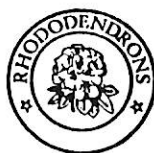


The Rhododendron & Camellia Group



BULLETIN No. 27 — November 1984

Forthcoming Events, 1985

12/13 March	R.H.S. Rhododendron Competition	29/30 April	Truro 7pm 'Flowers of the Mediterranean'
	R.H.S. Camellia Competition		International Rhododendron Species,
10/11 April	R.H.S. Camellia Show		Symposium, Tacoma, U.S.A.
12 April	Cornwall Garden Society Spring Flower	30 April/1 May	R.H.S. Rhododendron Show
	Show, Truro. 12 noon	1 May	International Rhododendron Conference,
	C. D. Brickell R.H.S. 'Out of London' lecture,		Seattle, U.S.A.

Group Officers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Obituary

NIGEL GLASS

It is the greatest regret that we report the death in September last of Nigel Glass and the following appreciation has been written by David Farnes.

With the passing of T. N. N. Glass on September 25th, 1984 the Group has lost one of its keenest members as well as a most enthusiastic and very conscientious officer.

From the outset of the reformed Group in 1976 Nigel, with his wife Sylvia, was a regular attender of the annual tour of gardens and in 1979 he assisted with the running of the tour in Scotland as leader of the coach party. From 1980 to 1983 he took full charge and was the Tour Secretary — *not* Organiser as he was always quick to point out, preferring to leave the initial arrangements to others who knew the gardens and their owners better than he. His efficient working and meticulous attention to detail in these tour arrangements made life for those on tour so easy and comfortable. He always had the care and interests of members uppermost in his mind. His tour to Ireland in 1983 was most demanding, with even more personal arrangements to be made, due to the several means of transport and fluctuating rates of exchange — yet undoubtedly it was his finest.

At a more local level he was a frequent and regular supporter at meetings of both the South East and Wessex Branches.

Our latest memory of Nigel will always be of a good shepherd looking after us, his flock.

To his wife Sylvia and their three sons we extend sincere condolences.

Note: The appreciation of Lord Glenkinglas mentioned in the last Bulletin will now appear in the Year Book.

Appointments, etc.

It is with great pleasure that we report the conferring of an Honorary Life Membership of the Group on Major A. E. Hardy, V.M.H., of Sandling Park.

Alterations and Amendments

The following entry in the list of members should be substituted for the existing entry:

A. D. Schilling, Esq., F.L.S., F.R.G.S., N.D.ARB., Wakehurst Place Gardens, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17 6TN.

Midlands Branch

The Branch met on a visit to the Lea Rhododendron Gardens in Derbyshire in May and, although there was rather a small attendance, it was a very successful visit.

A meeting with a speaker and slides has been arranged for November 9th. (Perhaps we can have a report on this for the next Bulletin? Ed.)

South East Branch

On 20th October the Branch visited Sheffield Park, and on 22nd November an evening meeting took place at which Sir Peter Smithers gave a talk on Magnolias. It is hoped that a *very* full report will be included in the next Bulletin!

For 1985 it is hoped to visit Borde Hill at a date in late April yet to be arranged.

In the first week in June, a Ghent Azalea Day will be held. The idea behind this is to try to identify those varieties being grown in members' gardens, many of which have long since lost their name tags. Hopefully members will bring their plants to The High Beeches in the morning where the plants will be displayed for an open discussion at which one or two experts will be present. The party will then move on to Sheffield Park where the National Collection is kept.

In early September it is hoped to arrange an evening meeting to discuss Vireyas, followed by a day somewhere like Kew to look at a collection of these rhododendrons.

Wessex Branch

On April 14th, when Mr Bond took us round the Species Collection in the Valley gardens, we had a pleasantly warm and sunny afternoon to enjoy the beautiful terrain — and Magnolia 'Charles Raffill' flowering away apparently untouched by two weeks of frosts. Although in this very strange season, there was not much rhododendron blossom, the magnolias were flowering abundantly, with very good

Hostas, Pieris laden with bloom, and a beautiful Corylopsis (sinensis?). We are very grateful to Mr Bond for giving us his time in taking us round.

