

friendly or even sympathetic. They feel that the idea naturally follows that the patentee expects to get all the traffic will bear in profits. Of course, this is not really a necessary consequence—but there the idea is, and it may hinder the popularity and wide acceptance of any patented variety. Distributors who do not own patent rights cannot be expected to promote sales of patented varieties above those that are in free trade. It may be difficult for the patentee to discover patent infringements and enforce penalties for violations. All this adds up to a big question mark for patenting camellia discoveries. It would certainly be a sad and confusing situation if every good, new variety were tagged with a patent!

EUROPEAN CAMELLIA TOUR

RALPH PEER, Los Angeles, California

A SEVEN months' automobile tour of Europe *sounds* quite attractive; however, we could go only during the winter months. Mrs. Peer and I had our misgivings but, eventually, departed from New York aboard the Queen Mary on September 21, 1951. Our automobile was in the hold; and our seven-year-old son accompanied us, on the theory that he could learn more this way than in any available school. When we returned to New York in April we had crossed forty national boundaries and travelled about 23,000 miles. Horticulture had occupied much of our time.

The real camellia history of England is obscure because, for the most part, the early camellia introductions and plantings that followed were treated as tropical shrubs requiring hothouses. World War I brought taxation which eliminated incomes large enough to grow camellias under glass or to maintain the collections already in existence. Today about the only large, surviving camellias are those in the few old out-of-door plantings located along the warm southern coast or in protected positions near the shores of the Irish Sea. They are usually "unhappy" as shown by the almost total lack of seed on British camellias.¹

¹Lack of fruiting in camellias is not necessarily a sign of "unhappiness"; rather, this scarcity of camellia seed in England may be attributed to a climatic environment unfavorable to normal seed production.—Eds.

A most interesting collection of very old camellia trees was seen growing at our first stop, Abbotsbury Gardens, southwest of London on the Channel Coast. Only a few of the wonderful varieties have been identified, although the original plants were brought from Japan more than one hundred years ago by an ancestor of the present owner, Lord Stavordale. We obtained scions of the mystery items and hope to identify or to name them.

Further west along the coast of Cornwall we visited Trewithen, the estate of George Johnstone, one of England's great horticulturists. Here and at Caerhays Castle—the home of Charles Williams—only a few miles away, there are many fine examples of *Camellia saluenensis* and the wild form of *C. reticulata*. These plants were grown from seed sent back about thirty years ago from Yunnan, China, by the plant explorer, George Forrest. At Trewithen there is also an outstanding group of *C. ×williamsii* var. Donation—a hybrid of *C. japonica* var. Donckelarii and *C. saluenensis*. The pink, semi-double blossoms are of great size and beauty; this plant will be sensational when obtainable commercially in America.

The forest of magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias and other subtropical plants constituting Mr. Johnstone's garden provides "cover" for many fine examples of hybrid camellias—Cornish Snow, J. C. Williams, Salutation and others—and at least one rare species—*C. pitardii*. Seedlings of *C. saluenensis* are quite abundant and will be used as grafting stock.

The southwestern tip of England all the way to Land's End contains many fine camellia collections, some of which we visited for the second time.

During our short visit to Caerhays, where Mr. J. C. Williams, father of the present owner, first produced the hybrid species *C. ×williamsii* (*C. japonica* × *C. saluenensis*) and Cornish Snow (*C. cuspidata* × *C. saluenensis*), we noted the continued development of unnamed forms of *C. ×williamsii*, including varieties produced from seed of *C. ×williamsii*. We also found two camellia trees of unidentified species grown from Chinese seed.

At St. Ives, ten miles north of Land's End and high up on a cliff directly over the ocean, we inspected Eagles' Nest, the amazing rocky garden of W. Arnold-Forster, where camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas and many rare subtropical plants prosper behind huge

boulders. Mr. Arnold-Forster, who passed away just before our visit, was a horticultural genius whose particular hobby was to grow rare plants amidst the severe winter storms from the Irish Sea. We were pleased to find several camellias there of American origin, which had been produced from California scions.

Our exploration of Ireland was disappointing—the largest nursery sells a few camellias each year designated by color only. The most important varieties noted during visits to old estates were *Elegans* and *Donckelarii*. Seemingly, the climate of the southern coast is ideal for camellias but the economic situation discourages horticulture.

