

# The Camellia Bulletin

Volume 16, Number 3

May, 1963



*C. reticulata* WILLIAM HERTRICH  
(Originated by Mr. Howard Asper)

(Courtesy Nuccio Nurseries)

Published by  
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.**  
**OFFICERS**

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>          Kenneth C. Hallstone (283-2218)          996 Victoria Court, Lafayette</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b>          George P. Neilson (MU 5-4266)          3184 Meadowbrook Drive, Concord</p>	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>          Dr. Fred E. Heitman (254-2177)          1035 Lorinda Lane, Lafayette</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b>          J. Dillas Black          6 Lorita Ave., Piedmont</p>
---	--

**DIRECTORS**

Lloyd F. Smith	Lovell M. Preston	Ernest M. Parmiani
----------------	-------------------	--------------------

**PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY**  
**OFFICERS**

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>          Raymond R. Noyes          123 N. Arden Blvd.          Los Angeles 4 (HO 9-7583)</p>	<p><b>SECRETARY</b>          Miss Avonne Crawford,          2301 Sylvan Lane          Glendale 8 (CI 2-3366)</p>	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>          Thomas E. Hughes          4135 Ramsdell Ave.          La Crescenta</p>
--	--	--

TREASURER—Miss Coletta J. Rettle, 900 E. Mountain St., Glendale 7

**CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO**

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>          John K. Bennett,          2690 Land Park Drive          Sacramento 18 (GL 3-1873)</p>	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENTS</b>          Dr. D. Jackson Faustman (1st)          Winton Hill (2nd)</p>	<p><b>TREASURER</b>          Fred E. Carnie, Jr.          1607 Elsdon Circle          Carmichael (IV 9-2908)</p>
--	---	--

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—Mrs. J. C. Reiners, 6160 S. Land Park Dr., Sacramento 22 (GA 1-5452)

**PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>          Kai Freitag          510 Woodside Dr., Woodside</p>	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>          Rodney F. Coltart</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b>          Mrs. William J. Hocking          2327 Casabona, Belmont</p>	<p><b>TREASURER</b>          Everett P. Tenney          1903 Oak Knoll Dr., Belmont</p>
--	--	---

**LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>          Judge Bayard Rhone          94 Fremont Place          Los Angeles 5 (WE 4-4050)</p>	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>          Robert Jackson          415 N. Plymouth Blvd.          Los Angeles 4</p>	<p><b>SECRETARY</b>          Ed Franklin          5916 Mammoth Ave.          Van Nuys (ST 5-0601)</p>
--	--	---

TREASURER—Miss Mabel Luella Huck, 3907 Somerset Drive, Los Angeles 8

**BULLETIN EDITORIAL STAFF**

<p><b>EDITOR</b>          David L. Feathers          1 Camellia Lane, Lafayette</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATE EDITORS</b>          J. Carroll Reiners          6160 S. Land Park Dr.,          Sacramento</p>	<p><b>ADVISORY BOARD</b>          Woodford F. Harrison          Harold L. Paige</p> <p>Roy T. Thompson          2723 Hermosita Drive, Glendale 8</p>	<p>Mrs. M. J. (Lilette) Witman          Route 1, Macon, Georgia</p>
---	--	---

**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.

Another camellia season has come and gone and this one has left behind memories that will stay with us for quite a while. Throughout the camellia growing areas of the United States "weather" has been the word that has been most on everyone's lips—cold on the Atlantic Coast and in the Deep South, almost unprecedented rainfall on the West Coast, particularly in Northern California; in fact, it is raining as this is being written—not "again" but "yet." Now rain above normal in a relatively arid state is not something about which to complain—that is, if it does not occur on show dates. This did happen in a number of instances and the loss of a potential blue-ribbon bloom was the price paid by many an exhibitor. However, as in the case of the cold damage in the Deep South, there have been compensations—the copious rains will mean marvelous spring growth

and better flowers next year, the losses suffered through the freezes will bring home to all concerned a better appreciation of the value of cold resistant varieties and camellias in general and emphasize to those of us who are trying to develop new varieties the tremendous importance of bringing forth camellias that will take the cold. In fact, these past two or three years of tribulation have served to point up the fact that it is better to have a simple flower that will survive the cold than a glamorous one that will not. Elsewhere in this issue Lilette Witman has given us a bit of much-needed, solid philosophy regarding the losses that have been suffered by reason of weather. If there is one virtue in such experiences it is that it makes us realize keenly how much these things mean to us and how grateful we should feel when everything goes right. As they say, we learn to walk through falling down.

### A.C.S. ANNUAL MEETING

The unanimous election of Aubrey C. Harris of Shreveport, La., as the new President of the American Camellia Society was most gratifying to his many friends out here on the West Coast, who have long known him to be a hard worker with ideals and a man most deserving of the honor conferred upon him. Both Aubrey and his charming Felice are well known in this locality, having made several visits to this area in the past. We wish him well and trust that he will receive that whole-hearted support that is so essential to a successful administration.

Besides the election of Aubrey Harris as its new President, Dr. Chester Kitchens of Texarkana was elected Vice-President for the Gulf Coast and Mark Cannon of Dothan, Alabama, was appointed to complete Harris' unexpired term as Director-at-Large. All other officers were re-elected.

For the first time since 1958, the Illges Medal for the best japonica seedling was awarded—to the fine variety MARIE BRACEY, originated by Mrs. H. Turner Brice of Valdosta, Georgia, in 1951.

The first Harris Hybrid Award was made—to the sensational *C. reticulata* LION HEAD x *C. japonica* CORONATION cross, which we understand has

been named for its originator, Mr. Howard Asper of Escondido, California.

The John N. Sewell award for the best mutant (sport) went to BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME, which occurred some years ago on a plant of BETTY SHEFFIELD owned by Mrs. G. W. Alday of Thomasville, Ga.

Regarding the Shreveport show, our own Director Woodford Harrison reports:

"Louisiana in common with the rest of the South having suffered a second winter of unprecedented severity, complete with seven freezes, gloomy predictions for the Shreveport show led everyone to believe that the display of blooms would be inferior or, at best, mediocre. It was therefore a most pleasant surprise to find the show a very excellent one. Flowers grown outside were scarce and of rather poor quality, the weather still being unseasonably cold, but the blooms grown under cover were of such outstanding quality that one did not have to linger over the outside flowers. Many fine blooms were shipped in from other localities, and when everything was put together it made a superb show in an unusual setting. The circular building on the Louisiana State

(Continued on Page 20)

## REPORT ON THE 1963 SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SHOW

Mrs. J. Carroll Reiners, Sacramento

On March 2 and 3, 1963, the 39th annual Camellia Show under the sponsorship of the Camellia Society of Sacramento was opened to public acclaim. Its success was another instance of the result of much work by a large committee under President Harold Rambath and Show Chairman S. Lawrence Bouque. The Show theme was "Salute to the Seven Seas," in recognition of the opening of the deep water channel which brings Sacramento to the fore as an inland port of navigation.

Mr. Erwin Nowak, as Show planner, brought new solutions to the general floor plan which assisted greatly in smoothing the flow of traffic past the 8,387 blooms on display, and the extensive use of drapery brought a new dignity and warmth to the very large Memorial Auditorium. Flower arrangements under the direction of Mr. I. G. Shepard were exceptionally artistic and carefully planned.

It was the prevailing opinion that the cold wave of January followed by an equally unprecedented warm February were factors which caused the size of the flowers to be one to two classes smaller. But the quality of blooms was high and maintained throughout the Show by the use of sponge rock in the trays. Incidence of petal blight was very low.

Special notice was made of the count of 120 varieties never before entered in the Show, and this, over the past 10 years brings the total cultivars shown in Sacramento to above 1000, which is one-eighth of the number of world-wide named Camellias, according to most authorities on nomenclature.

