seedlings—in itself a desirable development. Thus the way will now be paved for universal recognition of the hybrid, as being among the three most important types of camellia that can be universally grown.

Having reached, or being about to reach this high estate, brings with it a sense of greater responsibility than is attached to anything that is in the early and formative stages. We should now examine this innovation in the camellia world with a more critical eye. In the first place, the potential for different combinations of the species now known to cross readily is stupendous and it is to be expected that, in a few decades, the number of different hybrid cultivars will exceed that of any single species, including the japonica. Due to its essentially experimental nature, in the first stages of development the results of new combinations of the species is bound to result in the creation of many commercially undesirable hybrids and, as a matter of fact, we already have evidence of this in that some of the *Williamsii* appear to have a die-back weakness. Furthermore, in some hybrids, particularly those involving *reticulata*, there is a tendency for excessive elongation of stem growth (notably in *C. saluenensis* combinations) and in height notwithstanding a neat lateral growth habit (in certain *C. japonica* combina-

tions). While not really a serious fault because this can be largely cured by pruning, it is nevertheless not an advantageous feature. Closer leaf spacing in some instances would also be preferred. Foliage of some types, tending toward blue-green and rather small leaves, will not be found as attractive as that of a good japonica which is bright green and glossy. However, there is some advantage in having a leaf and growth habit contrast and thus wider choice for landscaping use.

On the plus side we have, besides leaf style, a wide choice in growth and flowering habits as well as in the form and color shades of the bloom. We believe that it is no exaggeration to say that one can find in hybrids today practically any type of growth desired: bushy, upright, prostrate, spreading and pendant; any type of foliage: large, medium, small and tiny—dull blue-green to glossy bright green; any kind of flower known to camellias, from the large, rabbit-eared *reticulata* with great height to the tiniest flat single, embracing all of the known colors and adding lavender and orchid shades besides, as well as including all forms from the simplest to the most compound. It is, in fact, quite obvious that the greatest range obtainable will ultimately be had through combinations of the species and hybrids, rather than within a single species. Thus by far the greatest potential for development of camellias in the future rests with the hybrids. Right now we are, of course, merely in the initial stages of development.

It really seems remarkable to the writer that so many worthwhile hybrid camellias have already been obtained from first-generation seedlings, a fact tending to prove the tremendous potential. On this point, in his excellent little book on "Practical Plant Breeding" (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London) W. J. C. Lawrence says:

"It often happens that the result of crossing two desirable forms is a nondescript hybrid combining the good and bad qualities of the parents in more or less

equal proportions—and this is especially true of species hybrids . . . Such a hybrid must not be regarded as a failure, however. It is only the first step in securing forms which combine the desirable qualities, only. The next step, therefore, is to self- and back-cross the hybrid according to requirements."

Perhaps this tendency has been most pronounced in the hybrids involving *C. japonica*.—in particular, the *japonica* x *reticulata* crosses. In the earliest accounts of the writer's experiences in this regard it was stated that some of the blooms obtained were definitely retrograde, being below the quality of either parent. However, the potential appeared to be there and thus the resulting seed was carefully planted. Furthermore, the first seed pods and the seed they contained were not particularly different nor impressive, but with the attainment of greater maturity, these first generation plants are now yielding much more promising seeds—and seedlings. At this writing one *japonica* x *reticulata* hybrid plant bears a seed pod that is slightly over 8 inches in circumference, by actual measurement, the largest seed pod ever produced on our plants in 20 years, including those of the *reticulatas*. The cultivar TINSIE, whose parentage may well be hybrid, also bears this year some immense seed pods, far different than anything had heretofore. While both these instances reflect natural pollination rather than controlled crosses, the fact remains that these plants are in a section of the garden where the majority of plants are hybrid and thus the chance of inter-hybrid pollination is very great. With this promising prospect from a seed appearance standpoint for the first time, and considering that the progeny are now second-generation hybrids, the plants which result will be of considerable interest.

While the writer freely confesses his amateurity in such botanical and genetic matters, it does seem evident based upon first-hand examination and study of numerous *japonica* x *reticulata* hybrids that the *japonica* characteristics tend to dominate, at least in the first generation offspring. In only one plant out of a score or more *C. japonica* LADY VANSIT-

TART RED x *C. reticulata* CRIMSON ROBE hybrids which are now of sufficient maturity to be considered completely fixed in their characteristics, is there a predominance of the *reticulata* color (lavender cast) and strong evidence of reticulation in the leaves. The blooms of this plant bear some similarity to those of *C. reticulata* (Wild Form), the seed pods are quite distinctive, the foliage has a blue-green tone, but the plant is bushy and has the desirable orderliness of the *japonica*. This plant bears seed just about as freely as *reticulata* (Wild Form).

In the second-generation (F-2) *japonica* x *reticulata* hybrid seedlings, we are beginning to get more strong growth, materially larger and more beautiful glossy foliage and some mutation—an occasional shoot that has wide-spread leaves bearing no resemblance whatsoever to those on the rest of the plant. Leaf venation (reticulation) is very notable and generally results in rather attractive foliage. The plant stems (trunks) are quite sturdy and the growth rapid. Some branch real well, others have branches going off in every direction, with no sense of order.

My natural enthusiasm has led me far afield in the subject. To get back to the Harris Award, this will serve as added inducement to segregate the seedlings entered in competition in the shows into two or more classes, so that *japonicas* can compete separately. Straight *reticulata* seedlings are beginning to show up and, in California shows at least, we may expect quite a few such entries in the seedling competition. Perhaps these should be kept separate also. In any case, it is certain that the hybrids will be of such volume and variety that they should be competed in a special class.

As in the case of the Harris Award, the determination of what is and what is not a hybrid is going to be an extremely difficult matter. In one of the California shows this year, top award was won by a flower which many were inclined to doubt was, in fact, a hybrid camellia. It must be frankly admitted that the line of distinction is very thin at times, particularly where the species *C. japonica* is involved.

(Continued on Page 8)

RECENT CAMELLIA INTRODUCTIONS FROM LOUISIANA

R. K. Womack, M.D., Shreveport, Louisiana

When your Editor requested that I write an article pertaining to new seedlings from the South, I reminded him that Dixie is a rather large country and that I was not familiar with all of these new cultivars throughout our section of the Camellia Belt; so we compromised on the State of Louisiana. I wish to point out, however, the tremendous number of seedlings being raised by both amateurs and professionals and even in my own State there are, I am sure, many good ones that were first exhibited during the past year or two that I have not yet had an opportunity to see.