North Wales contains one of the finest gardens in the British Isles—Bodnant, lying eastward from Mt. Snowden in the valley of the Conway River. Many large camellia trees grow under enormous conifers. The many plants of the garden-form *reticulata* are especially noteworthy. Lord Aberconway has now added a complete set of Kunming *reticulatas* and a representative collection of *sasanquas* to his old established *japonica*, *reticulata*, *williamsii* and *saluenensis* varieties. Scions from California have provided the beginning of a collection of American *japonicas*.

We did not have time to visit gardens along the western coast of Scotland where there are several old camellia plantings.

After Cornwall, Ireland and Wales we returned to London to tackle business problems. During week-end trips from the metropolis, however, we solved a fascinating camellia mystery—the supposed disappearance of *C. reticulata* var. *Flore-pleno*.² Readers of the 1950 Yearbook will remember the article by C. P. Raffill commenting on this “lost” *reticulata* with flowers completely double in form. Old issues of Curtis’s *Botanical Magazine* contain illustrations of two different sorts of garden *reticulatas*, and old editions of Nicholson’s *Dictionary of Gardening* say that the completely double form is “no longer cultivated.”

In 1950, D. F. Leney, who lives near Haslemere just south of London, exhibited at the annual Royal Horticultural Society Camellia Show a camellia plant which had been sent from Portugal in 1935. It could not be identified by the Royal Botanic Gardens and Mr. Leney wrote to me for assistance. The photograph of the

² See the Editors’ Note at the conclusion of this article.—Eds.

blossom and the character of the leaf strongly suggested some form of *reticulata*, and by a process of elimination I decided that this must be the legendary "lost" variety, *C. reticulata* var. *Flore-pleno*.

A trip to Haslemere left no doubt in my mind. Subsequently, I learned that this same camellia is grown at the Caledonia Nursery in Guernsey and at Leonardslee, the estate of Sir Giles Loder, south of London.

Before leaving London, we visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. We also looked over the famous garden of Ralph Stephenson Clarke at Borde Hill, where the hybrid varieties *Donation* and *Salutation* originated, and later visited the estate of Sir Edward Peacock. The longer we remained in England the greater became our circle of camellia friends and the more we regretted the necessity to end our visits to the pleasant English countryside.

On November 3 we were "ferried" to Esbjerg, Denmark, and drove to Copenhagen the following day. This was not camellia country—our local hobby became the famous Danish blue cheese.

A week later we entered Germany through Flensburg and visited in rapid succession Hamburg, Hanover, Berlin, Cologne, Heidelberg and Munich. In Germany camellias are used as house plants along with azaleas and cyclamen. Prior to World War I, the Germans raised thousands of camellias under glass and exported them to far off countries—I have seen some of these plants growing in Mexico. Now camellias are imported from Belgium; but presumably the German nurseries will soon be rehabilitated.

Winter was upon us—we had gone through a blizzard during our last few miles in Germany and found much snow and ice in Austria as we drove through the Russian Zone to Vienna. There is a good collection of old japonica varieties—probably started seventy-five years ago—in the Vienna Tiergarten, growing under glass.

The Christmas and New Year holidays had been scheduled at Megeve, a small town high in the French Alps about forty miles south of Geneva; and we completed the trip from Vienna through snow-covered mountains just in time to set up a Christmas tree for our boy. For two weeks we enjoyed the winter sports amidst heavy snowstorms interspersed with wonderful sunny days. Cars

suspended on cables carried us to the mountain peaks from which we had magnificent views of Mt. Blanc and the Swiss Alps.

In January we visited Paris and then detoured to Nantes in Northwestern France to visit the very famous nursery of the Guichard sisters. We were very pleased to meet the two women who carry on the remarkable camellia business established by their grandfather almost one hundred years ago. In spite of the rather cold winters, about 100,000 camellia plants from four to seventy-five years old are growing out-of-doors. From this nursery Ville de Nantes and other varieties were launched, and perhaps fifty varietal favorites of one hundred years ago have been saved for the present generation. What we call "Glen 40" is the variety the Guichards carry as Coquetti³—the name tag was lost from the original imported plant. Kenny, supposedly originating in Florida, is another of the Guichard items.⁴ Their Gloire de Nantes must have been a tremendous favorite in past years. It is found in camellia collections all over the world, but sometimes under different names.⁵ Many of the plants in the famous collection of Judge A. W. Solomon of Savannah were purchased from the Guichards.