On May 5th we again had good weather for the visits to Ramster and Hydon Nurseries. At Ramster, Mrs Gunn was most disappointed that there was not more in flower, as it was normally their peak opening weekend of the season. Although the garden is close to the main road, this is well concealed by thick arboretum-type planting including many mixed conifers, flowering cherries and specimen trees in grass. We followed Mrs Gunn along the signposted route of winding paths — the bold groups of shrubs opening into glades of mature native and exotic trees. The garden is rich in Japanese maples and these at least were not affected by the late season, nor the great thickets of bamboos which are a feature of the garden. We saw some sizeable Wellingtonias, and the hilly nature of the ground gave some lovely views over the surrounding countryside. We were pleased to arrive at last at the barn where excellent cakes and tea were being served, and rest before driving the short distance to Hydon.

Having been conditioned this season to NOT seeing the wealth of colour usually displayed at this time, it was a delight on travelling up the nursery drive to find colour on all sides — a testimony to the sheer variety of the plantings. We were met by Mr and Mrs George and first walked round the new plantings, an extensive area for smaller rhododendrons including 700 dwarfs — with magnolias and masses of acers to give shade in time. From the end of this area we looked back to sheets of blue and yellow in the distance, which proved on closer inspection to be composed of very compact growers including R. St. Merryn, Blue Star, Chikor and Curlew. To open up these new areas some sixty pine trees had to be removed, plus numerous birch and beech!

We wandered round the rest of the nursery at will, admiring a fine *Acer senkaki*, *Acer nikoense*, *R. metternichii* with its colour preserved against the shade of a hedge, R. 'Blue Chip', 'Hydon Mist', the apricot flowered 'Shrimp Girl' and the Logan Damaris × lacteum hybrid 'Beatrice Keir', amongst much else — and finally repaired to a spacious new greenhouse where we enjoyed some excellent wine most generously provided by Mr George. Suitably fortified, we then essayed the Quiz set up for our entertainment on three tables, the first two of species and the third of hybrid rhododendrons. The winners were 1st, John McQuire; 2nd, Philip Urlwin Smith; 3rd, Roderick White; Ladies, Lady Adam Gordon. All received very generous prizes of plants to their choice from the nursery. This made a most pleasantly relaxing end to the day, and we much appreciated all the hard work Mr and Mrs George put into arranging it for us.

The Members' Evening at the Savill Garden Restaurant on 5 October was a most enjoyable meeting for the twenty or so members who attended, and the slides shown provided much interest and variety. Mrs Neuman's food, as delectable as ever, was enhanced by the happy thought of providing hot, home-made soup for us to start with!

Those who joined the S. E. Branch at Sheffield Park on 20 October had a most rewarding morning, as the sun shone all the time except for one long shower, when we sheltered under trees on a lake-side path and enjoyed the view and chat; and if it was windy outside it was beautifully calm in the garden. Mr Skinner's admirable guidance added much pleasure to the visit — he insisted that he enjoyed it as much as we did!

Diary Dates, 1985 — All Friday evenings

1 February — *Collecting Plants in S. Korea* by John Gallagher, at Farnham.

29 March — *Sheffield Park Garden, Its History & Its Plants* by Archie Skinner, at Ascot.

Wroxton IV

The latest instalment of the Wroxton Saga took place over the week-end of the 19/21 October 1984, when some two dozen members of the group assembled at the hotel during the afternoon and evening of Friday, to be welcomed by David Farnes who, in his usual efficient manner, had once again organised the proceedings.

Following a short briefing on Friday night the rest of that day was happily spent in renewing old friendships and making new ones. The following morning all assembled at 9am in the Wroxton Room where David expressed the feelings of all who knew Nigel Glass who so sadly died in September, when he recalled how well and sympathetically Nigel had organised the Group Tours, stressing that not only did he exert his undoubted talents of organisation but also his great care for the persons attending the Tours.

A special welcome was extended to new members and also to Jane David who, whilst being well known to those attending the Tours, was appearing at Wroxton for the first time.

