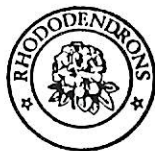


The Rhododendron & Camellia Group



BULLETIN No. 24 — November 1983

Calendar for future events

21st February, 1984	Ornamental Plant Competition	1st May, 1984	Rhododendron & Camellia Group A.G.M.
20th March, 1984	Camellia & Rhododendron Competitions	9-15th May, 1984	Group Tour in Cheshire and North Wales
6/7th April, 1984	Truro Flower Show	22nd-25th May, 1984	Chelsea Show
17th April, 1984	Camellia Show	12/13th June, 1984	Flowering Tree & Shrub Competition
1/2nd May, 1984	Rhododendron Show		

Annual General Meeting

In future the Annual General Meeting will take place at the time of the Rhododendron Show. This will enable more members to attend without the necessity of making a special journey to London. This year the Show is to be held on 1/2 May, 1984 and the Annual General Meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on the 1st May, 1984 in the Lecture Hall at Vincent Square.

Amended Subscriptions

Members have been notified of the increase in the subscription and sent Bankers' Orders for completion. It is appreciated that not everyone will wish to use this method, but will as many as possible please assist the Hon. Treasurer by lodging the Order with their Bank?

Officers

Following the appeal in the last Bulletin for an Hon. Tours Secretary and an Hon. Membership Secretary, Mrs Valerie Archibold has very kindly agreed to take on both offices. Her notes regarding the 1984 Tour appear below. In view of the changes which have taken place it now seems appropriate to list the officers of the Committee:

Chairman: Hon. H. E. Boscawen, The High Beeches, Handcross, Sussex, RH17 6HQ.

Hon. General Secretary: Mrs B. Jackson, 2 Essex Court, Temple, London, EC4Y 9AP.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr D. N. Farnes, Corton Lodge, 7 Burntwood Avenue, Emerson Park, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 3JD.

Hon. Tours Secretary & Hon. Membership Secretary: Mrs V. M. Archibold, "Starveacre", Dalwood, E. Devon, EX13 7HH.

Hon. Year Book Editor: Mr J. Sanders, Badger Cottage, 101 Guildford Road, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5NS.

Hon. Bulletin Editor: Mr B. Archibold, "Starveacre", Dalwood, E. Devon, EX13 7HH.

Branch Organisers:

South East (Jointly) — Mr J. A. Fox, Holmwood House, Glenmore Road, Crowborough, Sussex, TN6 1TN and Mr B. E. Wright, Picket Post, Rannoch Road West, Crowborough, Sussex, TN6 1RF.

East Anglia — Mr C. E. Grainger, The Gables, Finborough Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1PY.

Wessex — Dr J. F. A. Blowers, No 7, Brockton, Filmer Grove, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3AB.

Midlands, Mr N. M. Maybury, Glenarn, 3 Arthur Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

South West — Major R. A. W. Reynolds, Woodland Grove, Bovey Tracey, Nr. Newton Abbot, Devon.

South West Branch

It will be noted that Dick Reynolds has taken over as Organiser of this Branch on the retirement of Jack Page. Those who have experienced the very capable organisation of this Branch will wish to thank Mr Page for the large amount of time, energy and expertise that he put into the job. We all hope to see him at Branch functions in the future and in the meantime we wish him well.

Wessex Branch

Garden Visits 1983 Members will probably have read of the very successful visit to Exbury and Minquiers in Bulletin No 23. The later visit to Leonardslee and Nymans was equally successful, with Sir Giles Loder guiding us in the morning, and Ken Lowes and Tony Cox in the afternoon, discovering for us the less obvious delights of Nymans. More about these visits, hopefully, in a later Bulletin.

Lecture — Friday, 7th October, 1983; 7.30 p.m.