Among the japonicas, Mr. Walter F. Wilson, Jr., of Hammond, La., has exhibited many of his seedlings during the past few years and there are many more under test which I have been privileged to see. Among his better known introductions are *Vulcan*—a very large semi-double red; *Linda Margaret*—an early blooming formal pink of medium size; *Evalina*—a very large, incomplete, double white; and *Judge Talbot*—a large early blooming incomplete double red, similar to *Mathotiana*; a very large pink seedling known so far as *Wilson 359*, received an award of merit at the Ozone Camellia Club Show in Slidell, La., in 1960. We are all looking forward to more of his introductions in the near future.

Mr. Ernest Judice of New Orleans and Lacombe has introduced *Irma Judice*—a very large, nice semi-double pink with rabbit ears, etc.; *Dave Wirth*—a very large semi-double red; *Aubrey Harris*—a large red and white semi-double red; and *Ethel Arthurs*—another large semi-double red that I have not been privileged to see as yet. Mr. Judice also has many others that he is observing.

From Lafayette, La., comes *Sadie Mancil*—a very large variegated white and pink. The pink sport of this won 'best in show' at the 1960 Slidell Show. Also from this city comes *Donna Buona*—a very large, nice semi-double pink which received an award of merit at their 1961 Show. Soon to be released from Lake Charles, is Mr. Rex Smelzer's *First Born*

—a very large, beautiful semi-double red.

As mentioned before in this article, I have heard of others that I have not as yet had an opportunity to see. Among these is an extremely large blush pink—*Miss Mary*, originated by McIlhenny Nursery of Avery Island, La. *Judge Thomas Porter* is reported to be an extremely large rose pink from Lake Charles, La. Tammia Nursery has introduced a most unusual one called *Purple Swirl*. This is a formal deep red with a purplish cast and its petals are not only tiered, but radiate out from the center in a swirling manner.

Among the recent *Sasanqua* introductions, Mr. Casadaban's *Sparkling Burgundy*, the All-America Camellia of 1960, of course leads the list. Due to its large size it is quite frequently mistaken for a japonica. Of not too recent origin, but worth mentioning, is *Cotton Candy*—an excellent semi-double pink. One that not too well known was introduced by the late Mr. T. K. McKnight, which he named *Miss Ed*, for his wife. This is a lovely, medium-size, full double light pink with ruffled petals.

The most widely discussed seedling exhibited this past season was a very large orchid-pink, open-pollinated seedling raised by Mr. Fred Hamiter of Shreveport and named *Julia Hamiter*, for his deceased wife. This F2 *Donation* seedling received an award of merit at the Slidell Show and is being propagated by Tammia Nursery for future release. Mr. Hamiter has other *Donation* seedlings under observation, one of which although not large, is an interesting semi-double red. These second generation hybrid seedlings are of great interest to the hybridizers who look forward to the second and succeeding generations. I am sure they will be interested in Mr. Hamiter's red F2 seedling, since there are not (to my knowledge) many red hybrids to date. Speaking of hybrids, such men on the West Coast as Mr. Dave Feathers, Mr. Howard Asper, Mr. Donald Stryker, Mr. John Soback and others, are as you know, in the forefront. Many of us in the South are following their work with interest and

are trying to learn the technique of cross-pollination. I believe that there is a great future for hybrids and am impressed with their value as ornamental shrubs. As Mr. Feathers has pointed out, many of them have the orchid tint that results in their standing out in the garden while in bloom. With this I thoroughly agree, *Donation* being a good example.

For several years I have tried crossing the species, but our weather during the blooming season is quite unpredictable. Mr. K. Sawada and others point out that camellias rarely set seed while the temperature is below 60°. In Shreveport we may pollinate with the temperature in the 70's and 80's and be rewarded one or two days later with a sudden drop to the 40's or 30's. Of course, the solution to this obviously would be greenhouse culture. It seems that the bees can predict the weather better than I. However, this past season was very mild and I placed reticulata pollen on such hardy japonicas as *Imura*, *Dr. Tinsley*, *Tricolor Seiboldi*, *Letitia Schrader* and *Lady Vansittart*. As a result there are probably a

dozen pods on these japonicas carrying labels that say *X-Reticulata*. At least that is what the labels say, but of course, I have not the slightest idea whether or not I will come up with a true hybrid.

Hybridization is just one of the many fascinating facets of the camellia hobby. I have enjoyed this hobby for more than twenty years and can heartily recommend it to my patients and others, for its great rewards—spiritual, mental and physical. However, since the main purpose of a hobby is to find relief from our tensions, let us as amateurs, always bear this in mind and resolve not to be frustrated if we do not achieve perfection. By all means learn the secret of successful camellia culture and enjoy competition in the shows, but remember that the show is for many purposes and winning blue ribbons is but one.

May I conclude with the observation that we in Shreveport, the host city for the American Camellia Society's Annual Meeting in 1962, are looking forward to seeing you here at that time.

A DISCUSSION OF HYBRIDS (Cont. from Page 6)

As a general rule, hybrids which have *C. saluenensis*, *C. cuspidata*, *C. fraterna* or *C. pitardii* blood in their makeup, evidence hybridity rather plainly. On the other hand, the writer has at least one seedling from a plant of *C. reticulata* CRIMSON ROBE that, insofar as foliage and general appearance are concerned, at least, cannot be distinguished from a japonica. Furthermore, some of the F-2 Williamsii hybrids are showing up with foliage and growth habits practically identical with japonica. What the blooms will be like is yet to be determined, but there can be no question that we already have almost innumerable hybrids extant throughout the camellia world today which the layman would be unable to distinguish from a species plant or flower, particularly japonica. This brings us face to face with the question how the validity of a hybrid may be established.

Chromosome determination does not, in itself, offer any complete or practical solution. If, for example, the widely sought cross of *C. sasanqua* x *C. reticulata* succeeds in producing a worthwhile hy-

brid, counting the chromosomes is not likely to prove anything because these species have the same number of chromosomes. By the same token, though one might suppose that a cross of *C. saluenensis* (30 chromosomes) with *C. reticulata* (90 chromosomes) the validity of which has now been widely accepted, might be expected to result in a hybrid with a chromosome number representative of a blend of the two (60), we have as yet little to indicate that this usually happens. At best, the chromosome determination is but corroborative evidence, in our view. Then, of course, there is the more practical problem of employing this means of determining hybridity in the case of an entry or award, where time is of the essence.