Another trend seems to be developing in the Miniature class, which was three times larger this year. Even though the very large Camellia remains ever popular, it is the opinion of the reporter that interest in Miniature and Small varieties is increasing.

The following is the list of awards and winners:

*Best of Show Japonica:* BALLET DANCER, Mrs. George McKee.

*Second Best Japonica:* LADY IN RED, Phil Duncan.

*First Runner-up Japonica:* CARTER'S SUNBURST, Mrs. Charles Vanina.

*Best Three Blooms, Japonica:* CARTER'S SUNBURST, Mrs. Charles Vanina.

*Second Three Blooms, Japonica:* DRAMA GIRL, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carnie, Sr.

*Runner-up Three Blooms, Japonica:* MRS. D. W. DAVIS, A. S. Eckendorf.

*Best Six Blooms, Japonica:* MAGNOLIAEFLORA, Beulah E. Capers.

*Second Six Blooms, Japonica:* KRAMER'S SUPREME, A. A. Spencer.

*Runner-up Six Blooms, Japonica:* MATHOTIANA, Beulah E. Capers.

*Best Reticulata:* CRIMSON ROBE, Mrs. Charles Vanina

*Second Reticulata:* CHANG'S TEMPLE, Mrs. Charles Vanina.

*Runner-up Reticulata:* MOUTANCHIA, Dr. John Kennedy.

*Best Three Reticulatas:* CRIMSON ROBE, Mrs. Myrtle Johnson.

*Second Best Three Reticulatas:* LION HEAD, Carl Pearson.

*Best Hybrid:* BRIGADOON, Mrs. I. K. Sibole.

*Second Best Hybrid:* E. G. WATERHOUSE, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnett.

*Best Miniature:* WILLAMINA, Curtis Derr.

*Second Best Miniature:* LITTLE BIT, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Davi.

*Best Seedling, Amateur:* Mr. D. L. Feathers.

*Best Collection of Fifteen Cultivars:* Martha Derr

*Best Collection Thirty to Forty Cultivars:* Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman.

*Sweepstakes Award:* Thomas D. Sertich.

*Sweepstakes Runner-up:* Newton Pratt.

*Most Outstanding Flower Arrangement:* Mrs. Shelton Brandenburger, "Shore Leave."

*Second Best Flower Arrangement:* Mrs. Vaughn Rasmussen, "Caribbean Cruise."

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY'S 18TH ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW

(as reported by Mrs. K. C. (Kay) Hallstone)

Space and beauty of setting combined to give a new look to this year's camellia show, held for the first time at Diablo Valley College in its Student Center.

Landscape Architect Robert Graves designed the floor plan, making maximum use of the large entrance hall, the fireside lounge for lectures and slides, the student lounge for flower arrangements, and the large multi-purpose room with its many vistaed and colorfully draped windows to provide background for the main exhibits.

Hanging baskets lent overhead charm along one entire wall where tables by commercial growers displayed varieties in quantity.

Mrs. Fred A. Grimmelman and Mrs. H. G. Sanders were assisted at their corsage booth by several neophytes, such as the Misses Barbara and Kay Poertner, learning this special art. A revolving bamboo camellia tree, designed by President Ken Hallstone, attracted interested spectators to the corsage booth where it displayed samples of all types of camellia corsages as they were created.

Mr. Gordon Goff did a landslide business in his book booth adjoining the corsage corner. Mr. and Mrs. Haig Ashuckian took charge of entries and tallies and Mr. Bob Poertner lettered labels and signs. Judges included Caesar Breschini of San Jose, John E. Edwards of Los Altos, David L. Feathers of Lafayette, Vernon James of Soquel, Cliff Lattin of Los Gatos, Dr. and Mrs. John Lawson of Pittsburg, Ted Moniz of San Jose, Harold Paige of Lafayette, Clem Roberts of Alameda, Al Stettler of San Francisco and Jerry Oelrich of Sacramento.

Along the draped walls were tables displaying trophies, *reticulatas*, and divisions of blooms such as 12, 7, or 3 of a kind. The center tables, with alphabetically arranged singles, were set off by blooming tubbed plants loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Paige, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Smith and Mr. and Mrs. David Feathers. These proved to be a featured attraction, eliciting excited comment, admiration and inquiry.

The entrance hall was landscaped by McDonnell's Nursery with flowering crab-apple trees, ferns, and potted azaleas. Additional loaned tubs of blooming camellias outlined exits and entrances.

The Flower Arrangement Division followed American Camellia Society's "Camellias in the Space Age," and was planned and organized by Mrs. Milton R. Bell. Her use of open design with tables grouped around central flowering eucalyptus trees collected accolades of interest and approval. She was assisted by Mrs. Irene Teachout, Mrs. Jean Henry and other hostesses from within and outside the society's membership. Leading in to the room, a long table featured arrangements by Juniors. Some were both amusing and imaginative, such as "Dr. Kildare" and others representing titles of well-known TV, radio shows, or other popular juvenile fiction. Seattle Fair's Space Needle, Floating City of the Year 2000, Thrill Rides, Nations represented at Fairs, and other Fair-reminiscent arrangements brought new interest to creative effort, as well as the usual lovely sections representing antiques, Japanese art, elegance, tributes to Spring and others all using camellias.

Dr. Fred Heitman, Show Chairman, received willing help from crews recruited from the club's members, and commented that while total attendance dropped slightly from last year's, due to the new locale, he believes next year's attendance will snowball as the interested public learns of the new location which so enhanced the show's own natural beauty. Connoisseurs from past shows agreed that this camellia show was outstanding for quality of blooms, attractive display, spacious settings, and arrangements both interesting and spectacular. Diablo Valley College provided continual background music, excellent public address for announcements and lectures and competent janitorial service.

Following are the winners of Flower and Arrangement competitions:

## SWEEPSTAKES (Blue Ribbons only)

Mr. Newton Pratt, Sacramento (winner), 62 ribbons; Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Davi, Pittsburg (runner-up), 32 ribbons; Mr. A. M. Patterson, Concord, 20 ribbons; Mr. W. O. Addicott, Atherton, 18 ribbons; Mr. Thomas J. Sertich, Sacramento, 17 ribbons.

## TROPHIES

*Sweepstakes:* Mr. Newton Pratt, Sacramento.

*Best Flower of Show* (Japonica): NEW HORIZONS, Mr. Newton Pratt, Sacramento.

*Single Japonicas in Court of Honor:* BALLET DANCER, Mrs. George McKee, Sacramento; BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME, Dr. John Lawson, Antioch; DESTINY, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carnie, Jr., Carmichael; C. M. WILSON, Mr. Newton Pratt, Sacramento; REG RAGLAND VAR., Mr. A. M. Patterson, Concord; KICKOFF, Mr. Thomas J. Sertich, Sacramento; GIULIO NUCCIO VAR., Mrs. E. A. Grebitus, Sacramento; HAWAII, Dr. John Lawson, Antioch.

*Best Three Japonicas* (one variety): CARTER'S SUNBURST, Mr. Thomas J. Sertich, Sacramento.

*Best Seven Japonicas* (one variety): C. M. WILSON, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Carnie, Jr., Carmichael.

*Best Twelve Japonicas* (one variety): TOMORROW, Martha Derr, Sacramento.

*Best Twelve Japonicas* (different varieties): Dr. D. J. Faustman, Sacramento.

*Best Japonica Plant:* C. M. WILSON, Mr. Lloyd Smith, Martinez.

*Best Single Reticulata:* LION HEAD, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Carnie, Jr., Carmichael.

*Single Reticulatas in Court of Honor:* CHANG'S TEMPLE, Mrs. Horace B. Wulff, Sacramento; CAPTAIN RAWES, Miss Lenore Broze, Oakland; LION HEAD, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Carnie, Jr., Carmichael.

*Best Twelve Reticulatas:* CAPTAIN RAWES, Mr. Jack Osegueda, Oakland.