Mr John Gallagher, an acknowledged authority on camellias, who has visited very many parts of the world to look at camellias and magnolias, is giving us a slide lecture on "PLANT COLLECTING IN JAPAN and KOREA". As he timed his visit to coincide with peak flowering time, a feast should be in store for us! Writing of feasts, the usual buffet supper will be provided and the fee of £2.50 includes a glass of wine. The lecture will be held at Magnolia Cottage, Earleydene, Ascot, Berks. As so many members must know their way there now we have not included a map, but for those who don't, one will be sent if requested on your acceptance slip.

Lecture — Tuesday, 18th October, 1983; 7.30 p.m. at the Savill Garden Restaurant

Through the good offices of Mr John Bond, we have an additional lecture in October. Although the two are rather close in date, it was an opportunity not to be missed, and we can promise a most enjoyable evening. Our lecturer will be Mrs Lilian Hodgson, a Canadian who is a prominent rhododendron enthusiast living in Vancouver; she has been very much involved with the establishment of the Asian garden at the University of British Columbia Botanic Garden,

and is Registrar of new hybrids for the Northwest Region. Mrs Hodgson will be talking to us on "RHODODENDRON HYBRIDS OF THE AMERICAN NORTH-WEST", covering Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, and has some marvellous slides. She has also very generously given some twenty-one plants of fairly new N.American hybrids — propagated by tissue-culture and tiny as yet — which we shall auction after the lecture, so you have time to read up on the care of such 'tinies'. Tissue-cultured plants are said to grow much more vigorously and be better-branched than those from cuttings, so this is an exciting opportunity to put to the test!

Midlands Branch

Following the announcement of the formation of the Midland Branch in the recent edition of the Bulletin, Neil Maybury and Keith Blundell received approximately half a dozen replies expressing interest. A circular letter was then sent out by Neil Maybury to those Members of the group living in the Midland area and so far this has resulted in a further dozen or so replies expressing interest.

An inaugural meeting has been provisionally fixed for November, 11th at the home of Neil Maybury in Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Keith Blundell is arranging for a guest speaker. Neil Maybury will also be showing some slides of the visit he and his wife made earlier in the year to Kiloran House Gardens on the island of Colonsay.

South East Branch

This is to let you know that Mr & Mrs Fleming are kindly extending an invitation for us to hold our next Branch meeting at their Stonewall Park home on Friday, 2nd December, 1983 at 7.30 p.m.

Our speaker for the evening will be Mr Ted Millais who will talk on his recent visits to Sikkim and East Nepal.

Stonewall Park is at Chiddingstone Hoath in Kent about two miles west of Penshurst; Chiddingstone Hoath is not too well signposted. The main entrance to Stonewall Park, however, will be marked with 'Garden Open' signs.

Could members attending please bring something for a cold buffet, as this always contributes enormously to a very enjoyable evening. Wine will be provided by the Branch and coffee by our hosts.

Plant Sale If members could bring one or two plants for sale, it would be greatly appreciated, as proceeds raised in this way do help to boost Branch funds. Books, old Year Books, for example, are also most welcome.

Christmas cards There will be a number of packets of Christmas cards available at reasonable prices. These attractively feature *R. thomsonii* and *R. 'Souldis'* and have been specially printed for the Group.

Hardiness of Rhododendrons and Camellias

For some time it has been suspected that the long accepted standards of hardiness have been proved by experience to be not altogether accurate. Many plants which have been regarded as too tender to grow in the open have, in certain areas which geographically might be surprising, proved to be remarkably hardy.

The Chairman has suggested that a survey could usefully be carried out among members to ascertain just how hardy are certain rhododendrons and camellias in various parts of the country. To this end he has provided the following list:

<i>R. crassum</i>	<i>cinnabarinum</i>
<i>lindleyi</i>	Fragrantissimum
<i>grande</i>	Polar Bear
<i>elliottii</i>	Saffron Queen
<i>falconeri</i>	Loderi
<i>williamsianum</i>	Bric-a-Brac
<i>C. japonica</i>	<i>C. reticulata</i>
<i>sasanqua</i>	<i>williamsii</i>

also any plants rated H1 or H2 in the Handbook.