It would seem to follow then that, until some more precise method of determination can be found, we are going to be forced to depend upon what might be called background evidence furnished by the grower. In the case of an entry where the Highly Commended citation is involved, it would seem desirable that this

be conditioned upon examination of the plant, not only as supporting evidence but for the purpose of making an evaluation thereof because the Harris Award regulations evidently will include appraisal of the plant and growth habits as a condition precedent to the making of that award. What would seem to be necessary, then, is this:

1. A separate class for Hybrids in the Seedling section of the Shows,
2. Selection of a winner in such class based upon the judges' opinion of the flower (and, perhaps, foliage),
3. Reserving judgment as to the Highly Commended Award until preferably three judges have had opportunity to examine and report on the plant and its habits.

The foregoing are just about all of the precautions we can think of that seem practicable under the circumstances. It is our understanding that seedling awards are contingent upon examination of the plant by judges in some of the Australian shows at the present time. This is certainly a step in the right direction.

It was with the coming of the hybrids in mind that the Camellia Rating System adopted by the American Camellia Society, in which the writer had a hand, was worked out. Perhaps some of the appraisers who have been working on this project have not seen the necessity of taking so many things into consideration in the evaluation of a camellia; in particular, the Special Points section which deals with unusual or unique features in the Flower and Flowering Habit, Earliness and Hardiness. The desirability of so doing becomes clearly evident when we evaluate a sasanqua, for example. Obviously, any universal rating system must be so designed as to permit evaluation of *any* type camellia, be it *reticulata*, *japonica*, *sasanqua* or hybrid. Now, if we compare a sasanqua point by point with a *japonica*, there is going to be a very great difference on the basis solely of the characteristics that are common to each; such as quality of the flower, foliage, value as an ornamental shrub, etc. Therefore, a good scoring system should clearly reflect these distinctions. On the other hand, we have such further considerations as the desirability of early blooming,

hardiness and unique florescence for particular garden purposes. Consequently, a good scoring system should reveal at a glance that, insofar as the characteristics common to most camellias are concerned, a sasanqua does not compare with a *japonica*. On the other hand, it should show that a sasanqua is distinctive (and thus desirable to some) because it blooms much earlier than most *japonicas*, has a distinctive type of florescence, is more fragrant, and so on. Therefore, while we would say that the average sasanqua does not rate with the average *japonica* "above the line", it will score more heavily in most cases "below the line" and the particular reason why it will have appeal to some will be self-evident. Thus a person who wants a very-early-blooming camellia has but to look at the score in the Special Points section, regardless of what species of camellia is involved.

Coming now to the application of this principle to the hybrids, we find much the same thing: unique flowers, flowering habits, colors, hardiness in some cases, plant form and foliage. The person searching for the distinctive, the unique, the exotic in camellia flowers; the very earliest, the most hardy, the azalea-type bloomers; has but to give heed to those camellias which score the greatest number of points in the Special Points section. He may find that such a plant has not as glossy foliage, as good a corsage flower, or as good a growth habit as the average *japonica* and the chances are he may not care. He is looking for a Special Purpose camellia and he finds it because it scores heavily in the Special Points section. This is, in essence, what we are trying to do in Camellia Rating and why we have the set-up that we do. There is really no other way in which these distinctions can be highlighted. And that is why, when we get into rating of the hybrids in a large way a few short years hence, their true nature and applicability will become evident, not from some All-America ballyhoo but from cold, analytical appraisal. We hope thus to keep camellia hybrids in their true perspective and, through this means, avoid the costly and aggravating trial and error procedure that has been experienced heretofore.

SOUTHERN SCENE

Mrs. M. J. (Lilette) Witman

In recent years several camellia enthusiasts from Australia and New Zealand visited the North American Continent in quest of new knowledge about the genus camellia, the popularity of which has reached such heights in the United States during the past decade. These travelers, most of them well versed in horticultural matters, paused for a glimpse of our Southern gardens and shows, and as a result of our conversations with them our own knowledge became enriched. They opened new vistas for us over their fabulous islands, and so to speak, the scope of our "southern scene" has been broadened by the visions of these distant lands and their fascinating flora.

Some of us have continued our friendly contacts with these interesting people through exchange of scions, seeds as well as news. Their ephemeral passage in our midst will always be remembered because we have now growing on our southern soil strange exotic trees, camellia varieties previously unknown to us although treasured by them for nearly a century, as well as fine hybrids produced by their own countrymen. In our own grove at Lorraine we now have a tiny tree from New Zealand named KOWHAI, which is said to bear, when reaching maturity, hundreds of two-inch-long golden yellow drooping blossoms. This blossom is regarded by many as the New Zealand national flower. The seed from which sprung our little KOWHAI was the gift of Mr. Roland Young of Wanganui, N. Z., during his short visit to Macon two years ago.

It is truly fascinating to exchange letters and plant material with someone who shares one's hobby on the other side of the world. Such exchange provides a continuous stimulation of interest in camellias, for when our camellia blooming season ends, theirs begins.

From our Australian friends we hear of the famous "Australian bush" which, in the springtime, is transformed into a million square miles of wild flowers. In his book *The Face of Australia*, Carl Laseron writes that in that country rain can transform overnight a desert into a flower

paradise, "so charged with dormant seeds are even the sandy areas." He then adds: "Although droughts sometimes persist for several years a mere downpour suffices to precipitate this botanical phenomenon".

Our New Zealand correspondents write proudly about their old camellia trees, grown from seeds brought over from their homelands by the first settlers, or imported by them from the Orient, still surviving in spite of tremendous hardships caused by Nature's elements over the years, the devastation of the Maori (aborigines) wars and absolute neglect. They also tell us how well the *Capt. Rawes reticulata* fares in their climate, growing freely to great heights in the open, with thick foliage, and producing an abundant crop of blossoms. It is fascinating to hear of the strange Maori names that New Zealanders give to their cultivars, such as *Rangitira*, *Ria Ora* etc. These are the intriguing names Mr. Les Jury of New Plymouth has tentatively selected for two of his hybrids. The first name means "Chief" in the Maori tongue and is a cross between *Saluenensis* and *reticulata* *Captain Rawes*, the other name means "good luck" and is a cross between *saluenensis* and *Lotus*. The *Ria Ora* and another hybrid which Mr. Jury proposes to name *Elegante* (a *Saluenensis* x *Elegans* seedling) will be offered commercially in New Zealand in 1962, he hopes. According to Mr. Jury *Elegante* is his largest flowered hybrid to date.