*Best Hybrid:* BRIGADOON, Mr. Newton Pratt, Sacramento.

*Best Seedling:* Mr. David L. Feathers, Lafayette.

## FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS, Blue Ribbons.

*Most Outstanding Flower Arrangement of the Show:* Mary Matsumoto, Concord.

Class I, *Space Needle:* Grace Grayson, Pleasant Hill.

Class II, *Floating City:* Mrs. Chesley Ferguson, San Jose.

Class III, *Fine Arts Pavilion:*

A. *Old Masters:* Geraldine Pember, Walnut Creek.

B. *Contemporary Painters:* Nadine O'Connor, Antioch.

Class IV, *Thrill Rides:* Mrs. Irene Teachout, Orinda.

Class V, *Nations Represented:* Nadine O'Connor, Antioch.

Class VI, *To Your Taste:* Mrs. O. B. Tiffin, Concord.

Class VII, *Beauty Alone:* Mrs. Larry Ashworth, Walnut Creek.

Class VIII, *Let's Reminisce:* Mrs. Bernice Fitzgerald, Pleasant Hill.

Class IX, *Elegance:* Audrey Pacheco, Concord.

Class X, *In Tribute to Spring:* Mrs. Roy Siem, Concord.

Class XI, *Freedom Is Art:* Mrs. Chesley Ferguson, San Jose.

Class XII, *Nageire:* Mary Matsumoto, Concord (Best Arrangement of Show).

Class XIII, *Moribana:* Mrs. K. Tahira, Concord.

Class XIV, *From My Garden:* Miss Bonnie Abernethy, Pleasant Hill.

Class XV, *Guests from Georgia:* Miss Lenore Broze, Oakland.

Class XVI, *A Flower Arrangement to Tell a Story:*

Girls 6 to 10, Nancy Scholes, Concord; Boys 6 to 10, Kent Pember, Walnut Creek.

Class XVII, *Television:*

Girls 11 to 14, Deborah Pember, Walnut Creek; Boys 11 to 14, Mark Burnside, Lafayette.

Class XVIII, *Mother's Day:* Holly Henry, Walnut Creek.

**IN THE INTEREST OF BETTER CAMELLIA SHOWS**

It has been the writer's privilege to have attended six camellia shows this season on the Pacific Coast and to have judged in five of them. All except one were two-day shows and competitive. The quality of the shows and blooms and the manner in which they were conducted was outstanding, and we wish to congratulate all concerned for the excellent contributions they have made to camellia interest, enjoyment and knowledge.

If there might be one criticism, it would, in this observer's opinion, have to do with judging. All of us who have had a great deal of experience in such matters know that there never was a show and never will be one in which all of the participants believe the judging to be flawless — this simply is not possible, human nature being what it is. In our opinion it is, however, the most important single factor having to do with the success of a competitive show. As such, we should like to make a few comments on this subject, which relate particularly to two-day shows as that is the length of the great majority of camellia shows.

The most deplorable aftermath of judging (and certainly the most puzzling feature of all competitive camellia shows insofar as the general public is concerned) is that the Best Flower of its class and/or many of the blue-ribbon award blooms at the time of being viewed by the great majority of show visitors often has collapsed completely and would be a sorry spectacle even without being related to a high award. The attendance at all two-day camellia shows is always heaviest on the second day (usually Sunday) simply because this is the most convenient time for most people to attend. Thus it is of most importance to have everything connected with the show look its best when the condition of the blooms is most likely to be the worst. If the weather should happen to be warm and dry at the time, this problem is accentuated.

After giving this matter thorough consideration, the Directors of the Northern California Camellia Society this year authorized a change in the judging scale,

which was called to the attention of exhibitors prior to the annual show and to the judges just prior to the judging of the show. This change was designed to alleviate some of the criticism and confusion in the minds of the viewing public without, however, penalizing the exhibitor. The following is a comparison of the judging scales recommended by the American Camellia Society with the new experimental scale used for the first time in the N.C.C.S. 1963 Show:

	ACS	NCCS
Form .....	20%	20%
Color and markings .....	20	20
Size .....	20	20
Texture and Substance .....	20	---
Freshness .....	---	20
Condition and Distinctiveness .....	15	---
Condition and Substance .....	---	20
Foliage .....	5	---

For space reasons, the N.C.C.S. Show does not permit foliage and on this point there is therefore no basis for comparison. In the case of the A.C.S. scale, it is felt that there is really no relationship between "Condition" and "Distinctiveness" and in the case of the N.C.C.S. scale, a second look would dictate dropping the words "and Substance," as this does not refer to "Condition" and probably should be related to "Freshness." We might observe here that, at such time as Foliage may be permitted in N.C.C.S. shows (which we would recommend both from the standpoint of enhancing the flower and helping its keeping qualities) we would reduce the points for Condition to 15.

It is felt that the inclusion of the word "Distinctiveness" is unfortunate in that it is not a physical attribute that can be pinpointed and thus tends both to confuse and leave too much to individual interpretation of what, exactly, is meant. Are not Form, Color and Size *all* there is to a camellia *that is typical* and does not a camellia become "outstanding" (as distinguished from "distinctive") when it possesses these features in highest degree? Actually, "distinctive" can mean both

"characteristic" and "different" and it is this latter definition that bothers the writer because we are getting a bit far afield and away from the fundamental concept of "being typical" when we use such terminology. Let us take the example where a camellia which is normally a fairly flat flower throws some upstanding petals, which make it "distinctive" in the sense that it is unusual or different. This will often happen due to over-liberal application of fertilizer. Or where a camellia that is normally of a pale hue becomes vivid, or its markings exaggerated, usually for the same reason or because of the addition of iron in generous amount. Surely, these are "distinctive" flowers but, if we attach blue ribbons to them, is not the general public going to be fooled? In fact, is it not true that too many camellia show flowers are *exaggerations of type* due simply to feeding abnormally? One can produce some remarkable distortions of flower form, size and color through heavy feeding at blooming time (let alone gibberelic acid treatment). This does not require any particular amount of skill.

*Condition:* The writer is not wholly in accord with the interpretation of this feature as set forth in the A.C.S. Rules and Regulations relating to judging. In his view, "Condition" should relate solely and exclusively to *what happens* to the flower quite apart from the application of one's cultural skills—in other words, the "accidents" that happen to it—damage caused by the elements while it is on the bush and by humans afterward. Thus, if the weather has been unfavorable just prior to the show, the judges can be charged to make allowance for the Condition of the blooms accordingly. "Condition" is described in the Regulations as meaning "Freshness." Is the latter not the better, more definite word? If we say "Freshness" (possibly adding "and Substance") are these not enough to cover the vitality and well-being of the flower resulting from the exhibitor's cultural skill? And will this not be expected to result in the selection of "better lasting" blooms, which is such a vitally important matter in a two-day show? In other words, let us place more emphasis on *physical fitness* of the flower.

This writer would advocate adoption of the following scale of point awards for all camellia shows:

Form .....	20%
Color and Markings .....	20
Size .....	20
Freshness and Substance .....	20
Condition .....	15
Foliage .....	5

No deviation from this scale would be permitted except that the Chairman of Judges may charge them to make allowance for unfavorable weather conditions preceding the show, as to condition only. A further suggestion might be that any blue ribbon flower must score say 85 points under *any* conditions. This suggestion arises from the feeling that the distinction of winning a blue ribbon is becoming rather dulled due to the unwarranted generosity of the judges in awarding some blooms that would not score over 75 points overall (if that much) top honors in their class.

In connection with the foregoing, the writer would define these new terms thusly:

*Freshness and Substance*—the *youth and vitality* of the flower as exemplified by the firm quality and brightness of petals, stamens, pollen and sepals, to the utmost degree consistent with the inherent character of the variety.

*Condition*—the cleanliness of the bloom based solely upon the extent to which it is free from any physical damage—freedom from blemishes. (No flower with *any* visible blemish shall score the full 15 points.)