It is suggested that members who grow any or all of these plants might care to report giving location of the garden and the following details:

1. Age of plant
2. Whether grown in open ground or under high cover.
3. Details of terrain (i.e. north slope — sheltered valley, etc.).
4. Details of any very low temperatures experienced.
5. Details of drought hardiness.
6. Any other details considered relevant.

It is, of course, just as important to record losses as survivals.

In the first place will members please write to Hon. Bulletin Editor (*see front page*), who will acknowledge and collate the information for evaluation.

Wroxton III

The third Wroxton weekend took place on the 21st-23rd October, 1983 and, as usual, was very well attended at this most comfortable of hotels set in charming Oxfordshire countryside a short distance from Banbury. On arrival, guests were met by David Farnes, our Treasurer and organiser of the event, and shown to their individual rooms. The evening of the Friday was spent in meeting old and new friends over dinner and afterwards.

On the Saturday morning all gathered to watch wonderful display of slides which started with a record of the tour of Southern Ireland shown by David Farnes. This was followed by a fascinating exhibition by Mr Kenwyn Clapp of "micro slides" which consisted of greatly enlarged prints of the undersides of various rhododendron species' leaves showing the scale formations. The original slides had been taken by Mr Clapp and the enlargements done by the Marine Biology Research Station at Plymouth. A feature of this display which seemed to interest most members was the existence of "channels", which seemed to divide the scales in a random fashion and which no one seemed able to explain. Since the full width of the screen represented approximately 2mm of leaf the scale of magnification must have been considerable. It would be interesting if some of our expert botanists could hazard a guess, or indeed tell us what these lines were. David Farnes suitably thanked Mr Clapp and we passed to the other part of the Irish tour and Dr Hugh Dingle's slides of Northern Ireland shown by Dr Robbie Jack — Dr Dingle unfortunately being caught in the Channel Islands by a duty rota! Once again, those of us who were not fortunate enough to go on the tour at least had the opportunity of seeing some wonderful plants. Brian Wright showed us a selection of very fine slides of flower trusses including some of prize winning entries at the Shows. Mr Wright has kindly offered to let any members who may be interested obtain slides from this collection and anyone wanting to do so should contact Mr Wright through the Bulletin Editor.

Following this Jim Fuller showed us slides of *R. hemsleyanum* in flower in his own garden, much to the envy of most of us!

After coffee, John Fordham showed us a fascinating collection of slides of alpine plants taken on a visit to the Italian Alps, on which the first week was spent in the Gran Paradiso National Park centred on Cogne and the second week at Cervinia. Apart from the real beauty of the subjects, the technical expertise of both the photography and the subsequent lecture ensured a hearty appreciation from members. It is interesting to note that most members are just as appreciative of most other plants as they are of rhododendrons and camellias!

Having been indoors all the morning it was very pleasant in the afternoon, more especially as the weather was brilliantly sunny, to visit the National Trust property at Farnborough Hall, where Mr Keith Blundell greeted us and showed us around. The land consists of about 400 acres of farm land given over to grain and beef cattle and some 7

acres of garden which has been kept in the fashion of the beginning of the English landscape period, which largely excluded ornamental shrubs such as rhododendrons and relied heavily on laurel and holly. Members were interested to see a wisteria with a fine crop of seed pods and were told that a lot of National Trust replacement comes from this source — in addition there was a very fine and ancient cedar growing on the lawn outside the house.

After dinner the same evening we were again taken away from an exclusive diet of rhododendrons, by David Farnes who showed us some extremely interesting slides taken mainly in his own garden and also that of his father on the theme of winter gardens — taking winter from the date that the clocks go back to the time in March when they are put forward again. These showed clearly the effects that can be obtained by the clever planting of good foliage plants, as well as many brightly berried trees and shrubs and early flowering bulbs.