Mr. Les Jury, who does carefully controlled hand pollination, is mostly interested in interspecific hybridization. He estimates that his camellia collection contains about eight hundred of his own plants. In a letter recently received, Dr. Brian Doak, New Zealand's best known hybridist, states that he thinks Mr. Les Jury has done more hybridizing there than anyone else and that, so far as he knows, is the only hybridist besides himself who has flowered outstanding hybrids in their country.

During the last trip he took to the South Pacific Islands Mr. Ralph Philbrick visited New Zealand and saw Mr. Jury's



Mr. Les Jury at work

camellia collection. Here is what he reports about it in a newsletter from the L. H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University: "This is probably the largest single collection of camellia hybrids to be found anywhere, and although early emphasis was on *saluenensis* crosses, a remarkable spectrum of flower forms and colors has been obtained."

Mr. Jury's enthusiasm for his work is terrific and quite infectious: "The thought occurred to me," he writes, "that the missing link in *C. saluenensis* was a red form—though I read in one of the English yearbooks that whites, pinks and reds were seen in the wild. Strangely enough, only pink *saluenensis* had bloomed in England from seeds sent back by collectors . . . later it was reported that two white forms had bloomed . . . I crossed my large form of *C. saluenensis* with *C. japonica purpurea* pollen, the purpose being to get a red *saluenensis* hybrid that could take the place of a true red *saluenensis* and thus to try to extend the color range of the *C. williamsii* hybrids even to the most brilliant and to the darkest reds". "From that cross," he continues, "only one of the seedlings turned out to be a deep



RIA ORA (*Saluenensis* x *Lotus*)

red. I called it *Tinkle Bells*—"bells" because the shape of the bloom reminded me of an old cow bell and "tinkle" because I realized that, due to the small size of its flower, this cultivar would only be heard faintly whereas its progeny might make a resounding sound throughout the camellia world, since indeed I hope to obtain the most prolific and brilliant red hybrids from this plant." (*C. Purpurea* is said to be identical with *C. japonica Kuro Tsu-baki*. There is also a single form of it in New Zealand.)

Mr. Jury succeeded in crossing *C. hiemalis Hiryu* with *C. fraterna*. The bloom is an unobscure double white but Mr. Jury, his eyes always on the future, feels that if this hybrid seeds freely it may in turn be crossed with *C. reticulata*, and thus an early blooming type of *reticulata* might be created. For indeed his aims are the same as those of our own hybridists, foremost among them being to extend the frontiers of the camellia world as well as the camellia blooming season by creating attractive new cultivars that will tolerate more heat as well as more cold—especially cultivars with flowers as entrancing as those of the *reticulatas* with

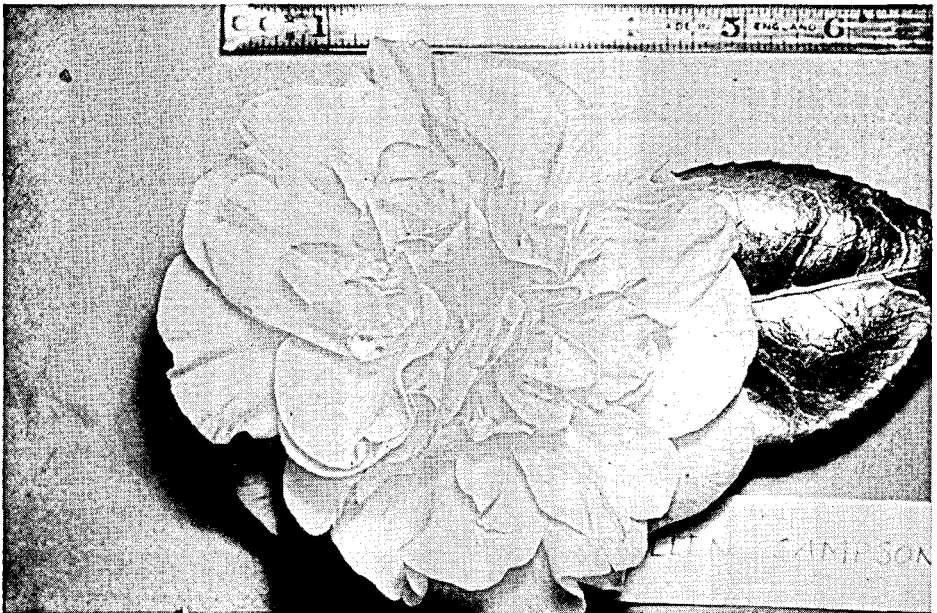
abundant, luscious green foliage, that will bloom in the early Fall, side by side with *C. granthamiana*, *C. irrawadiensis* and the *सान्वास*.

"To my way of thinking" writes Mr. Jury, "there can be no greater pleasure in life than to go among hybrid plants of your own planning and crossing, and see them come into bloom one by one". During the course of his many experimentations Mr. Les Jury has become convinced that after crossing two species together successfully, a back cross between the resulting hybrid and one of the parents gives excellent results. Mr. Jury's hybrids, we hope, will soon reach our shores so that we may enjoy with him the results of the patient, intelligent and thorough labor of this dedicated man. The time of their release, however, will only be when he is absolutely satisfied that what he is offering to the world is truly worthwhile and different. "Hybrids have the habit of changing in their young formative years," he writes, "some which appeared to be very outstanding at the first flowering have receded progressively downwards in subsequent flowerings and, of course, vice versa. I feel that because of this instability in the first years of their develop-

ment hybrids should have at least three (perhaps four) flowering seasons before reliable evaluation could be given on their true performance . . . My hopes for the future are high for the reason that I have developed some excellent breeder plants (first cross) giving me a solid foundation on which to build subsequent crosses that will produce second and third generations hybrids."

Mr. Jury asserts that the future expectations from New Zealand in the field of hybridization must be regarded highly if all factors are taken into consideration. "At my age", he explains, "I will not be able to accomplish all that I would like to accomplish, but others after me will have the use of my plants and will carry on my work . . . Camellias are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and they are growing in popularity at a tremendous rate . . . You can be sure that you will hear plenty more from New Zealand."