Concurrent with the foregoing, the writer would also suggest a "new look" at the method of computing Sweepstakes Winners. There seems to be no fixed rule how this is determined, except that it is generally based solely upon the number of blue ribbon awards, a tie being decided by the number of red ribbons. In some shows, a blue ribbon is not awarded unless there are at least three entries in a class. This takes care of much of the trouble but is, at the same time a bit hard on the exhibitor who may be an "early bird" collector of new varieties or who may have

(Continued on Page 19)



## REFRIGERATION OF CAMELLIA SHOW FLOWERS

J. Carroll Reiners, Sacramento, California

Exhibiting flowers in horticultural shows where judges select the best blooms and the schedule recognizes the growers' winning entries by awarding ribbons and prizes is an exceedingly competitive game. The judges are chosen because they are experienced in this field of horticulture, sharp eyed, and particularly alert to the cute tricks the exhibitor will sometimes try in winning the awards, ribbons, Best of Shows, and Sweepstakes.

Some contestants become very proficient in their horticultural endeavors. Others may augment their agronomical proficiency with excellent flower grooming and showmanship, adding to their renown as exhibitors and being at all times desirable contributors to the good of the Show. However, there are occasionally over-zealous exhibitors who carry their exhibiting tricks too far, resulting in an unintentional discredit to themselves and the Show. I refer particularly to ice-boxing of blooms for several days before a Show in order to preserve the flower long enough to have it judged. This unfortunate and undesirable practice should be discouraged.

A camellia bloom subjected to more than 24 hours of cold storage becomes softened in substance and when re-entered into natural conditions quickly loses turgidity and the appeal of freshness. The longer the bloom is ice-boxed, the quicker will it "go limp." Blooms held for several days will barely hold up long enough for the judging. The unfortunate result is that the exhibitor may gain a ribbon by fooling the judges, whom the public will then regard as being lax in their ability to judge, because the public views only a miserably wilted flower instead of a fresh one.

Preserving flowers by humidity controlled refrigeration is not new. It has been practiced by professional horticulturists for many years. The professional understands the limitations and advantages of this cold storage process and he limits this practice to the advantage of his trade, rather than carrying it to a disadvantage. The amateur flower grower

who undertakes this practice to prolong the life of his camellia flower in anticipation of entering a competitive show may be choosing a very unwise means of gaining honors.

Perhaps too few exhibitors realize the original high ideals which prompted the formation of camellia societies (including camellia shows). In nearly all camellia organizations, the by-laws stress the primary purpose to be furthering the knowledge and interest in camellias by educating others to the merits and enjoyment of these plants. The prime objective of any horticultural show (camellia or otherwise) is to educate the public. Those who participate in these shows must whole-heartedly accept these high ideals, improve on them and enter into the good fellowship of sharing knowledge with others. *The act of entering blooms in a show must be for the good of the show, not to its detriment.*

The first step to control this driving quest for the blue ribbon is an appeal to the exhibitor to self-impose an honor system. Another less desirable means to control ice-boxing would be to spell out an official code. This could be easily enforced by re-judging on the morning of the second day of the Show all the trophy and runner-up award recipients. Blooms which have failed to measure up to their *normal lasting qualities* would be disqualified and the next in line from the previous day's judging would get the top award. This sort of control is not a dream. At the California State Fair, where I have judged for 13 years, we rejudge many classes of horticulture in order to maintain control of quality for a sustained period. For a two-day camellia show, this re-judging on the second day would be an easy half-hour task for a selected team of three judges.

In staging a camellia show we are trying our best to gain public acceptance and the public comes to see the BEST. We should finally consider that, if most award winners ice-boxed their blooms,

(Continued on Page 18)

## THE SOUTHERN SCENE

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

It is time that we had good news about our winter weather to convey to our Western friends, but, alas! we have to bore them once more with the report of another disastrous season. In fact it has been reported that we were visited by the worst cold waves of the century. In mid-December and again around January 24 the temperature dropped to a few degrees above zero, and in each instance remained below freezing for a period of five to six days. No corner of the South was spared this time. What the first freeze did not completely destroy became the prey of the second, causing despair in many hearts as beloved old trees and prized shrubs turned brown and died.

This is written in early April, and Nature has already bestowed so lavishly her exquisite spring treasures upon our gardens and hillsides that we find ourselves completely entranced by her magnificent generosity, and old gripes are forever forgotten. True, we have big gaps on each side of the front door steps, where large *pittosporums* had stood for years, but the *Ilex cornuta* nearby are chock full of green berries which will attract flocks of friendly birds next Fall, and across the way, the *forsythia's* graceful bowers look as if they had captured all the gold of the sunrays. Yes, the yard will look unsightly for a while without the tall *ligustrum* hedge that hid the implement shed, but we hope that new shoots will spring up from the roots and that this will also happen in the case of the two rows of *oleanders* which frame our small formal garden. It shall look bare around it this summer, but we have no time to bemoan this fact for our thoughts are full of the entrancing sights around us now, such as the contrasting color schemes created by the large groups of *azaleas* that hug the hill slopes. The anticipation of the beautiful *peonies* we will have in bloom in a few days also gladdens our hearts, for they are always at their best after a severe winter. True, we have to admit that our losses are great in the *camellia* grove. For one thing we have lost most of the *camellia* species

that had been planted outdoors, including two magnificent *C. granthamiana*. As for the *C. japonica* and the *C. sasanqua*, they fared fairly well with the exception of those that stood unprotected in sunny locations. All that is left of many of these are ugly stumps. Those that survived, however, are already putting out luscious bright green new growth that soon will replace the cold, scorched, brownish foliage which mars the beauty of our grove. As an added compensation for our frustrations, the dogwood trees have never been so floriferous and dazzlingly white. No doubt that the gardeners, as well as the landscape architects, will have to revise the list of plant material suitable for our area, but if we look out the window right now we can not help being gratified that there are still so many beautiful plants growing happily for us.

After the freezes it was generally believed that all *camellia* buds had been killed outside—and this was a very natural deduction. So fancy our amazement when we found fine *camellia* blossoms down the hill in late March. Our three large shrubs of KITTY looked absolutely unaware that anything abnormal had taken place and were covered with a fine crop of charming little blossoms as usual. On PAULETTE GODDARD and on our old KUMASAKA shrubs we found several perfect ones also, but the greatest surprise of all was the discovery of a five-year-old graft of JESSIE BRYSON, to which we had never paid but scant attention, afire with a mass of large bright red flowers—a welcome sight indeed. We will most likely hear of many such phenomena having occurred in our friends' gardens.

Our new winter climate can not fail to have brought despair to nurserymen in this section of the country as their financial losses have been extremely severe for several years in succession, and undoubtedly this past season's happening will have struck the decisive blow to the already wavering faith of many hobbyists. Still, one wonders whether we, who are so for-

tunate and live in the midst of plenty, have a right to lose faith so readily — particularly when only our environment and hobbies are at stake.

Last summer, while in New York, I saw a silent Japanese movie picture that made an everlasting impression on me. The plot was drab by American standards, and, judging by the small audience, it must have bored many spectators. The theme of the play centered on the rhythmic repetition of the daily chores of a poor Japanese couple who lived with their children on a small, barren and rocky island. Their only means of subsistence was a crop of beans grown on arid soil, with the help of water carried in buckets, from a distant mainland, in a primitive row boat. The buckets were then toted slowly, painfully, on yokes over the stooped shoulders of both man and woman, up the rocky slopes to the field where the precious liquid was carefully poured over each little plant. Day after day the same performance was repeated until it became a sort of obsession to the spectators. I, for one, became so deeply engrossed in it that my eyes followed anxiously each cautious step, each "near-tumble" that could have been so tragically costly. I tried, but in vain, to detect a gesture of discouragement, and, on expressionless faces, the faintest feeling of despair, especially when the entire crop of beans, having been destroyed overnight, had to be replanted.