Patrick Haworth then gave the party a fascinating illustrated talk about plants in various gardens including his own, Rosemoor, Bernard and Diana Culverwell's, Abbotsbury and ending with this year's Tour in Cheshire and North Wales. The slides used to illustrate the talk were all taken by Patrick and it was a matter for some comment at their excellent quality.

Following this, we had an "update" of last year's talk on scale formation on rhododendron leaves — this was illustrated by some fine high-magnification slides which engendered a deal of discussion on the purpose of these scales and whether climatic variation would account for the variation in scale formation and distribution. It appeared that this is a subject that would be of considerable interest to members, if Florence Auckland and Kenwyn Clapp who gave this talk would be prepared to expand upon it in either the Year Book or the Bulletin. To whet the appetite of the Camellia lovers amongst those present, the first slides available in this country of the now famous yellow camellia — *C. chrysantha* — were shown, a lovely flower but sadly not for the open it is distinctly tender and not readily available either.

Following a break for coffee, one of our younger members, Steven Thompson, who is well known to Wroxtonites as the winner twice running of the species quiz, showed another side of his knowledge, as a geologist. He gave a learned and interesting account of the distribution of the genus rhododendron, with reference to geological activity of the Earth's crust. We entered the fascinating realms of tectonics, and ended by wondering whether previous theories as to the distribution of rhododendrons had not overlooked this influence. Again it is to be hoped that Steven will commit his theory to print in one of our publications.

Following our lunch, the mandatory breath of air was taken in a visit to a garden called Abbotswood by the kind permission of the owner, Mr Robin Sculley who, however, was not able to be with us. The first thing to strike one, was the very clever use of variations in autumn colour with a fine *Cercidiphyllum*, glowing red against the yellow of *Acer griseum* and the fine yellows and browns of an unidentified *Malus*. The garden immediately in front of the house has a small stream tumbling between rocks among which grew many suitable plants — seed heads of *Primula florindae* gave some indication of the mass of yellow flower that must have lit up this part of the garden during the summer. At the side of the house was a wooded area where Acers — mainly *palatum* hybrids — showed their lovely colour, together with other fine trees too numerous to specify, and which occupied our party until the sun started to sink and a chill breeze took everyone back to their cars. A lovely garden and a real 'find'.

We arrived back at the hotel just in time for a quick drink before dinner after which we retired to the Wroxton Room for a talk by Hugh Dingle on a journey that he, with Jim

Fuller had made to Nepal with the ultimate aim of reaching that Mecca of all rhododendron people, the Milke Danda. After travel by air to Kathmandu, then onwards by Jeep, they finally landed on their own feet, accompanied by Sherpas and porters to complete a round journey. We were shown slides of Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Daphnes, Pleiones and other plants yet to be identified — the commentary adding greatly to our pleasure. Most people were almost ready to catch the next Nepal bound plane, when Hugh sounded a very real and valid warning — you need to be pretty fit as the living is not in hotels but under canvas, the going is hard, and the food is somewhat basic, added to which one can suffer from height sickness (12-15,000 ft) and "tummy bugs" strike without warning. As there was insufficient time to complete the round trip, the talk was adjourned at about 10.30 p.m.

On the following morning we were joined by one or two more members, and Jim Fuller took up the tale. It was noticeable that his slides, although still showing a wealth of plant life, were more inclined to show people and places. In Jim's company we completed the trip and felt that between the two talks we had been given a fascinating and balanced account of what must have been the trip of a lifetime.

Just before we broke for coffee Judy Thompson expressed the feelings of all present when, on behalf of all Wroxtonites, she thanked David Farnes for all the trouble and care he has put into the organisation of these meetings and presented him with a copy of Treseder's Magnolias.