C. Saluenensis, the Wild Reticulata and the reticulata *Capt. Rawes* have been available for many years to hybridists in both Australia and New Zealand. It is, however, only in 1960, I was told, that the Kunming reticulatas made their appearance in the New Zealand nurseries. The



ELLEN SAMPSON

many interesting camellia species that have been discovered in recent years in the Orient have been equally slow in reaching the islands of the Pacific. One can not speak of camellias in Australia without thinking immediately of Professor Waterhouse and of his fine hybrids, especially *Margaret Waterhouse*, *Lady Gowrie* and *E. G. Waterhouse*, which we so admire. When our thoughts wander to New Zealand infallibly the names of Dr. Brian Doak's hybrids flash through our mind . . . *Phyl Doak*, *Barbara Clark* and *Brian*, in particular, as these are included in many of our collections. Both Professor Waterhouse and Dr. Doak have been pioneers with hybrids in their respective lands, where they are largely responsible for the new impetus given to research in the field of inter-specific hybridization.

Dr. Brian Doak's hybrids are supposed to be crosses between *C. saluenensis* and *C. reticulata* *Capt. Rawes*. The seed bearer is said to be a *saluenensis* that originally came from England to Australia. Now there seems to be some doubt as to the true identity of this seed bearer. Dr. Doak wrote recently "In my work with *C. saluenensis* I have run into sterilities which have been rather frustrating. I now rather doubt that the *saluenensis* I used (identical with the one that was the seed parent of Prof. Waterhouse's open pollinated seedlings) is true. This *saluenensis* was from an English source and it seems quite likely that it was a form of *C. williamsii*. It was a single but very much more highly colored than any *saluenensis* I have ever seen. This plant (at least when small) was self sterile but set seeds when pollinated with pollen from *Capt. Rawes* *reticulata*. Whether the seedlings are true hybrids or the result of apomictic development of seed as a consequence of stimulation of the ovule by the foreign pollen, as suggested by Mr. Tourje and Dr. Longley, has not yet been established. If the latter, it is clear that the seed parent must have been a hybrid, not true *C. saluenensis*. Otherwise it is difficult to account for the number of seedlings with semi-double flowers. I am convinced that a *Camellia japonica* can not have been the pollen parent, even though the first set of pollination were not protected, as no flowering *C. japonica*

were within considerable distance from my garden. The second set, two years later, were controlled, and pods formed only on the flowers pollinated by hand" (See article on Dr. Brian Doak's original crosses on page #39 of the 1958 ACS YEARBOOK).

New Zealand has much to offer to the pioneers. It is in great part virgin land, extremely rich in natural resources . . . an ideal spot for ambitious and patient young men with the love of research and the spirit of adventure. Such seems to be the qualifications of another of my correspondents from "down yonder": Mr. Colin Spicer, a young man of twenty-six who became interested in horticulture at the age of sixteen, graduated in that subject from Massey Horticultural College in Parlmernston North, worked as propagator for the New Zealand Rhododendron Association and also for various nurseries. His paramount interest is propagation which he calls "A most absorbing study", and through his contact with Mr. Les Jury and brother Mr. Felix Jury, he has become quite engrossed in the propagation with the genus camellia. Speaking of Mr. Colin Spicer, Mr. Les Jury says "I think he will be much heard of later, probably as New Zealand's foremost camellia hybridist. He is young but has a great amount of knowledge and common sense, and above all he is keen . . . Colin Spicer is our great hope for leadership in this work in the future".

The writer had asked Mr. Spicer information about the New Zealand japonica cultivar *Ellen Sampson*. He managed to dig up the history of this lovely camellia, perhaps the loveliest ever grown in his country. The bloom is semi-double very large, similar in form and size to the *Capt. Rawes* *reticulata*, its color being a deeper pink, really a translucent rose carmine. It has two rows of wavy petals. In the center of its corolla the petals stand up and are intermingled with petaloids and yellow stamens creating the effect of greater depth (see cut). The plant is compact with dark green and glossy foliage. I hear that Professor Waterhouse considers this cultivar to be one of the finest camellias ever discovered.

The story goes that a Mrs. Haines from

(Continued on Page 16)

FURTHER IN REGARD TO SEEDLING REGISTRATION

David L. Feathers, Lafayette, California

It is unfortunate that the article by the writer on this subject, which appeared in our May issue was, due to a post-proof-reading error of the printer, titled "THE SEEDLING PROGRAM" instead of "THE SEEDLING PROBLEM", as it was written. The purpose of that article was to instigate thinking about what is rapidly becoming a *problem*, rather than to start a crusade upon any particular program to meet the problem.

It has been correctly pointed out that there are practical difficulties entailed in any procedure whereby registration might be employed as a means of screening out those new seedlings patently unworthy of perpetuation, irrespective of how desirable such a step might be. It is also obvious that no control can be exercised over registration of new seedlings (quality control, that is) without employing some method of evaluation. However, it is equally true (and we have acknowledged it from the beginning) that nomenclature and registration should go hand in hand, while camellia rating should properly be conducted as a separate activity.

This being a free country, it is also undeniable that anyone who grows a new seedling has every right to give it such name and make such disposition of it as he or she wishes, regardless of what anyone else may think of it. Quite properly, there is nothing anyone nor any organization can do to prevent this. We can and have set up rules relating to proper nomenclature and can and occasionally do refuse to register a new name unless such rules are observed. Thus the worst rag-tag seedling ever produced can be registered merely by compliance with these rules relating to the attaching of a name to the seedling. It is on this completely non-committal basis that our registration agency now operates.

Nevertheless, the mere fact of registration carries with it a certain amount of publicity, although certainly not recommendation nor sponsorship. Although rea-

sonable regulations have been incorporated into the registration procedure regarding proper and accurate description, we are becoming increasingly concerned with the proportion of newly registered seedlings described as having flowers of 6-inch diameter or more. There is always the pride of authorship to contend with and the natural exuberance and enthusiasm of the seedling grower, especially in the early stages. There is the further fact, as any experienced grower appreciates, that the first flower is often the best and may never be approached thereafter. It is not without some justification that the professionals have a three-years-of-bloom rule of thumb before regarding the flower of a seedling as established.

Perhaps this might be the criterion—at least a starting point toward holding down the horde of new seedlings registered—that the registration will be conditioned upon the seedling having had three years of bloom—meanwhile, the name to be reserved and no description nor other publicity to be disseminated. As we know from personal experience, there is a great impatience, when one hits upon a good name, to nail it down as quickly as possible, thus an inducement to register prematurely. We can think of a name or two we wish we had back!