The spell was broken, however, on one occasion — when the exhausted wife, finally rebelling, having reached once more the hilltop with her two buckets, suddenly in uncontrollable anger spilled the precious liquid, then, sobbing, threw herself to the ground. Instead of showing sympathy and pity for her the angry husband struck her face. This act seemed brutal and cruel at first, that is, until one began to realize that the man **KNEW**, and she too **MUST KNOW**, that there is no place for despair, rebellion or even weakness in their rugged existence.

This picture came back to my memory when, upon our return from California,

we saw the destruction brought to the South by another merciless winter. Then I wondered whether we, who have so many blessings and such easy lives, should not be ashamed to complain merely because a few winters have been hard on our vegetation and have deprived us of some fun and of a little pride in our accomplishments.

Those among us who are ready to give up their camellia hobby in disgust are being chided by Mr. Henry Mitchell, TV editor of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, in one of the Garden Columns which he also writes every Sunday.

" . . . Go on," he says, "have it your way. No more camellias. And don't forget that even more plants object to our summers than to our winters, so get rid of them too . . . What eons have brought us to this beautiful day where, though our basic nature is not changed, the luxuries are so increased? We even at long last, have leisure to contemplate things outside ourselves, including that pinnacle of luxury, the admiration and culture of plants . . . And to have the chance to grow a camellia right outside your own lair, to creep out in the morning and see the swelling buds, to touch its petals, that living wax . . . But don't get too used to such a luxury. Nothing is less natural than for us to be able to possess so much of the world's beauty close at hand for our amusement and delight . . . Is not it enough that you could and still can do this? Must you also demand that the storms stop and the wind hush? . . . Your attitude does not become a man. Do not all glorious things have certain minor inconveniences along the way?"

Coming from a man who lives in Memphis, Tennessee, where temperatures hit the zero mark each year, this timely admonition can not but help make us ponder and consider our recent losses and disappointments in the right perspective, and so must the example of the Japanese couple who, day after day, bow uncomplainingly to their Fate which is so closely entwined with Nature's whims.

**CULTURE COMMENTARY**

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

**Prune Your Camellias!**

If you have been of the opinion that camellias should not be pruned, and have, with some dismay, watched your camellia plants swell beyond their apportioned space, take heart—they may be pruned! Camellia pruning is not only permissible, it is desirable and sometimes most necessary for the good grooming and health of the plant. The fundamental factors regarding pruning are the desires of the gardener with respect to the plant, the natural tendencies of the plant, and the condition of the plant's growth, branches and foliage.

If you have placed a camellia plant in your garden with a specific function as part of your landscape plan, then pruning will "persuade" the plant to grow in conformity with your plan. Cut the top back to round it out and make it bushy. Or cut side branches back to force it upward. Prune top and sides to force lower branching.

Camellia varieties differ greatly in their natural growth tendencies, also. Some varieties, FLAMINGO, for example, tend to grow rapidly upright with only slight side branching. Regular top pruning is necessary to produce a well-shaped plant. Others, such as DUNCAN BELL or TE DEUM, are of loose, spreading growth, and must have the side branches cut back if more compact growth is desired. Of course, the gardener should ascertain the growth tendencies of camellias as well as their bloom forms and colors, and use them in accordance with their natural habits insofar as possible.

Large, old camellia plants benefit greatly from pruning of old, sparsely foliated wood and thinning of crossed inner branches to allow light and air to reach the center of the plant.

When pruning, cut back to a growth bud, discernable at the point where leaf joins stem, with a sharp knife or shears. This may be done during blooming season, affording an opportunity for cutting camellia flowers with long stems, or just after the blooming season. Of course, a

very small, immature camellia should be pruned very sparingly in order that the basic frame of the plant may develop properly.

**"Sporting" Camellias**

The new-home-owner gardener who would like to incorporate camellias into his landscaping plans will find many interesting possibilities in the use of the family groups of camellia varieties. Some of the better known of these families are the CHANDLERI, DAIKAGURA and HERME, and their development has come about through the propensity of the original camellia variety of each group to "sport." This means that a plant of an established variety produces a flower which is a "mutation," different in form or coloring from the normal blooms of that variety. The branch producing such mutation is taken from the plant, and propagated by grafting. If the grafted plants continue to produce the new "sport" bloom, a new variety is established, named and marketed.

Such has occurred in the case of the well known camellia varieties ELEGANS (CHANDLER), ELEGANS (CHANDLER) VARIEGATED, BARBARA WOODROOF, C. M. WILSON—the latter three being sports of the first. The flowers in this group are of the same form, and are rose, rose and white, pale pink and light pink respectively. In the DAIKAGURA family are blooms of red and white variegation, solid red, light pink and white, the pink named HIGH HAT, the white CONRAD HILTON, and all of the same flower form. The variety HERME has produced no less than seven sports of varying color.

As regards the use of these related groups in landscaping, the important point is that all of these varieties, though differing in color of bloom, retain the same foliage and growth characteristics. The DAIKAGURAS, for example, all grow rather low and spreading, and extremely effective foundation plantings or mass effects can be obtained by combin-

*(Continued on Page 14)*

## WHEN DO CAMELIAS BLOOM?

Richard C. Brown, Sacramento, California

We often hear or express the opinion that the camellia season is early or that the blooms are late. Camellia show enthusiasts and exhibitors especially worry for fear plants will all be bloomed out before show time—or that subnormal temperatures will delay the blooming season. Perhaps the intense interest of the grower-exhibitor has much to do with such opinions but actually, camellias bloom pretty much on schedule—give or take a few days one way or another.

For over twenty five years I have recorded the first date of blooming of a number of camellias we have grown. The following excerpts from these records are limited to those plants that have been in the same location for the period of years mentioned for the particular variety. I offer this part of my record for your observation and possible difference of opinion. Of course, the blooming time of the camellia greatly depends upon exposure of the particular variety or the species, its protection or lack thereof, and these remarks are predicated upon these facts as I have observed them in our garden.

Ten years ago I planted a good-sized *DAIKAGURA*. Since planting, this camellia has first bloomed between October 13 and October 17 seven times. The earliest bloom was on October 4 and the latest was November 7. Five times its first bloom appeared on October 15. I would say this is quite consistent.

*C. M. WILSON* has been in the same location for 11 years. This camellia has been more inconsistent than most in my record. The average time of first bloom has been between February 3 and February 18. The earliest was January 12, 1957, and the latest was March 3, 1962.

*FINLANDIA VARIEGATED* has been grown in the same place for eleven years. For seven years it first bloomed between February 2 and February 8. The earliest was February 2 and the latest was February 17.

*GIGANTEA* has been in the same spot for 15 years and has bloomed between February 8 and 15 eleven times. The earliest first bloom was January 15, 1953,

and the latest was February 26, 1954.

*ADOLPHE AUDUSSON*, which we have grown for 13 years, bloomed in range from February 5 (1950) to February 11 (1963). This first-of-the-season blooming occurred nine times in the 13 years between these dates.

*DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND* has been in the same location 18 years and has first bloomed between February 20 to February 28, fourteen of the eighteen years.

*DRAMA GIRL*, grown in the same spot eight years, first bloomed between February 20 and February 26, six of the eight years.

*ELEANOR HAGOOD*, grown 13 years, bloomed between February 10 and February 16, nine years. Its earliest first bloom was January 17, 1953, and latest was March 17, 1952.

*KING LEAR* has been in the same spot for thirteen years. To show the effect of exposure, prior to 1956 this plant first bloomed between February 11 and February 20 each year for six years. In the summer of 1959 I built a greenhouse close to this plant. Since then it has bloomed from January 11 to January 22 consistently. Obviously, the radiation of warmth from the greenhouse has speeded up the blooming by approximately three weeks (see *FINLANDIA VARIEGATED* and *MONTE CARLO* dates for comparison).