Camellias grow out-of-doors in Normandy, especially near the English Channel; but, as in England, the climate of the interior regions is not suitable. We were told that many camellia trees—one hundred years old or more—are to be found around old estates in Normandy.

We also noted trees in sheltered gardens near the ocean as we travelled southward in Western France; but they were comparatively rare until we reached Bayonne, close to the Spanish border. Here the nurseries feature camellias and ship to all parts of Southern France.

During our first day's drive along the coast of Northern Spain we found much magnificent scenery, but no subtropical plants. Finally, at Santander, a famous summer resort, we came upon camellias

³ The varietal name was spelled Coquettii in the old literature; this original spelling should now be followed.—Eds.

⁴ Although the American source of Kenny was from Guichard Sceurs nursery stock, it is not one of their originations. Nothing is known of the history behind Kenny, but the name of this variety suggests an English origin.—Eds.

⁵ Prof. E. G. Waterhouse has recently reported that what we have in America as Gloire de Nantes is actually Latifolia; what we have as Latifolia or Fanny Bolis is Latifolia Var.; and what we have as Rose Glory is the true Gloire de Nantes.—Eds.

growing in public parks; and they became fairly common as we continued to the Portuguese frontier. A garden surrounding the office of a chemical factory was quite full of seventy-year-old trees, many in blossom. At La Coruña, the northwestern tip of Spain, there is an estate containing a camellia "forest" and japonicas were growing in most public parks and church yards.

At Vigo, just before crossing into Portugal, both sides of the main street of the city are lined with camellia trees. During our drive from Vigo to Porto the number of old trees along the road surprised us. We were told that British wine buyers had introduced them during the early part of the last century. The climate of that region is highly suitable and camellias take care of themselves.

At Porto—the home of Port wine—we expected to have trouble locating the nursery which had shipped *C. reticulata* var. *Flore-pleno* to our friend, Mr. Leney, in Haslemere, England. The hotel clerk however, did not hesitate to send us to the downtown office of Alfredo Moreira da Silva & Filhos, Limitada, where we found a representative assortment of old camellia varieties. When we inquired about reticulatas, the very affable proprietor Shr. Joachim Moreira da Silva offered two separate types, one being "dobrado" (complete double). Fortunately, he had a small plant in blossom and we saw, for the first time, the beautiful blossom of *Flore-pleno*.

While I was bringing my camera from the car, Mrs. Peer noted a plant having small, fleshy leaves different from any camellia with which we were familiar. Shr. Moreira said that this was a novelty of no great value—the blossom was rather small, a white single containing so many yellow petaloids as to be quite different from other varieties. Immediately, both of us thought of the "yellow" camellia which Robert Fortune brought from Shanghai more than one hundred years ago and which we had sought continuously during our 1949 trip around the world. The specimen before us had blossomed many weeks before—I remember that Fortune's plant was, botanically, *C. sasanqua* var. *Anemonaeflora*.⁶ When I inspected the plant carefully, I found a lead tag marked "Jaune." This completed the identification as the Fortune camellia was given that name by the Belgian nurseries which propagated it for the continental trade in the mid-1800's.

⁶ See the Editors' Note at the conclusion of this article.—EDS.

The next day we visited the very old country estate which had been developed into a camellia nursery by the father of Joachim Moreira. The first camellias had been planted there in the 1850's, and we saw the "mother plants" of both *C. reticulata* var. Flore-pleno and *C. sasanqua* var. Anemonaeflora. The first was a good-sized tree but the "yellow camellia" was less than four feet high, although probably one hundred years old.

The proprietor said that both items are very hard to propagate—both reproduce only by grafting and the average "take" is only two out of one hundred. This fact, no doubt, accounts for their near disappearance. We also noted several varieties developed from Portuguese seedlings and made up an order for two each of seventeen different sorts to be shipped to Park Hill, our California home. After long delays in transit, there are few survivors—neither the double *reticulata* nor Fortune's yellow variety have lived. Fortunately, I sent scions of these two items separately and one or more grafts may succeed.

None of the plants of *C. sasanqua* var. Anemonaeflora which I sent to various friends have survived, and it may take several years to re-distribute this old camellia. *C. sasanqua* var. Anemonaeflora is pictured in old books as having medium-sized, anemone-form blossoms with a single row of outer, white guard petals surrounding a large cushion of yellow *petaloids*. Amidst the *petaloids* are a few stamens of a darker yellow. The thick, fleshy leaves are distinctive.