The point is about this matter that there must be some workable solution to a problem which each passing year sees aggravated, notwithstanding that it is always difficult to deal in a practical way with things that are essentially sentimental. Certainly we should encourage individual growers to set their own high standards and thus institute as much self-regulation as possible. Keeping your hopeful candidate under a number rather than a name, until it proves itself, is one way. Elsewhere in this issue there appears commendatory comment about a well-known California seedling grower noted for his conservatism and rigid standards in appraising his seedlings. We would all do well to emulate him.



Southern California is showing serious effects from five or six years of below average rainfall. Many fine eucalyptus trees, native live oaks, and native shrubs which are beyond the reach of man-made watering systems are dead or nearly so. A fine old English Holly hedge in Glendale is dead. Even in the watered areas, garden trees and shrubs which send their roots deep down, are ailing. Underground water is, apparently, non-existent or very scarce.

Watering habits which have been used over the years have had to be adjusted to these new conditions. When there was plenty of water underground for trees and shrubs which send their roots deep, it was necessary only to water the surface layer of soil. Now it is necessary to get the water down to greater depths. This affects camellias, of course, which are planted in light soil or on slopes. Various devices can be employed, such as ditches and large depressions at the top of a slope. When these are filled with water, the moisture seeps down to lower levels, and once in the ground does not evaporate. Whatever the watering method — permanent sprinklers, rainbird, or hand — it is a good idea to follow one heavy watering (such as three or four hours of rainbird) by another in a day or two, then another in a few days. This will get the water down to sufficient depths to last a month or maybe two.

Camellias have kept up their reputation for eccentricity this past season. May, June, and July saw much blooming of flower buds which should have bloomed months earlier. To mention one or two: Mrs. Ray Noyes wore a full blown *Letitia Shrader* at the Pacific Camellia Society

Picnic on July 19; the writer had a dozen *Glen 40s* on his dinner table on the Fourth of July. New growth was also eccentric, coming out on camellias all spring and up to the first of August. This seemed to interfere with the formation of new flower buds, but the new buds are now in plentiful supply.

This is the time of year (August) when one wishes that he had picked off more seed pods earlier in the season. The formation of seeds is one of nature's greatest concerns and much of a plant's vital energy goes into their production. If too many seeds are left on a given plant, there will not be enough energy left for normal blooming the next season.

Great numbers of flower buds, some in grape-like clusters, have appeared on camellias and they tempt one to begin disbudding. But disbudding at this time is almost certain to be useless, for plants so treated expend an extra amount of energy replacing the picked buds before the next blooming season.

Two pods of ripe camellia seeds burst open in Glendale on June 28 and established a new record for ripe seeds in this area.

There will never be an end to new flower patterns in camellias; in other words, we'll never run out of distinct new varieties. We have learned from non-objective art that line, pattern and color are in themselves significant whether or not they represent any recognizable object. Each line, each mass of color, each shade of color, creates a psychological impact in

the mind of the observer, and each combination creates a distinct feeling and has its own language, its own meaning. Flower lovers have been long familiar with this phenomenon. For camellia people, the greatest difficulty in the matter of the development of endless new varieties, is to see that each new one produced is really distinct from any other, that it is in fact a new variety, not merely a slight variation from an older variety.

A new geographical record has been established by camellias: they are now being grown in outdoor situations on Cape Cod. Mr. F. F. Rockwell, in an illustrated article in *New York Times*, Feb. 21, 1960, writes that he has developed a method of growing camellias in sheltered locations where, from November to April, he protects them with a framework covered with

the transparent plastic Visqueen folded double. On mild days he rolls up the plastic to give the plants an airing. The camellias are planted close to the house along a wall facing south; a house wing protects them on the west . . . Camellias were first planted in outdoor locations in the New York metropolitan area in 1928 by Dr. P. W. Zimmerman

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, famous Italian ballerinas expected both acclaim and tangible gifts. At a certain performance in 1843 at La Scala in Milan, one of them, Fanny Cerrito, received 836 garlands and 1,494 bouquets, one of which was composed of 2,576 camellias. —*Fanny Cerrito: the Life of a romantic Ballerina*, by Ivor Guest. Reviewed in *New York Herald-Tribune*, December 18, 1960.

SOUTHERN SCENE (Cont. from Page 13)

Wellington was a friend of Mrs. Ellen Sampson's niece. About two or three decades ago the niece brought to Mrs. Haines a camellia blossom from Mrs. Sampson's garden. Mrs. Haines became so enraptured with the beauty of this flower that she decided to try to root the stem in her own garden. The cutting took and subsequently Mrs. Haines asked



ELEGANTE

Mrs. Sampson's niece the name of this camellia but none was known. So Mrs. Haines decided that until the true name was found she would call it *Ellen Sampson*, since her cutting came from Mrs. Sampson's garden. It is believed that this plant was acquired as a seedling from one of the first nurserymen in Wellington some eighty to one hundred years ago.

When Mr. Fisher, an Australian nurseryman, visited New Zealand and saw this lovely camellia blooming in Mrs. Haines' garden he asked for cuttings which he took to Australia. The original plant in Mrs. Sampson's garden was destroyed when a new housing project started in the area. Mrs. Haines' plant also succumbed after being mutilated through carelessness of avid nurserymen. However, many large old plants of the variety *Ellen Sampson*, owned by individuals, remain in New Zealand. So it was NOT re-introduced from Australia as it is claimed. Plants of this variety are now brought over from Australia simply because no nurseryman in New Zealand has a supply of it.

Australia and New Zealand have had two distinct camellia societies since 1957, both thriving — The Australian Camellia Research Society and The New Zealand Camellia Society. To be a member of one or both of them is rewarding. Their societies' fine publications reveal to the distant reader the way of life of these young, fast growing, ambitious countries, still in parts occupied by aboriginal tribes, the magnificence of their strang vegetation, and above all the intense revival of interest in the genus camellia which is now taking place over there.

CAMELLIA JOURNEY

A. W. Jessep, Armadale, Victoria, Australia

With the passing years, as our camellias increased and flourished, so did the number and enthusiasm of our camellia pen friends in America and the urge to visit and see both likewise grew until a trip overseas became almost essential. Eventually the opportunity to do so presented itself and early in 1960 the dream came true. Thus we arrived in lovely San Francisco in early February and from then until our departure from America in May it was one exciting and happy experience. Through private correspondence, camellia literature and by reason of scions kindly forwarded to me by camellia enthusiasts it was realized that our camellia quest would be interesting, educational and fascinating. Sanguine as were our dreams, they were easily surpassed by the kindness and hospitality given to us by the camellia fraternity and also by the quantity and quality of camellia blooms that we were privileged to see.