*MONTE CARLO* has been in the same location for eight years and has produced first of the season blooms every year between February 13 and February 20 during that time. This plant is in a less protected (colder) area than *FINLANDIA VAR.* and *KING LEAR*.

*JOSHUA YOUTZ* has been in the same place for 14 years. Nine of the fourteen years, the plant first bloomed between October 25 and November 8. Other years the dates varied only five days from the above.

*SHIRO CHAN* for seven years has been in a location which gets a good deal of light and also is next to the greenhouse. For five of the seven years this

plant has thrown its first bloom of the season on George Washington's birthday (February 22nd).

In 1957 I grafted a scion of TOMORROW on large understock. Needless to say, we had no blooms until 1959. Since the date of first bloom, the plant (next to the greenhouse) has produced first of the season blooms between February 18 and February 23 during the five years it has been blooming.

It is my opinion that I have given you enough statistics, though there are more, to satisfy the most avid camellia grower and exhibitor. Despite the at times local adverse weather conditions, camellias do

bloom pretty much on schedule. It is true that often exhibitors feel that if the show was held "last week" or "next week" they could have won more of the top awards—or at least more blue ribbons. But this particular problem can only be controlled by our good friend Mother Nature.

It has not been the intent of this article to deal with weather conditions such as freeze, rain, wind or heat at the peak of the season—which is show time. But I hope it will help to show what we know in general already: that year in, year out, camellias bloom almost on a timetable for each variety.

### CULTURE COMMENTARY (Cont. from Page 12)

ing plants of this group, and alternating the color of blooms. The ELEGANS group are more compact, slightly pendulous, and make excellent backdrop groupings for low border plants. BEAU HARP (red) and its sport, DR. JOHN D. BELL (red and white) are rapid growing, upright varieties, and make striking accent plants for entries, gates, pillars, etc.

#### Explore for New Camellias

The general nurseryman, making an effort to stock a wide range of garden shrubs and plants for his patrons, finds himself hard pressed trying to keep up with the many fine new varieties of camellias being developed each year. But his greatest difficulty with regard to camellias lies in the fact that, however much he may wish to carry the new varieties, his customers demand the old cherished, familiar kinds they have seen and known in the past. This, of course, is quite understandable as the nurseryman has means of seeing and learning about the camellia introductions each season that are not available to the general public. But when Mr. Public's request is for a Pink Perfection "like the one in my neighbor's garden," or an "Alba Plena because I remember the one by my grandmother's front door," Mr. Nurseryman must yield, although he knows there are new pinks and whites that have finer flowers, bloom better and have more attractive foliage.

The gardener setting out to select camellia plants does himself a disfavor and

limits the possibilities for his garden if he has a closed mind and is convinced that only one form of flower—the formal bloom—is a "camellia," and that only the old varieties are dependable. ELEANOR HAGOOD, SWEETHEART or AVE MARIA are lovely pink formal camellias, all larger and better than the old favorite PINK PERFECTION. GLEN 40 and GYPSY are red formals of rich color and good performance. Then the other flower forms are so numerous and so desirable—Singles like flame-pink CASILDA, rose-pink DAITAIRIN; peonyforms such as the pink MISS FRANKIE, glowing red MAYLENE WONG, white EDELWEISS; the anemonaeform blooms of pink FAITH or white SHIRO CHAN; the graceful, open semi-double blooms with their bright glow of golden stamen centers such as the hybrid FLUTED ORCHID, white ONETIA HOLLAND or lavender-pink MARGARET SHORT.

The camellia family has so very much to offer in such great variety. Your nurseryman needs only the open mind and eyes of his gardener-customers to encourage him to look for and stock the better new plants that can provide forms and flowers now known only to the ardent camellia "collectors." There can be great excitement and fun of discovery for all gardeners who "explore" for new camellias and for new ways to use them in the garden.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

By Roy Thompson

One of the most pleasant camellia functions of the season just closed was the tea honoring Mr. and Mrs. Vern McCaskill. It was given Sunday, April 21, at the Hospitality House in Descanso Gardens by Descanso Gardens Guild, Inc. This organization is made up of various horticultural groups in Southern California, including all the camellia societies, and it gives, each spring, a reception and tea in honor of an outstanding horticultural personage in the area.

This year's selection of the McCaskills was acknowledged by the whole camellia fraternity as being exceptionally appropriate, for over the past three decades or more Vern and Billie McCaskill have established a sort of camellia complex in Pasadena where people up and down the coast have resorted for camellias and camellia information. Not the least of their many contributions to the gardening public has been the charm and gentleness with which they have carried on their business.

/ / /

One of the most fascinating characteristics of *Camellia japonica* is its sensitivity to environment, and since weather is as changable as it is unpredictable, each season produces its own unique pattern in camellia behavior. It is as though there were in each camellia plant a tape recorder which registers changes in temperature, humidity, light, soil elements, etc., and the plant responds to this record by varying the size and color of its blooms, the time of blooming, and sometimes even the pattern of bloom. Strangest of all — and this seems to be more noticeable in camellias than in other garden plants — the weather and other patterns put on the "tape recorder" are apparently "filed" and held in abeyance for long periods of time — perhaps years — before they are expressed by the plant. Perhaps this time lag between weather influences and camellia responses to them is one of the species' most characteristic patterns of behavior, but very little has been written on the subject.

There is probably no way of stopping the flood of new varieties now appearing on the market and duly described in camellia publications, in spite of the good work being done by certain individuals and groups who seek to establish some form of evaluation standards. One of the important reasons for this unceasing multiplication of varieties is that the individual who produces and names a new variety usually has such a limited knowledge of the whole field (and this necessarily includes most of us) of camellias that he judges the worth of his new seedling against the small segment of varieties with which he is familiar. If he could judge his new production against five or six thousand others instead of a few hundred, the decision to name and propagate it would not be so easily arrived at.

However, those who are philosophical minded can take comfort in the reflection most of the unworthy varieties will eventually be eliminated by time. Time is a great sorter and evaluator and it isn't always necessary to give it a hundred years to do the job: a person with only a decade or two of camellia experience can name many varieties which have dropped from top to mediocre rating in that time and some which have practically disappeared.

/ / /

An interesting innovation in camellia show schedules was made at the Los Angeles Camellia Council Show on March 2-3 with the introduction of a new class entitled "Best Specially Treated Bloom." This was an acknowledgment of the rapid growth of interest in the use of gibberellic acid as a flower stimulant. Such use frequently results in much larger and fuller flowers, and these, of course, cannot be allowed to compete with flowers which are normally produced. This year's winner was *MATTIE O'REILLY*, grown by Mr. Frank Reed of Pasadena. Mr. Reed is a pioneer in this field and author of several articles on the subject.

## LOS ANGELES SHOW RESULTS

List of Awards, Los Angeles Camellia Council Show, Descanso Gardens, March 2-3, 1963.

*Sweepstakes:* Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria.

*Sweepstakes Runner-up:* Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield.

*Sweepstakes for Miniatures:* John and Betty Robinson, La Canada.

*Best Japonica:* CHARLOTTE BRADFORD, H. H. Collier, Chowchilla.

*Best Japonica Runner-up:* TOMORROW, Thomas H. Stull, Bakersfield.

*Japonicas in Court of Honor:* SOUTHERN CHARM, CARTER'S SUNBURST, CHANDLERI ELEGANS, DRAMA GIRL, JENNIE MILLS, THELMA DALE, MRS. D. W. DAVIS, LADY IN RED, KRAMER'S SUPREME, CORONATION.

*Best Three Japonicas:* DRAMA GIRL, John and Betty Robinson, La Canada.

*Best Three Japonicas Runner-up:* VILIE DE NANTES, Warriner Lytle, Glendale.

*Best Five Japonicas:* TOMORROW, Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield.

*Best Five Japonicas Runner-up:* EDWIN H. FOLK, Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield.

*Best Reticulata:* MOUTANCHA, Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria.