After coffee, John Tooby, who is a Vice President and U. K. Director of the International Camellia Society, gave us an illustrated talk on the recent I.C.S. visit to China, in which some 40 members of the Society from many countries were taken for a five week tour starting at Kunming and including such interesting places as Sichuan, Mt. Emei, Shanghai, Nanking and ending in Hong Kong. During this time the party was always made most welcome and was shown some fine plants and gardens. Everything was, however, highly organised and at times plants were seen from the transport, which plants would have been interesting to inspect more closely but this was not allowed, possibly because on some previous occasion (not the I.C.S.) plants, which could have come only from China, had appeared in the West, certainly without the authority of the Chinese. This illustrates very vividly the responsibility placed on travellers in foreign countries in regard to the collection of plants and seed. John was suitably thanked for his most interesting talk and this concluded the week-end apart from lunch.

NOTE: It is understood that a full report of the I.C.S. tour will appear in a future edition of the Year Book. (Ed.)

Two interesting items appeared during the week-end, the first was a bound and illustrated account of the 1984 Tour compiled with great expertise by John Bodenham, which caused a great deal of comment from members on the excellence of both text and illustrations.

The second was a vase of rhododendron bloom from David Farnes' garden which, whilst having a distinct look of *R. nobleanum venustum*, turned out to be 'Early Scarlet'.

Information Required

At Wroxton a member asked if anyone had heard of "Butt Rot in Pines" and, if so, what is it and what is the treatment. Any offer to Hon. Editor who will pass it on.

Plant Wants

Stephen Fox of 4, Park Lane, Little Hayfield, Stockport, Cheshire wishes to locate a plant of *Rhododendron proteoides*.

Mrs Anne Boscawen of The High Beeches, Handcross, Sussex wishes to locate a plant of *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Nantes Flore Pleno'.

If anyone can provide either or both of these plants will they please write direct to the enquirers.

Wall Cottage Nursery

As from 1st December 1984, Mr Alan Clark will be transferring his business to Leonardslee Gardens, Lower Beeding, Nr. Horsham, West Sussex (Tel. Lower Beeding (040376) 212).

All enquiries concerning rhododendrons should be directed to him at the above address.

Year Books

Stephen Fox (see Plant Wants) wishes to obtain the following Year Books: 1946, 1949-54, 1958, 1960, 1963-68 and 1971. John Sanders, the Year Book Editor still requires Nos 6 & 12 to give him a full working reference set.

Will anyone who can assist by providing the missing numbers or knows where they can be obtained please write direct to the enquirers. No doubt both will be willing to pay the going rate and defray expenses.

The National Ruskin Centre, Brantwood Education Trust, Coniston Water, Cumbria

Lord Anglesey, who spent an energetic morning showing the Group's North Wales tour party round his very fine collection of rhododendrons and camellias at Plas Newydd on the Isle of Anglesey last May, has written to suggest that some members of the Group might be in a position to help with gifts of plants for the rhododendron garden at Brantwood.

This was the home of John Ruskin, and is one of the most beautifully situated houses in the Lake District, overlooking Coniston Water, with fine views of the mountains across the lake. A "plant appeal" is being launched in the local press, for gifts of rhododendrons and associated trees and shrubs for planting in the garden which is being developed in this beautiful setting. (Manager: Mr J. B. C. Hanson, Brantwood, Coniston, Cumbria. Tel: 0966 41396).

Notes from Chyverton — Nigel Holman

Nigel Holman needs no introduction and the following article from his Cornish garden at Zelah will no doubt find sympathetic ears amongst those who exhibit at the shows and great interest from those who appreciate something "a little out of the ordinary".

It is hoped that this article will also generate discussion and correspondence on the vexed question of awards and showing in general.

I hesitated when the Editor asked me to write an article on Magnolias and Camellias: I did not wish the garden, or I, typecast. As any recent visitor to the garden will have noticed, it is full of odd genera as well as good collections of Acers, Nothofagus etc.; I am proud of having introduced nearly one hundred new genera of trees and shrubs to the garden since my father died in 1959. To drop a name or two, I am excited by the challenge of keeping *Cyathea dealbata* in good health, and more interested whether *Craibiodendron yunnanense* will prove of garden value than the merits of any magnolia or camellia.