On Sunday morning an early start was made and Dr. Florence Auckland conducted a quiz wherein slides of 40 species of rhododendrons were shown and members were asked to name them. On the answers being read it was clear that what one thinks one knows and what one actually does know, leaves a very wide gap! However, for the second time, Steven Thompson came up with a very creditable 29 to win from several other members with 25 and was presented with a plant of *R. pemakoense* by Dr Auckland. The best remark of the weekend came here when the name "beanianum" was read out 'I thought it was badly infected with black-fly'!

After a short break, David Farnes introduced John Gallagher as our guest speaker who showed us a very interesting selection of slides taken on a recent visit to Japan. These ranged from pictures of temples, palaces and shrines to a visit to a fantastic display of bonsai Kurume Azaleas and a nursery where large pines are "tortured" (the lecturer's words not mine), into various shapes for sale to shops, restaurants, etc. as decorative arches for very large sums of money! We also heard (though did not see) that the Japanese can grow square bamboo — this caused some tooth-sucking amongst the audience, but we were assured that it was so! At the end of the lecture David Farnes expressed our thanks for a very entertaining and interesting lecture and mentioned that John Gallagher had very kindly made a trip of 100 miles to be with us.

This brought us to the end of the organised proceedings, except for a short speech from the Bulletin Editor thanking David Farnes for the excellence of his arrangements and for the very smooth running of the whole weekend, which obviously involved a lot of very hard work on his part.

For those who have not attended a Wroxton weekend it might be as well to stress that it is NOT restricted to members who have been on the tours and hopefully David will feel able to organise WROXTON IV next year.

Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Garden

The following report on this most interesting garden has been received from Mr John Kelly, the Curator. To members who have not yet visited Abbotsbury the journey will be well repaid at any time from mid-March to mid-October when the garden is open to the public.

As appears elsewhere the 1985 Tour is to take place partly in Dorset and it is hoped to get Mr Kelly to agree to include Abbotsbury in the itinerary.

It will be seen that Mr Kelly raises many nomenclature questions and if anyone feels able to be of assistance no doubt he would like to hear from them.

The restoration of Abbotsbury gardens, on the Dorset coast between Weymouth and Bridport, has been a fascinating task. It started in 1969 and by 1978, when this writer took over, it was almost complete. This year (1983) saw a significant milestone in the history of the garden, when it was expanded from seventeen to twenty acres.

The garden has a climate which is so out of the ordinary that it is often impossible to convince those who have not experienced winters here of its utter mildness. Frost is uncommon, slight, and of very short duration: the soil never freezes hard. Furthermore, frosts almost never occur before Christmas. Snow does fall, although not often and not very much, but then snow does harm more by mechanical leverage than by attacking tender tissues. The climate is naturally very mild in West Dorset, but here the gardens are pampered by being sheltered by a deep fold in the land and by enormous windbreaks of *Quercus ilex*. The sea is only a quarter of a mile away and is, within a few feet of the Chesil Beach, forty feet deep. This constantly present, large body of water moderates temperatures a great deal.

To restore an old garden is fun enough. To recover and to a certain extent to re-create an old garden with a unique set of growing conditions, fast becomes a lifetime's dream. Find me something nearer to Shangri-la in Britain and I will evince surprise bordering on disbelief.

Just as Shangri-la had inhabitants of enormous age, so has Abbotsbury, and some of these are camellias, while a few are rhododendrons. Like many ancient denizens of country districts and especially of hidden valleys, however, the certification of their birth and the authentication of their origin leaves much to be desired, and patience and study must be brought to bear in order to divine the origins of these old people.

The old camellias at Abbotsbury are remarkable not only for their age but also for their size. That they are old at all is due to the fortuitous climate of Abbotsbury which led to these supposedly tender plants having been planted outside instead of having been cosseted to death under glass; and it is this balmy, almost frost-free ambience which has allowed their great size to develop during a long succession of ten-month growing seasons.