*Best Reticulata Runner-up:* CAPTAIN

RAWES, Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria.

*Best Three Reticulatas:* CHANG'S TEMPLE, P. A. Kaldhusdal, Sun Valley.

*Best Three Reticulatas Runner-up:* TAKEIYEH, Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria.

*Best Five Reticulatas:* BUDDHA, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Krumm, Altadena.

*Best Five Reticulatas Runner-up:* NOBLE PEARL, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, El Cajon.

*Best Miniature:* FIRCONA, VAR., Dr. Leland Chow, Bakersfield.

*Best Miniature Runner-up:* KITTY, Mr. and Mrs. George Kalin, La Mesa.

*Best Hybrid:* FAIR LASS, John and Betty Robinson, La Canada.

*Best Species:* WILD SALUENENSIS, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Ragland, Orange.

*Best New Seedling:* TIFFANY, Dr. John Urabec, La Canada.

*Best New Hybrid Seedling:* PHILLIPA FORWARD, Vern and Billie McCaskill, Pasadena.

*Best New Sport:* Sport of RICHARD NIXON, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Eskridge, Julian.

*Best Specially Treated Bloom:* MATTIE O'REILLY, Frank Reed, Pasadena.

*Best Collector's Japonica Table:* Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria.

*Best Collector's Reticulata Table:* Fred Hamilton, Santa Maria.

—R. T. T.

## RESULTS OF PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY HILLSDALE SHOW

San Mateo, California — February 16-17, 1963

*Sweepstakes:* Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Davi, Pittsburg.

*Sweepstakes Runner-up:* Thomas J. Serich, Sacramento.

*Sweepstakes for Miniatures:* W. O. Addicott, Atherton.

*Best Japonica:* BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME, Dr. John Lawson, Antioch.

*Best Japonica Runner-up:* C. M. WILSON, Mrs. Jack C. Butler, Lodi.

*Japonicas in Court of Honor:* FAITH, FLAME, ADOLPHE AUDUSSON SPEC., YOSEMITE, MARION MITCHELL, JUANITA SMITH, JACK McCASKILL, FLAME VGT., MRS. D. W. DAVIS.

*Best Reticulata:* NOBLE PEARL, Dr.

F. E. Heitman, Lafayette.

*Best Three Japonicas:* ALBA PLENA, Dr. J. Holtzman, Crows Landing.

*Best Three Reticulatas:* TALI QUEEN, A. S. Eckendorf, San Jose.

*Best Seven Japonicas, All Different:* Dr. D. J. Faustman, Sacramento

*Best Miniature:* TINKER BELL, Newton Pratt, Sacramento.

*Best Hybrid:* FLUTED ORCHID, H. L. Paige, Lafayette.

*Best Seedling:* SM17, D. L. Feathers, Lafayette.

Attendance: Approx. 8,000. Blooms: 2,062.

—E. P. Tenney



## CAMELLIAS IN NEW ZEALAND AND CALIFORNIA

David L. Feathers, Lafayette, California

If one may presume to judge, on the very limited basis of a three weeks' tour of New Zealand and many of its outstanding private gardens, as well as from the National Camellia Show at Hamilton, some rather interesting comparisons may be drawn between the performance of certain camellias in that beautiful country and California. At the outset, it should be made clear that, while there are a number of elements governing camellia performance that are quite similar and thus comparable (such as temperature) at the same time there are equally important factors (such as rainfall and mode of culture—ground vs. container) which differ materially and thus must have an important bearing upon comparative results. It will certainly not be the purpose of this commentary to attempt to judge as to the relative quality of the blooms in our respective countries, except to say that it was obvious to the writer that they get better performance from some types and we with others. This is true not only as between different countries but even between different sections of our own state which, similarly to New Zealand, has quite a range of climate due to its latitudinal extent and differences in elevation. My purpose is rather to point out differences in cultural practices and in environmental factors.

The practice of heavily mulching appears to be more general there than it is here and I was pleasantly surprised to note such widespread use of sawdust and other sawmill waste—not only on camellias but throughout the garden. When this is topdressed with the priceless (to us) sheep manure that is so abundant and inexpensive, it would appear that New Zealanders have an almost ideal combination at little or no cost. When, in addition, this is used in conjunction with the deep and perfectly draining volcanic soil that is prevalent to such a degree in those localities in which camellias are grown most extensively (such as the Mt. Egmont area), one would say that the conditions are just about perfect. Here, certainly, is a point of great importance and

difference and, when we add to this their abundant and year-round rainfall, it is no wonder that we see camellias grown in the ground much more extensively in New Zealand than in California. Not only do we have six months of drought to contend with but much of the soil of California is clay or adobe and it is often less trouble to grow camellias in containers, where the soil and drainage problems are eliminated, then to endeavor to cope with unfavorable native soil.

Another great difference lies in the quality as well as the quantity of water that is available. Most of our metropolitan districts are obliged to bring in their water supply from as much as 200 miles distant and, in order to minimize corrosion of the valuable pipe installations, lime is often introduced into the water supply to the point that a pH of 9.0 at our taps is not at all unusual. I believe that it is this factor, combined with the more naturally acid and iron bearing soils of New Zealand that gave me the impression their red camellias, for example, are a bit more vivid in their coloring than ours. By way of comparison, their annual rainfall will range between 40 and 65 inches, whereas ours will run from as low as 5 inches to seldom more than 30 inches, all of the precipitation being in the winter and early spring months, with some slight overlapping occasionally. There is no substitute for evenly distributed natural watering and, notwithstanding the often elaborate methods we have contrived to simulate rainfall during our long dry season, such as overhead sprinkling, it seems impossible to do this, as to quantity on a sufficiently large scale as to generate the benefits provided by nature in the way of humidity and, as to quality, there is a considerable difference, as previously indicated. Bearing in mind, then, the foregoing points of difference, the following further observations may be of interest.

Without doubt, the most surprising and interesting discovery to this writer was the outstanding performance of *C. reticulata* CAPT. RAWES in New Zea-

land, particularly as to plant size and vigor and the amount and quality of the leaves. I saw 12-year-old plants in the New Plymouth area that were 15 ft. high by 18 ft. wide and which bore literally hundreds, if not thousands, of blooms. The beauty (vividness) and texture of the flowers was superb and their size completely satisfactory, although perhaps not quite as large as ours generally, due no doubt to the fact that the plants are grown primarily for garden effect and thus not disbudded, the mass effect being preferred. There is much to be said for this under conditions where a camellia prospers as well as the *reticulata* does in New Zealand. Certainly it tends to eliminate the undesirable "leggy" and sparse-blooming effect. The Kunming *reticulata*s seen by the writer, while fairly small plants in the main, were also outstanding both as to flower and plant. It would appear that all the *reticulata*s will do well over there — perhaps as well as CAPT. RAWES — which is saying a great deal.

We were also greatly interested in and somewhat surprised to see so many magnificent old camellias — in a number of places in the North Island were venerable trees up to 75 or 80 years old. A few of them would compare fairly well as to size and condition with the largest of the "patriarch" trees the writer has seen in California. It appeared that some of these old trees had been growing for years "on their own," with little or no attention, yet obviously prospering.

Of primary interest to the writer was, of course, the work which some of the top New Zealand growers are doing in the field of camellia hybridization. While our rather tight schedule did not permit us to visit all of the hybridists we would have liked to meet (particularly Mr. Colin Spicer at Palmerston North) we did have the very great pleasure of seeing most of the magnificent hybrids developed by Les Jury and were privileged to

have a personally conducted tour through his well conceived garden, as well as the beautiful and interesting gardens of Felix Jury, Col. Durrant, Russell Matthews, Frank Burnett, Roland Young, Eric Clere, Ben Rayner, Dr. Fea and, in Auckland, Sir Frank and Lady Mappin, the Adams' and Jack Clark's place, and many others too numerous to mention, in all of which the conscientious devotion to beauty and the skill and ingenuity in planning were so much in evidence. A garden is one place where there is no substitute for time and so many of the interesting and potentially beautiful ones we visited were still in the formative stage, needing only the passage of time for fulfillment of their great promise.