However, the Editor's letter was in the same post as the September Journal, with its plea for comment on the working of the Society from the Secretary of the Review Committee. I have been critical for years of the Award System, and so I decided to direct my comments towards the members of that committee, as well as the members of the Group, and to relate my criticism to Magnolia and Camellia.

If I want to put up a magnolia for an award, it has to be shown to Floral B at one of the fortnightly shows at Vincent Square. I understand that the Committee is instructed to judge the exhibit as presented on the day, and not what it was obviously like the week before, or a day or two later. No allowance is made that the exhibit has had to travel two hundred and sixty miles, or that the plant is not given prior notice of the date of the Show. These shows are very regular in their dates year after year; plants are also very regular in their flowering times.

These restraints make it very difficult for those of us who

live in the remoter areas of the British Isles; we do not have the genius of John Basford, who can ship rhododendrons from Arran to London or Cornwall with a skill so magical that I wonder whether he did not walk across to the mainland.

I am certain that few of the members of the R.H.S. are aware of the incredible richness in Cornwall of differing forms of the Section Yulania — botanically comprising *denudata* (it will never be *heptapeta* here), *campbellii* (together with *alba*, *mollicomata*, and 'Lanarth'), *dawsoniana*, *sargentiana*, *sargentiana robusta*, *sprengeri* (*diva* and *elongata*). Comparatively few species, but these have given rise to great numbers of seedlings, varieties, cultivars, or whatever name you choose to give them.

The fount of a good deal of these is Caerhays, and most of the outstanding magnolias at Chyverton originate in that great garden.

The first of these was *M. dawsoniana* 'Chyverton' that came with three *sargentiana robusta* in December 1944. This has made a beautiful tree, with darker flowers than the A.M. form at 'Lanarth'. Two of the three *robusta* are outstanding; I would have liked to have shown the best in London, but it has never been right on a show date.

Some years after, Caerhays started to raise and distribute seedlings from their F.C.C. form of *M. campbellii alba*. I have yet to see any disappointing progeny from *alba*. I have five different clones; the best, a putative cross with *robusta*, has flowers up to 17 ins in diameter. It has the typical growth of an *alba* seedling; dipping lower branches. These are difficult to show, and if I were able to transport it to London, I would have to climb 40 to 50 ft to get a suitable spray. Even if I were able to do it, how does the R.H.S. expect me to transport such enormous flowers to London without damage? Another of these *alba* seedlings is (from reading Treseder) a sister seedling of 'Princess Margaret' F.C.C.. I have never seen 'Princess Margaret', nor has Floral B seen the seedling here. If mine is better, what award would the committee give it?

Caerhays is not alone; Charles Raffill produced over one hundred seedlings of his cross, *campbellii* × *mollicomata*. Seedlings from them are now being distributed. One of them here is a very pure pink, and appears to have reverted to its *campbellii* father. If F2s prove better than the original, what value can be placed on the F.C.C. awarded to 'Charles Raffill', an award of doubtful value when you compare it with 'Kew Surprise', a sister seedling also awarded the F.C.C.. 'Kew Surprise' is an improvement on 'Charles Raffill', but I question whether it is better than a good form of *campbellii*.

M. mollicomata 'Lanarth' was a worthy F.C.C.. In 1952 Michael Williams distributed a number of seedlings, two of which were given to my father. One of these has flowered, and was considered by Neil Treseder to be an improvement on its parent, as it carried its flowers better. These '52 seedlings seem a uniform lot, and show every sign of being 'true' i.e. result of self-pollination. I saw some seedlings raised at Trengwainton that are obvious hybrids, 50% 'Lanarth', 50% *campbellii*. 'Lanarth' has also been used as a parent in New Zealand.

On top of all these 'Yulans' are the mass of hybrids raised by Gresham in the States: over 2000, which have given the Americans a real headache in selecting the best for naming.

Looking to the future, I am hopeful of seedlings raised from *M. dawsoniana* 'Chyverton'. 'Chyverton' only began to set seed when a neighbouring *sprengeri diva* seedling began to flower. This seedling is a very good colour, and the marriage should be a fruitful one, as both parents flower late (mid-April in some years), and their flower buds are very frost resistant.