C. reticulata var. Flore-pleno is normally a complete double, classified as "very large." The color is slightly darker than our ordinary garden *reticulata*, but the habit of growth is very similar; the leaves are sufficiently different to permit easy identification. This variety bears no seed and is seemingly sterile.

Estoril, on the Portuguese coast only a few miles north of Lisbon, has many fine camellias brought there by British winter visitors who developed this famous resort. In Lisbon and further south camellias grow well if protected against summer sun, but not many are to be found.

Theoretically, camellias should be very popular along the shores of the Mediterranean in Spain and France, but such is not the case. Local experts complain that the soil is too alkaline but Southern California is actually worse in this respect. We found only

occasional plants in Tangier, in Southern Spain and along the French Riviera. At the Battle of the Flowers during Carnival Week at Nice we were disappointed that there were no carriages decorated with camellias.

When we visited the estate of the Comte de Noailles at Grasse, perfume center of the French Riviera, I noted that he had constructed large concrete "tanks" in which to grow camellias. I explained that under worse conditions of alkalinity in Southern California we found that digging a large hole and planting in a mixture of black earth, leaf mold and peat moss would eliminate injury from alkaline soil conditions. If our advice is followed there should be increased camellia interest in that region—concrete tanks are expensive.

The Comte de Noailles accompanied us to many gardens located picturesquely along the coast between Cannes and the Italian border. He is an inveterate horticulturist—I am hoping that our visit will inspire more camellia plantings. At his home near Paris he has grown camellias in tubs for many years, taking them indoors during the winter.

A most noteworthy camellia collection has been assembled by an ex-American, Mr. Lawrence Johnston, in a mountain valley at Mentone adjacent to the Italian border. Otherwise, we found no important camellia development along the French Riviera.

During the great camellia "boom" of the 1850's, camellias grew by the thousands in Northern Italy. Flowers and seed were shipped to all European countries—one nursery in Florence, the Mercatelli firm, published a catalog listing 1200 varieties. Today only the remnants of this activity remain—World Wars I and II brought ruin to the countryside and commercial horticulture was destroyed. The outstanding nursery is that of Fratelli Bagnasco, a few miles south of Genoa along the coast. I believe that two groups of camellia trees planted there more than one hundred years ago constitute the largest *tree* collection in Europe. Actually, they were planted as "mother" trees by the granduncle and grandfather of the present owner in two sheltered ravines, close enough to the ocean to insure natural survival. All trees which I inspected had been grafted, which proves rather effectively that cleft grafting is practical. The varieties are those popular in 1850—six good "takes" of scions sent



PLATE III—THE MIKADO
(Herme Sport No. 4)

from California are a beginning toward introducing modern items there.

Prior to the last war, Captain Neil McEacharn, an Australian, purchased the old estate known as Villa Taranto near Pallanza on the shores of Lago Maggiore, a large lake about forty miles north of Milan in the foothills of the Alps. Throughout the extensive grounds he found old camellia trees which had prospered despite neglect. More camellias, obtained from all corners of the world, have been planted so that Villa Taranto now has an outstanding collection. One of the best private horticultural libraries in the world is housed in its own building on the grounds.

On the first day of March, we left Milan in the morning, stopped for a picnic luncheon on the shores of Lake Como and then drove up a mountain road to St. Moritz amidst winter snows. We left during late afternoon and drove over icy roads to spend the night at Chur—low enough so that spring had arrived. The next day we passed through four countries—Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria and Germany—to reach Stuttgart. Here we were on the Autobahn—the high-speed turnpike built as a military road and now providing a wonderful “no crossing, no traffic light” highway across the country.

Business conferences detained us three days in Hamburg and two days in Amsterdam before we reached our next horticultural objective—Belgium.

It took little research to discover that camellias will not survive the average cold winter of this country and yet Belgian camellias were acclaimed throughout the Western World during the camellia heyday of the 1850's. All were raised in glasshouses and shipped to other countries—this was the time of Verschaffelt, fabulous camellia connoisseur and owner of the greatest camellia nursery. The illustrated books prepared by him as permanent records of his best varieties are now the prized possession of horticultural libraries throughout the world. Declining interest in camellias in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the wars of the present era wrecked the Belgian camellia industry. The only nursery devoted entirely to camellias—that of Victor de Bisschop at Tronchiennes near Ghent, now managed by Roger, the son of the founder—still operates entirely under glass producing thousands

of grafted plants annually to be shipped when ready to such unlikely places as Finland, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Poland and to near-by Germany, Holland, France and England.