Generally speaking, I would say that there is little to choose as to comparative results with camellias as a whole in New Zealand and the more favorable areas of the United States. It is not surprising that they get better results with some of ours and vice versa, but that is not different than occurs here within our own sections. With some camellias, wider temperature variation between winter and summer seems to result in blooms of better color and substance and the same goes for differences in elevation because that is the effect thereof generally. It is my view that the relative ease with which camellias may be grown successfully in New Zealand is bound to result in ever-increasing popularity of this matchless winter blooming plant and the writer certainly hopes to be able to visit that country again within the next few years and see for himself how well this prediction is borne out.

An account of our travels and experiences would be most incomplete without an expression of our everlasting gratitude for the many kindnesses extended to us everywhere we went. Our lasting impression is that the physical beauty and magnificence of New Zealand is matched only by the friendliness and congeniality of its people.

#### REFRIGERATION OF SHOW FLOWERS (Cont. from Page 9)

there would be *no show* worthy of the name a few hours after the blooms were judged. The quest for a blue ribbon should be within the limitations of ethical

and honorable practice and consistent with the high ideals of showmanship of the sponsoring Society in its affiliation with the American Camellia Society.

## BETTER CAMELLIA SHOWS (Cont. from Page 8)

an unusually early or late bloom, or have protected it better. However, it is manifestly unfair to attach the same weight to such a winner as is given to the person who beats out 20 others in the Audussons, Elegans or other heavily entered classes. It would seem that, to be perfectly fair to all, the "no contest" or "odd-ball" blooms should be disregarded in counting the blue ribbons *for sweepstakes winner*; further, that the general rule of at least three entries in a class be required in order to qualify for such determination.

The foregoing might be said to be completely objective remarks inasmuch as the writer has long since withdrawn from varietal competition. Without having any ax to grind, however, the following views concerning the judging of seedlings are submitted for whatever they may be worth. It is felt that there are two matters relating to the determination of seedling awards that might well receive further consideration: (1) the judging scale and (2) the segregation of amateur and professional entries.

Concerning (1), it is this writer's view that Condition (as defined above) should enter into the judging only when it is so bad the true character of the flower cannot be determined or when there is no clear choice between two seedling blooms except on this point. It should be borne in mind that the principal reason for making awards to (and thus encouraging the growing of) seedlings is to give recognition to and publicize the creation of camellias that are new, different or better than similar existing types. This is a vastly different objective than determining which is the best of several presumably identical flowers as to form, color and size. It would follow, therefore, that the judging scale for named varieties is woefully inadequate and inappropriate as a means of determining the most worthy new seedling. Because of the plethora of seedlings today surely the factor of Distinctiveness should be of first importance. Possibly the following judging scale might be more nearly what is required as to seedlings:

Distinctiveness — Novelty .....	30
Form .....	20
Color .....	20
Size .....	15
Substance .....	15

Thus a flower that was tops in all respects except that it was not "different" could not score over 70, which would penalize seedlings that are similar to but an improvement over existing types. Might it not be better, then, to title the first item "Novelty — Betterment"? An added argument for so doing lies in the fact that "Distinctiveness" (as previously stated) is really something that is actually the sum total of Form, Color, Size and Substance, for what else is there in determining a "distinctive" flower? In any case, if we mean "different" then we should use a word that means that, only ("Novelty" is defined as "having a new, strange or unusual character"). Now, let us take a hypothetical case. If someone produces a new seedling that is similar to MATHOTIANA in all respects except that it always hold a bud center, does not refract its petals nor blue and never has unsightly striation then, in this writer's opinion he would have a seedling of Highly Commended quality, regardless of the fact it is not a "different" type. For on the above scale it might score 30 for Betterment, 20 for Form and 15 each for Color, Size and Substance—a total of 95. If a hybrid were brought out which was absolutely Novel, with good Color, Form and Size but lacked Substance, it might score 90. Perhaps it might be the rule that a seedling must score at least 85 to get the Highly Commended citation. To conclude discussion of the Judging Scale, it should be emphasized that the selection of the Best Seedling is not a matter of determining *how well* the exhibitor grew the bloom but *how different* or *how much better* it is than existing types of camellia.

As to (2) above, considering the objectives of seedling competition there would seem to be no good reason why amateurs should not compete with professionals. After all, it does not matter much *who* develops something new or

better—actually, in some respects amateurs really have an advantage over the professionals.

In conclusion, it is recognized that the foregoing represents strictly "one man's opinion," that each show is privileged to operate under such rules as it may prefer and that judging, under whatever rules, can never be an exact science. However, the desirability of standardization is as obvious as the pressing need for clarifi-

cation of the rules and differentiation between the bases of judging named varieties and seedlings. In our preoccupation with details, we should never lose sight of the main objectives. This is an ideal subject for forum discussion—at meetings and elsewhere. In the interests of developing a consensus of opinion, this initial step should be followed by your views and suggestions, for purposes of publication. —D. L. F.

## CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF MODESTO SHOW

The Camellia Society of Modesto held its Second Annual Camellia Show on March 16-17, 1963, under the General Chairmanship of D. Dwight Wait, in the Modesto Junior College Library. Notwithstanding blustery weather, the show was well attended and a very creditable exhibit of blooms of good quality was on display.

The following is a list of the winners and blooms:

*Sweepstakes:* Newton Pratt, Sacramento. *Runner-up:* Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, Chowchilla.

*Best Japonica:* MOONLIGHT SONATA, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Collier, who also had the *Runner-up* bloom, ALICE WOOD.

*Japonicas in Court of Honor:* BETTY SHEFFIELD SUPREME, CARTER'S SUNBURST, CORAL PINK LOTUS, CORONATION, DESTINY, ECCLEFIELD, FAITH, GUILIO NUCCIO VAR., MARGARET SHORT, MARY ANN HOUSER, MRS. D. W. DAVIS, REG

RAGLAND, ROSEA PLENA, ROSEA SUPERBA, ST. ANDRE, SUNSET GLORY, TOMORROW.

*Best Three Japonicas:* MRS. D. W. DAVIS, Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman, Sacramento.

*Best Six Japonicas:* SPRING SONNET, A. S. Eckendorf, San Jose.

*Best Reticulata:* MOUTANCHA, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette, Castro Valley. *Runner-Up Reticulata:* LION HEAD, Ken Thompson, Fresno.

*Best Three Reticulatas:* BUDDHA, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette.

*Best Miniature:* LITTLE BIT, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Burnette.

*Best Hybrid:* DONATION, Hollis McFarland, Sacramento.

*Best Seedling:* #585, Milo Rowell, Fresno.

*Best Collection (15 Blooms):* Mrs. Martha Derr, Sacramento.

*Best Collection (25-40 Blooms):* Dr. and Mrs. D. Jackson Faustman, Sacramento.

## A.C.S. ANNUAL MEETING (Cont. from Page 3)

Fairgrounds—inelegantly but most aptly described as doughnut-shaped, the hole in the doughnut being occupied by a round landscaped court—provided the most beautiful setting I have ever seen for a camellia show. The flowers were displayed on top of glass cases (normally housing permanent exhibits but covered for this occasion) which occupied the center of the narrow circular hall, thus doing away with the monotony of rows of tables. In travelling around the complete circle, new portions of the show came into view as one progressed which added

surprise and interest. The walls of the hall are lined with dioramas depicting various aspects of Louisiana life, including beautiful scenes of the countryside complete with native birds and animals. All of this provided a unique and fascinating backdrop to the fine collection of blooms. A large round stand was used for display of the prize-winning flowers and the trophies. A life-sized figure of a southern belle presided over this display, her hat and gown bedecked, of course, with camellias."