With so many seedlings of the past, present and future now in cultivation, I consider it of little worth to say at any one time that a cultivar is the 'tops', and give it a F.C.C., an award it keeps until the holocaust, despite the fact that there could be better of the same type already in

cultivation.

The solution, as I see it, is for the Society to enter the electronic age, and purchase some hardware. A simple programme could record all the relevant facts about any given cultivar — size, colour, texture of flower, etc., etc.. The only plants to be recorded will be those of proven worth after inspection in the garden, and which the garden owners are prepared to be allowed to be propagated. The makings of an inspection team has already begun through the initiative of the N.C.C.P.G., when a meeting was called of 18 magnolia growers. Out of this meeting came the decision to set up a National Reference Collection at Windsor. By all means have a collection, but it will be some years before propagating material will become available, and by the time it does, that variety could have been superceded. With a computer, such demotions could be instantly recorded; a future grower could be assured that he was getting the best.

I would like to see a similar system in operation for camellias. Here again, awards can be out of date before they are printed in the Yearbook.

The selection team would be jointly selected by the R.H.S. and the International Camellia Society. Varieties would be graded after trial at Wisley and the centres already initiated by the ICS, together with a simple questionnaire sent in by selected growers. This would ensure that any variety could be fully evaluated for hardiness and quality before going on the computer. Every year, a simple print-out could be produced, an 'Egon Ronay' Handbook for the camellia enthusiast, splitting the genus into greenhouse or outdoor, by giving up to five stars for quality, and five crosses for hardiness. *Camellia williamsii* 'Anticipation' F.C.C. tells you little — 'Anticipation' *****+ + + + + is what the grower needs to know. Another *williamsii* from New Zealand, 'Elsie Jury' is a F.C.C. holder; here my grading would be 'Elsie Jury' *****+ + + + +, as I find it suffers from bud-drop in cold weather. Records from other areas could knock off another cross, making Elsie semi-greenhouse; this is the sort of information that is needed, and is not provided at present.

Rhododendrons can remain as recipients of any award the Committee choose to give, as the same confusion does not exist. However, what is essential is that it should become mandatory for the exhibitor to release material of the award clone rather than some inferior relative as has happened in the past. I have heard some horrible tales, but that is another story, and I have no wish to be sued for libel.

What A Year!

These sentiments expressed by Bernard Culverwell who, with his wife, maintains a fine garden near Minehead, will be all too familiar to most of us.

What a year! We have been lucky in that we could water and the Rhododendrons and Camellias have all budded up well BUT plants have flowered at the wrong time. *R. flavidum*, *calostrotum* 'Gigha' and 'Elizabeth' all out in September! But on October 18th our gardening year began — Camellia *narumigata* and Rhododendron *noleanum* started to flower, now on the 25th they are superb, and *Camellia* 'Pink Pearl' has started. Our *Echium pininatum*, *Cassinia corymbosa* and many other plants are still flowering.

Our two year old 90' long Camellia hedge has practically all plants in bud and, as these are our own cuttings from many sources, will be of great interest.

Report From Trelean

Sitting on the beach at Hunmanby Gap, East Yorkshire, way back on Whit Monday, 1933, with the girl who is now my wife, a family arrived to sit close by. As madam sat down on the sand she sharply exclaimed "Arthur! It's red 'ot down down 'ere", which is precisely what this summer's been here, on the Lizard Peninsula and keeping plants alive in the Valley Garden has been a water carrying exercise of