When we visited Tronchiennes, I suggested that we would like to inspect whatever remained of the Verschaffelt Nursery in Ghent. Roger de Bisschop explained that the center of modern Ghent now occupies the former site of the Verschaffelt glasshouses and there is no remaining trace of this world-renowned business.

We were privileged to visit, privately, the greenhouses of the Royal Palace at Laeken. Here we inspected lemon trees three hundred years old growing in tubs and a group of about four hundred camellia trees, partly in containers, and all under glass.

At the estate of the Prince de Ligne, forty miles south of Brussels, we found 100-year-old camellias which had grown under glass, up a wall, to a height of fifty feet.

We endeavored to end our trip in order to return home for the American Camellia Society meeting at Norfolk, but business meetings in Paris and London changed our plans. Actually, we were fortunate to have our final week in London to say "goodbye" to our camellia friends and to attend the camellia show of the Royal Horticultural Society. One of the Kunming *reticulatas*, the variety Shot Silk (Tayinhung),⁷ which I had obtained for the Royal Horticultural Society direct from China, blossomed in time for the show and was given their Award of Merit. This is the first of the Kunming *reticulatas* to be so honored.

In general, the display of camellia blossoms was less exciting than in 1950, due largely to continued cold weather. We sailed on the first of April from Southampton aboard the Queen Elizabeth, arrived in New York on the sixth of April and finally arrived at Park Hill in Los Angeles by plane on July 3, 1952, after an absence of thirteen months. Our camellias had grown tremendously due to unusual rains, and we were pleased to find that a high percentage of the scions and plants sent home from Europe were in good shape.

Our rather hurried survey of camellias in Europe confirms, I believe, that interest in camellias has survived two wars and that

⁷ Shot Silk is now the accepted name for this variety in America. See Dr. Lammerts' article, p. 42, on nomenclature of the Kunming *reticulata* varieties.—Eds.

it may be expected to increase. The standard of living is rising and with better economic conditions camellias will become even more popular there.

EDITORS' NOTE: The two supposedly "lost" varieties recently determined to be still extant in Portugal—*C. sasanqua* var. *Anemonæflora* and *C. reticulata* var. *Flore-pleno*—were introduced from China by Robert Fortune in the mid-1800's. Both of these varieties entered the nursery trade shortly thereafter through Messrs. Standish and Noble, Bagshot, England.

Since *C. japonica* var. *Anemoniflora* was named many years earlier, the name was not available for horticultural application to Fortune's yellow *sasanqua*. *Jaune*—the name later adopted by early continental nurserymen, therefore, should be retained as the correct designation for this variety.

There are at least half a dozen camellia varieties in the old literature that carried various "flore pleno" name derivations. The original garden-form *reticulata*, Captain Rawes, was also known as *C. reticulata* var. *Semi-plena*. It appears most logical to avoid where possible the use of these ambiguous, Latin flower descriptions as varietal names. Since Captain Rawes is the accepted horticultural name for what was known botanically as *C. reticulata* var. *semi plena*, it is suggested that *Flore-pleno*—botanically, *C. reticulata* var. *flore pleno*—should be known as Robert Fortune. This not only serves to honor the individuals responsible for introducing these respective horticultural varieties of *C. reticulata*, but it also greatly simplifies their nomenclature.

CAMELLIAS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

W. E. BAILEY, Orlando, Florida

IT IS not my intention to pose as an authority, an expert or even a specialist on matters pertaining to camellia culture, as there is so much to be learned about all plant life that no one individual can possibly obtain all the available information. In my lifetime experiences and training as an arboriculturist, or tree-man, I have learned to regard all plant life as living things; they "breathe" the fresh air, "eat" their own kind of varied foods; and, of course, being living things, they are subject to disease and death.

Many people ask the question, "Why can't I grow camellias?" The answer is not difficult, for camellias are no more difficult to grow than other good plants. Being living things, they must have a certain amount of care, as do humans. What constitutes good food for one human may be poison to another. The same is true with plant life and especially with camellias.

Here in Central Florida, there is no uniformity in soils; we have every kind—from white sand to heavy muck. It is a known