Out of San Francisco we first visited the landscaped garden of Mr. and Mrs. David L. Feathers at Lafayette, some 20 miles in an easterly direction. It is a real joy of a garden situated on gently to steeply sloping ground that opens to the south out of a fairly deep ravine, with considerable oak tree cover, the planting consisting largely of azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias, the latter easily predominating. The plants looked happy and were full of bloom, the majority being outside and in the ground although there is a vast number of camellias in containers of all kinds and sizes, those nearest the living quarters being partly sheltered by roof overhang. The collection embraces some 500 named varieties and several thousand seedlings. Some of the camellias I had not seen in bloom in Australia were *Sweetheart*, *Shiro Chan*, *Breath of Spring* and *Spring Sonnet* and they looked even more attractive than the plates I had seen of them. It was good to see an excellent plant in full bloom of our own *Great Eastern* situated in a conspicuous place in the garden and to learn that it does equally as well in California as it does in Australia. Interesting as the outdoor

plants were I was even more anxious to see the result of the hybridizing, about which I had read so much. This was a real treat and much more extensive than I had anticipated. In the *japonica* x *reticulata* seedlings the dominant characters of the *reticulata* were gradually making themselves known in the hybrid progeny. It was noticed that most of these hybrids were very vigorous, upright growers of rather open habit. Although some of the plants produced single and semi-double flowers most had the thick petals and some the "rabbit-ear" form associated with the *reticulata*. By using these F-1 generation plants as parents — as Mr. Feathers is doing—future generations will no doubt segregate out in the progeny combinations of good characters of both species in the one hybrid. Again, the *saluenensis* x *reticulata* hybrids were promising and the next generations will give further combinations of the parents in the hybrid progeny. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to see the beautiful blooms of *Fluted Orchid* for the plates that I have seen do not do it justice. There were so many interesting things to see that it would require a long article to even briefly describe this extensive hybridizing project and its possibilities.

After a bit of local sightseeing with the Feathers, with true American hospitality they took us to see the camellia collection of their nearby friends and neighbors, the Harold L. Paiges of Lafayette. There in an immaculate and compact garden, featuring container-grown plants, we saw many well-grown specimens of the more modern varieties, such as *Shiro Chan*, *Snow Chan*, *R. L. Wheeler*, etc. Mrs. Paige conducted us on the "Mary Paige Tour" of San Francisco, a lovely and interesting side trip, but that is a story unto itself. We were also driven, by Mr. Paige, to Antioch, Calif., where Dr. John D. Lawson—who is the principal propagator of the Feathers seedlings—has a comparatively small but up to date and to some extent experimental nursery insofar as propagating techniques are concerned. His propagation methods, using

various types of polythene covers, was very interesting as glass covers can be awkward to use. Then on to San Jose some 50 miles south where Mr. Feathers took us to visit the garden of Mr. Caesar Breschini, who has a very select collection of well grown camellia plants, including quite a number of his own seedlings. I thought his No. 63 particularly good and hope that it will be named and soon become available. Mr. Breschini tests out his seedlings very thoroughly and unless they meet his high standards they are not made available for propagation. I certainly agree with this very commendable position as too many "just good" seedlings are placed in commerce only to be neglected later on. A seedling should be outstanding and have some distinctive or unusual quality before it is worth releasing.

Under the wing of Mr. C. W. Lattin of Oakland, we motored through some beautiful country on the way to his ranch some 70 miles down the California Coast in the section of the Coast Range Mountains near Santa Cruz which bears its name. En route we called at Toichi Domoto's nursery near Hayward where many interesting blooms were seen. Although the leaves of the *Te Deum* were somewhat similar to our *Mathotiana* the blooms that I saw had too many petaloids scattered among the petals and unless its behaviour is different under California conditions* I would say that they are not one and the same variety. *Sweetheart* was showing a great deal of variation and this inconsistency may affect its otherwise high reputation. Clif Lattin has his 5,000 plants—some 900 varieties—in containers in a rather large slat house. Although a bit close together they were looking splendid and were full of bloom. The watering system has been very well thought out and is essentially automatic. *Flamingo*, *Snow Chan* and Mrs. D. W. Davis were outstanding but there were too many beautiful blooms to try to enumerate

*The extent and number of petaloids in this (the *Elegans*) type of flower normally is greatly accentuated in Northern California, presumably due to its cooler climate. In hotter temperatures the tendency is toward formation of stamens rather than petals or petaloids. Thus it seems quite likely that the formation would indeed be different under Northern California conditions, as compared to Victoria, Australia.—Ed.

them. The kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Lattin brought to an end a very happy day.

Our last day in the San Francisco area was happily spent as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead at Orinda, near Lafayette. After a tour around the beautiful undulating country nearby we saw their extensive camellia collection. The plants have grown so much that it is actually difficult to move amongst them. *Look Away*, *Pearl Marginata* and Harvy Short's *Sunset Glory* were at their best. Of the Hollingshead seedlings in bloom, his *Cho Cho San* seedling, H31 and H32 showed the most promise and yet were not at their peak of bloom.

In Southern California we enjoyed the same typical American hospitality and Mr. and Mrs. Al Dekker were wonderful hosts. In addition to the Southern California (Los Angeles Camellia Council) Show, the Huntington Gardens and several nurseries, we were privileged to see some fine private collections. At Mr. Dekker's I saw my first blooms of *Jack McCaskill* and *Kramer's Supreme*, as well as some fine *Guilio Nuccio* blooms. This year these varieties will bloom with me and I only hope they are as beautiful as those I saw in America.

Space forces me to leave the trail here and give some impressions of what was observed in other countries. The best camellia show that I have seen was the jointly sponsored camellia show in the Descanso Gardens near Los Angeles in Southern California. The japonica classes were very good with *Guilio Nuccio* as the champion bloom among them but the *reticulatas* really stole the show in my estimation. The display of *reticulatas* there must surely have been the finest ever exhibited and by themselves well worth coming a long way to see. There were 18 different varieties very beautifully staged with 35 splendid blooms of *Buddha* alone and almost as many of several other varieties. Judging by the faces of the show judges, I know they had a very difficult task in selecting the winners and, particularly, the champion *reticulata* bloom. The surroundings are most pleasant, the show schedule simple yet very effective

(Continued on Page 20)

WHAT CONSTITUTES A GOOD CAMELLIA?