Their names owe more to tradition than to accuracy. Abbotsbury's 'Duchess of Buccleuch' is 'Hornsby Pink' in Cornwall and both are identical with 'Myrtifolia'; although the latter is said to be scented. One of our 'Duchess of Buccleuch' has a fugacious, spicy fragrance, but its appearance is identical with the others. Another, known here as 'Malmaison' for as long as anyone can remember, closely resembles 'Paolina Maggi', but what its real name is according to modern practice is impossible to determine. Again, looking at the list of camellias in the gardens in 1899, one is faced with an intrigue of phantoms. 'Beallii Rosea' was, one feels sure, rose-pink and 'Striata' was presumably striped; but what was 'Maonetto' like? Or 'Princess Vidoni'? Or are they here now and called something else?

A white formal double of great age with a red stripe down the centre of each petal is completely identical with the one in Sterling Macoboy's book called 'Oranda-Ko' which is supposed to exist in one garden in Europe only and in Portugal at that. Do we presume that contacts between the Fox-Strangways family and Portuguese gardens existed in the nineteenth century or even earlier and boldly label it 'Oranda-Ko'? Or do we go all modern and evidential and hang our heads in uncertainty and refuse to label it at all.

Having said all that, it is possible to establish two matters of importance. The first is that the very old camellias in the garden are almost certainly original introductions to Britain. They are referred to in a magazine article of 1899 as being of 'tree-like dimensions' and are now mostly about thirty feet high and wide and one has a trunk circumference of four feet six inches — this is a formal double white just like 'Alba Plena' but without its characteristic foliage. The second is that, while the keeping of records is essential, they are useless if the plants to which they refer are not labelled and kept labelled accurately and continuously, not merely over decades but over centuries.

The same absence of labels leads to a problem with most of the rhododendrons at Abbotsbury. Although fine

specimens of species are present (*R. arboreum* in many forms, including eight specimens of 'Blood Red'; *RR. decorum*, *griffithianum* and others), there are many hybrids which are not identifiable with existing cultivars and are only traceable to one putative parent. That they are mostly in the Fortunei and Thomsonii series with a good injection of *R. griffithianum* will give some idea of their beauty but we have no idea of what to call them.

Abbotsbury's contribution to rhododendron culture has been made in the field of tender members of the genus but it was made a long time ago. The way forward lies in picking up the thread again and, this time, keeping the record straight.

International Camellia Journal

The International Camellia Journal, No. 15, October 1983, 88pp, 16 coloured plates and 25 black and white.

Using the same printer who produces our yearbook, bulletins, and greetings cards, the International Camellia Society have beaten us to it to produce their journal on time this year, the editor being a member of our Group. The journal follows the traditional pattern, except that colour plates were introduced last year.

The outstanding event of the International Camellia Society year was the Sacramento Congress in California from the 4th-8th March, which is described by Cicely Perring, a member of our own Group's committee, with happy snapshots which include a number of familiar faces. Eight of the addresses given at the Congress are reproduced in the Journal, some of them very learned.

There is also an account of the I.C.S. Nottingham Conference from the 22nd-25th April, with visits to nine gardens including Chatsworth, as well as the Lea Rhododendron Gardens at Matlock, where a fine plant of *Rhododendron spinuliferum* was photographed.

The International Registrar, Camellia Nomenclature, lately President of the Society, contributes an authoritative article on the subject, and puts us right on the correct spelling of eg 'Donckaleri' and 'Althaeiflora'. He has also edited the translation of an article in Chinese on the names of cultivars of *C. japonica* current in China.

John Tooby and Mary Forrest have written an account of camellias in Ireland, in gardens some of which they visited at the time of the Rhododendron & Camellia Group's tour in May, in which they took part.

Rhododendron and Camellia Group Greetings Cards

There is still stock of the *Rhododendron thomsonii* Greetings Cards, details of which were given in the last Bulletin; a sample is enclosed for members who have not yet ordered. It is not yet too late for members to obtain their requirements for Christmas, if they write at once to Major E. W. M. Magor, Lamellen, St. Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall. PL30 3NR.