A. E. Campbell, St. Ives, N.S.W., Australia

To those of us who have rather taken our camellias for granted this poses a most intriguing question to which there are probably as many answers as there are understandings of the word "good."

Good for what? — to fill a gap in our gardens with glossy greenery, to adorn a terrace or patio with a handsome tubbed specimen, to provide us with some showy blooms both inside and out when there is so little else in the garden to delight and satisfy, to make our names as exhibitors of prize winning blooms at shows or perhaps just plain good in having all of the above qualities in some degree. So almost right at the start we see that this question probably has little to do with our favorite camellia which has been selected for some very specific reason.

Now let us examine these qualities in more detail to discover what features are desirable and which camellia, if any, does indeed possess a fair proportion of what we seek.

If we wish to fill a spot in our garden with a smart evergreen shrub there are so many camellias which will do admirably but there are some which, because of poor habit of growth, will not satisfy us in this respect. And, of course, any camellia will grow in a tub, but here we must look for one whose rate of growth is not so great as to require frequent attention, for we must assume that our time can not be exclusively occupied in re-tubbing our specimens. Whether in the ground or in tubs let us not overlook the hardiness of our plant in withstanding extremes of heat and cold as well as exposure to scorching sun or the buffeting of gusty winds.

Now let us consider what desirable features we should look for as regards flowering. Firstly, a camellia which flowers when young (for most of us are not renowned for our patience) and secondly, one which flowers early in the season (if only to fulfill some of our summer dreams) and right through the winter too. And thirdly, with blooms not only showy in themselves but well displayed on the shrub and long lasting as cut flowers for home decoration. Fourthly, reliable bloomers, for those varieties whose flowers do not open easily, which "ball"

and brown and make the plant untidy should, in this quest, be discarded however gorgeous isolated blooms may be.

Finally, for the show enthusiast, it is a poor judge whose eye is not caught by a well grown, sparkling, garden fresh flower, whatever its variety.

Surely it will be agreed that any camellia which possesses all of the above qualities is a good one, so let us go a step further and attempt to pin point this paragon of camellia virtues.

Just where do we start? Not among those which have been introduced in the last twenty years, however excellent they may be, and however well they may perform in California, Carolina or Cornwall, for twenty years is barely time enough to truly evaluate the performance of any variety throughout the camellia world.

To be more specific, only Japonica and Williamsii hybrids need be seriously considered, for other species, superb as some may be for one or other of the above qualities, fail to measure up in the aggregate, and even Williamsii are suspect in some areas for their tendency to "die back," inherited from their Saluenensis parent. We must therefore look among the older Japonica varieties, those which have been known, grown and cherished throughout the camellia world for some years, which universally perform well, which are "musts" in every collection and yet which are widely grown by those who merely want a camellia or two in their garden. For while we all who consciously grow camellias have strong opinions on what is good, surely the answers to this question are given not so much by the experts but principally by those who grow one or two reliable performers just for those very reasons mentioned above. So perhaps after all the constituents of a good camellia do, *in total*, make it a popular camellia.

Even from the comparative safety of some thousands of miles the writer hesitates to suggest which variety has most of these desirable qualities but murmurs quietly "look at the *Elegans* family," (self color, variegated, C. M. Wilson, Shiro Chan, and Barbara Woodrooff) and leaves it to the reader to evaluate, consider and come to a conclusion for himself.

CAMELLIA JOURNEY (Cont. from Page 18)

and, thanks to Mr. Dekker, I gained a great deal from the administration and staging, as well as the method of judging at the show.

Without doubt, the Americans are leading the way with the hybridizing of camellia species—some crosses being accomplished that were thought impossible a few years ago—as well as judicious crossing of the japonicas and selection of such seedlings; also, the general culture including improved grafting techniques. In Japan many of the nurseries were neglected during the War and I did not see much camellia activity there, particularly in regard to the modern approach to hybridizing and propagation. In England, the rhododendron has been so popular that camellias are largely subordinated to them. However, in the past few years a greater interest is noticed and I venture to say this is largely due to the introduction of the Williamsii group, as well as the importation of new and more decorative types from America. I noticed greater camellia interest than during my visit to the Camellia Conference in 1950.

In Italy, Portugal and Holland the position seemed to be more or less static. At A. M. da Silva's nursery (Oporto, Portugal) there were interesting old varieties, including a few young plants of the *Jaune* or yellow camellia. They were of poor

growth compared with other varieties grafted at the same time. The petals are not yellow and except for its historical value it is scarcely worth growing as *Frank Gibson* is much more attractive. Mr. da Silva does not bother to catalogue it. We were invited to see the very old trees at the home of the Conte de Campo Bello. They are huge trees in remarkably good condition and around the three trees many seedlings were growing. The observation I had was not sufficient to warrant giving an estimate of their age although it has been reported that they are 400 years old and the first camellias to be introduced into Europe.

In Australia and New Zealand the influence of the American camellia enthusiasts has had a great deal to do with our increased camellia activities. The formation of camellia societies has followed the pattern of the American Camellia Society and we have much to thank our American friends for in their readiness to impart their knowledge and, particularly, for the friendly way they so readily forward us scions of the new varieties. It is truly a wonderful spirit and we do appreciate it very much. Finally, I would like to thank all our U. S. camellia friends for their wonderful hospitality and kindnesses to us from the day we landed in San Francisco until our departure from the East in May.

SASANQUA, WORTHY MEMBER OF THE CAMELLIA FAMILY

Mrs. John D. (Nora) Lawson, Antioch, California

The fortunate gardener who has given a home to one or more Sasanqua camellia plants will probably be enjoying blooms from now on as varieties of this versatile evergreen garden shrub bloom from September through January. October is an excellent month to see many different kinds of Sasanqua in flower. The gardener who is not already acquainted with this plant should certainly make the effort to see them now, *but* should not carry with him a mental image of camellias he already knows. Sasanquas are an entirely different species from the more frequently seen Japonicas. They are beautiful and useful members of the camellia family, and merit a welcome as an endearing "relative."

Although there are several hundred varieties of Sasanqua, about twenty-five are normally readily available. These have a considerable range of growth habit—low, compact plants; gracefully open and spreading; upright or weeping. These variations of growth pattern allow for many valuable uses such as ground covers, trellises, wall and fence planting, hanging baskets, as well as garden accent specimens. The foliage of Sasanquas is as diversified as the growth, the leaves generally being small, glossy and very handsome, varying from pointed to round, very dark to bright green, and even including variegated leaves.