Magnolia Conservation

The Rhododendron & Camellia Group, which also concerns itself with magnolias, has listed the award clones of these three genera, with a view to asking the owners of the plants concerned to provide propagating material, from which National Reference Collections can be built up. In the case of magnolias, the National Reference Collection will be in Windsor Great Park, and this has been recognised by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens, which has subsequently also recognised Bodnant as a second National Reference Collection for Magnolias.

31 species are recognised in the two subgenera *Magnolia* and *Yulania*, and 9 sections, of which the deciduous spring flowering asiatic species of the *Yulania* section are perhaps the finest from a garden point of views. In this section, there are five species known in cultivation in Britain — *heptapeta* (denudata), *campbellii*, *dawsoniana*, *sargentiana* and *sprengeri*, with several subordinate taxa, and a number of notable hybrids. 24 taxa belonging to this section have

received awards from the R.H.S. but, generally speaking, they are not being propagated vegetatively. It should go without saying that open-pollinated seedlings are unlikely to come true, though it may take up to 40 years before they flower and reveal the fact. It follows therefore that these species, and award clones, will become extinct in cultivation in this country unless conservation measures are taken.

The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens therefore, in association with the International Dendrology Society and with this Group, is sponsoring a project to propagate the award clones of the *Yulania* section, for distribution to gardens seeking 'warranted' magnolia plants, with a view to conserving clones already recognised as outstanding. It is realised that there are probably just as many very fine clones which have not received awards, and it is to be hoped that the owners of these plants will bring exhibits up to the relevant R.H.S. Committee (Floral B Committee).

The Retention of Horticulturally Important Names (Epithets) of Rhododendron Species

The Director of the R.H.S. Garden at Wisley, and Chairman of the International Commission for Nomenclature and Registration, Mr C. D. Brickell, contributed an important paper to the New York International Rhododendron Conference in May, 1978, of which a resumé was published in 'Rhododendrons 1978, with Magnolias and Camellias', at pp. 41-48.

This proposed the use of the term "Group", under Article 26 of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, to accommodate "sunk" taxa of horticultural importance. Thus, to quote the classic case, Kingdon Ward's Orange Bill (*R. concatenans* Hutch), which, under the Edinburgh revision is a synonym for *R. cinnabarinum* Hooker ssp. *xanthocodon* (Hutch) — Cullen, becomes *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon* Concatenans Group, and can be written simply as *R. cinnabarinum* Concatenans Group.

In the foreword to *The Rhododendron Handbook* 1980 and in the immediately following article on *The Classification of Rhododendron*, it is mentioned that this new method of accommodating "sunk" taxa — the Group system — has been provided so that the names (epithets), of horticulturally valuable taxa not currently recognised botanically under the Edinburgh revision, may be retained. This horticultural revision was put forward for consideration, and some may feel that there is a case for further Groups, or for the deletion of some of those included, and suggestions would be welcomed. Whatever emerges will then be used as the basis for the next edition of the Handbook.

Any Group names proposed should be of horticultural importance and should be sufficiently distinct horticulturally to merit retention. It is important when proposing Group names for use under this system, to justify the need for such a name to be applied to the particular entity concerned.

With the acceptance of the Edinburgh revision by the R.H.S. it is to be hoped that the 'die hards' will now move with the times, but perhaps take this opportunity of proposing their cherished epithets for preservation, and will forward suggestions to the Director at Wisley. To start the ball rolling, the following additional Groups are suggested: *Rhododendron maddenii* ssp. *maddenii* Polyandrum Group *Rhododendron maddenii* ssp. *maddenii* Brachysiphon Group *Rhododendron wardii* var. *wardii* Litiense Group *Rhododendron oreodoxa* var. *fargesii* Erubescens Group

Hybrids of Sunk Taxa

Dr Homer E. Salley, writing from Plymouth, Monserrat, West Indies, has raised the question of the status of registered hybrids of taxa now no longer recognised as species. This has arisen in particular in the case of hybrids of *R. detonsum* (*xenosporum*) which has proved a good parent of hybrids, of which the following are registered:

<i>detonsum</i> × <i>arboreum</i>	Xenarb
× <i>campylocarpum</i>	Campxen

× Damaris	Damophyle
× Daphne	Daphne Magor
× Gilian	Clio
× haematodes	Detonhaem
× Kewense	Kewxen
× Sincerity	Brumas
× thomsonii	Thomdeton

R. xenosporum was the name given in 1919 by Balfour to a rogue that had appeared at Lamellen among seed of *R. adenogynum* (F. 5868); subsequently in 1925 Tagg concluded that this was a large-flowered probably immature form of *R. detonsum*, described by Balfour from Yunnan (F. 13789).

Dr Chamberlain now considers F. 13789 to be a natural hybrid of *R. adenogynum*, and the question therefore arises of how the *xenosporum/detonsum* hybrids should be described in the International Rhododendron Register.

The possibilities seem to be to register *R. detonsum* (*xenosporum*) as a hybrid of *R. adenogynum* — *R. × detonsum* or *Xenosporum*, or as a Group — *R. adenogynum* Detonsum (or *Xenosporum*) Group. As Tagg distinguished *xenosporum* from *detonsum*, and the name had priority, *R. × xenosporum* should perhaps be registered as a hybrid of *R. adenogynum*, and its hybrids shown accordingly.

Comment from Mr C. D. Brickell on the Note on Hybrids of Sunk Taxa

There appears to be some confusion over the registration procedure which is, in fact, only applicable to cultivar names (clonal in the case of *Rhododendron*) although in the past some Grex names were also registered.

Names of botanical taxa are frequently included in International Registers for reference purposes, but this does not imply that any registration procedure has been applied. The names of botanical taxa are governed by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and are not affected by registration procedures.

If it can be shown that *R. xenosporum* is a clone, and this appears to be the case from correspondence between Major Magor's father and Professor Bayley Balfour, and it is not recognised either as a botanical taxon, then all that is involved is a simple transfer from botanical to horticultural rank, i.e. *R. xenosporum* becomes 'Xenosporum'. This name would then be included in the register with appropriate details. This does not in any way affect that status of *R. × detonsum* which is recognised by Dr Chamberlain in Notes from R.B.G. Edinburgh Vol. 39 No. 2 Page 341 as a natural hybrid covering presumably, a number of slightly different individuals with the same general characteristics. 'Xenosporum' may or may not be considered a clone referable to *R. × detonsum*. The simplest approach would be to retain the name *R. detonsum* for the group of plants raised from seed of Forrest 13789 and to retain as a clonal name the 'Xenosporum' for the single seedling that arose at Lamellen under the number Forrest 5868. It would then be unnecessary to complicate the issue by sinking one of the epithets under the other.

In any case the names of the hybrids raised from *R. xenosporum* as it then was and *R. detonsum* when both these entities were considered species remain unchanged. A change of name of a parent, part of the name of which has been used in the cultivar name of its offspring, does not mean that the name given to the offspring has to be amended. Thus 'Xenarb' and 'Detonhaem' two of the examples given in the preceding note remain unaffected. The parentage of these two would be cited, (assuming the status for the two entities is accepted as I have suggested above) as *r. 'Xenosporum' × R. arboreum* and *R. × detonsum × R. haematodes*.

There are alternative methods of dealing with this problem but recognition of one of these taxa as a clone and the other as a natural hybrid, should avoid the complications that might result from alternative interpretations of the status of the entities concerned.

The Edinburgh Revision

Following the publication of Humphrey Welch's comments in the last Bulletin it has been pointed out that in the preamble he is described as Registrar of *Dwarf Conifers* — this is incorrect as he is, in fact, Registrar on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society for all names of cultivated conifers, not merely dwarf conifers and he would welcome information and correspondence from any Rhododendron enthusiasts who are also interested in conifers. In addition Mr Welch would welcome any old nursery catalogues (not merely conifers) that members felt they could spare to assist him in his work. His address is "Pine Cottage", Gibbs Lane, Morcombelake, Nr. Bridport, Dorset.

Seed

At the Wroxton weekend the question of Rhododendron seed was raised. Quite a number of members expressed an interest in raising species plants from seed but, quite obviously, would much rather have access to hand-pollinated seed rather than the open pollinated seed more generally available. Nothing could be more infuriating than to grow on a slow growing plant for a number of years only to find at the end of the time that a wide-ranging bee has had the last word!

Would members who have good species plants consider producing hand-pollinated seed for general distribution. The fact that the seed should be true and, almost as important, have a provenance would surely induce many more members to grow plants from seed.

If there are any takers will they please, in the first place, write to the Hon. Bulletin Editor so that he can see whether the scheme is worth pursuing.

The New Zealand Rhododendron Association

The Secretary/Treasurer of the above Association has written to the Group as under:

"The New Zealand Rhododendron Association is interested in offering financial support, by way of purchasing shares, to plant and seed collecting expeditions in rhododendron areas of the world.

People seeking such support should write to The Secretary, New Zealand Rhododendron Association, P.O. Box 28, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Details of the proposed expedition and the financial support required must be enclosed.

It would be appreciated if notice of this offer could be placed before your membership by way of a note in your regular publications".

The Secretary/Treasurer is Mr Alan M. Larsen, c/o The New Zealand Rhododendron Association, P.O.Box 28, Palmerston North, New Zealand and any member interested should write direct to him.

The Rarer Species and Hybrids

Members are reminded that, apart from being Hon. Year Book Editor, John Sanders will endeavour to locate for members plants which are not readily available in local nurseries and garden centres. As yet he has not had many requests, so why not try him? (Address on front page).

Books

A letter has been received from Mr David Mico of Hurtwood House, Winterfold Heath, Albury, Nr. Guildford, Surrey, GU5 9ES which is reproduced below so that any member interested may take appropriate action.

"It may be of interest to you that Sotheby's of London will be auctioning, on the 28th November next, my copy of: "The Rhododendrons of Sikkim — Himalaya", Joseph Dalton Hooker. Reeve, Benham and Reeve, 1849.

My copy is 100% perfect and is from the ARPAD PLESCH LIBRARY which was sold in 1975.

As you know, this book is extremely rare. The last one which came up for sale was not entirely perfect, and was sold at U.S.\$4,000."

Errata

In the last Bulletin Mr Mayers offered certain books to members and, unfortunately, the price of JAPANESE GARDENS was wrongly shown as £87 — this should read £37.

List of Members

Members will receive with the copy of this Bulletin a full list of the membership of the Group as at 1st November, 1983. Will you please check your own entries carefully and advise the Hon. Membership Secretary of any errors — please do not forget to advise any subsequent alterations as this list is used for the circulation of Year Books and Bulletins. It is proposed that new lists will be issued every three years.

1985 Tour

It is proposed that the 1985 Tour take place in the general area of Dorset, Somerset and Devon.

The International Dendrology Society Index Card

Most Rhododendron gardeners keep records of their collections and will be interested to know that several Group members are now using the Index Card published by the I.D.S. The Card is compatible with the system used at the R.B.G. Kew and, although R.B.G. Edinburgh intends soon to be completely computerised, phasing out cards entirely, private owners do find that the card (which is designed as a direct computer input source) provides a useful and sound base of information from which a more sophisticated system can be developed later.

A sample card and instruction booklet can be had from Anne Boscawen, The High Beeches, Handcross, W.Sussex, RH17 6HQ. Non-members of the I.D.S. are welcome to use the scheme but they are asked to send £1 with their enquiry to help cover running costs. Any correspondence or queries direct to Mrs Boscawen, please.

All correspondence concerning matters reported in the Bulletin, except where otherwise indicated in the text, should be sent, together, with material for publication in future Bulletins to: Hon. Bulletin Editor, Mr Bruce Archibold, Starveacre, Dalwood, East Devon, EX13 7HH.