physical exhaustion — so be it. The rhododendrons which did well midsummer were 'Vanessa', sold to me as 'Pastel' and *griersonianum* itself, which to me has a colour of salmon pink — Scotch salmon, not John West's. Other *griersonianum* hybrids also did well, 'Fabia' and its c.v. 'Roman Pottery' and the two red coats 'Tally Ho' and 'Fusilier'. 'Tally Ho' has very attractive new growth with a soft indumentum. I've just found out that *griersonianum* has produced well over 150 hybrids and maybe this number is 'old hat' as my hybrid book is very much 1956. So let's push on — its offspring can often be recognised by its long winter bud scales extending well above the bud, finishing with little tails. Many are tall and straggling, but 'Winsome', 'May Day' and 'Elizabeth' have a nice compact habit, so let's drink a 'Tortoiseshell Champagne' toast to species *griersonianum*. What a fine hybrid is 'Naomi' and its c.v.s 'Dawn', 'Hope' & 'Glory' but 'Nautilus' is my favourite. Perhaps when 'Stella' flowers my mind will be changed; an F.C.C. is no pick up girl! Good whites are not two a penny but 'Helen Schiffner' F.C.C. with black buds is a lovely clear white tight truss. Another good mid-season white is 'Langdon'. Its habit is a bit leggy but its flowers are first class. It's one of Slocock's breeding but they have so many good fillies in their stable that they don't bother to register this one, neither do they give you the plant as you go out of Charles Hill Nursery onto Crooksbury Road.

Now for the late 'Penelope', no longer with me but some scarlet lass this one, with superb accoutrements in the form of new foliage with floccose indumentum and 'Grosclaude' is another lovely red, superb foliage with russet indumentum, both these hybrids from the Exbury stable. However, for me the species *auriculatum* and its hybrid 'Polar Bear' are both first class. The latter has such superb buds to watch and wait for, red bracts as the flower opens and then this sensuous scent wafted to you as you walk by in the cool of the July/August twilight, its tissue paper whiteness glistening. *Auriculatum* has architectural stature and character of leaf, its flowers white trumpet shape but with less scent than 'Polar Bear' and less Persil whiteness. Lend me your ear the better to recognise this species. Howarth Booth maintains it's difficult for the average bloke to grow it, since its leaves tend to scorch. Maybe his stock came from the North side of the South Col, whereas mine definitely must have come from t'other side, as the Cornish sun does not burn them up and the mahogany leaf form (new growth) is an added bonus, but don't get the red flowered form; 'Dragonfly' (× *facetum*) has a far better late pink flower. Have you noticed that the hybrid 'Princess Anne' (*Lanceanum* × *keiskei*) with lovely small yellow flowers produces autumn colour to its new growth leaves, just like *Nothofagus fusca*, except here it's the old leaves that colour. It's a New Zealander known as the Red Beech; its wood even has a red tinge and no doubt wild cats co-habit within its mighty branches! These Southern hemisphere beeches are the IN trees and should be widely planted, especially *obliqua* and *procera*, both from Chile, fast growing and well suited to replace our dead elms. The evergreen *dombeyi* grows well in Surrey and will stand up to 20° of frost before defoliation and even then leafs out again — a fine evergreen, goes like a rocket, or more in season like an Xmas cracker.

George Witherwick

The International Registration of Cultivar Names

Since 1955, the Royal Horticultural Society has been the International Registration Authority for Rhododendrons, and in 1958 The International Rhododendron Register was published. Readers of the Rhododendron & Camellia Yearbook will be familiar with the Annual List of Additions to the International Rhododendron Register, much longer than usual this year due to the inclusion of three years' U.S.A. registrations. It is understood that a new edition of the register may be expected in the foreseeable future.

For camellias, exhibitors in this country until three years

ago relied for guidance on the 'Classified List of Cultivars of *Camellia japonica*', printed every year at the back of the R.H.S. Schedule for the Camellia Competition and Show, but this list has been discontinued. Those involved in the preparation of schedules, and exhibitors missing the Classified List, have relied on the Southern California Camellia Society's 'Camellia Nomenclature', adopted as the Official Nomenclature Book of the American Camellia Society, and now revised triennially. This includes cultivars and/or hybrids named or made in this country, notably at Borde Hill, Caerhays, Tregrehan and Wisley.

The new 18th, 1984 edition just out, contains the explanation that, for the species *japonica* and *sasanqua* it only lists those cultivars that were registered or introduced during 1950 and thereafter, based upon dates shown in the 1981, 17th 'Historical Edition', except that cultivars registered and introduced prior to 1950 that are now in substantial commercial distribution in the English speaking world, or have sports that were registered or introduced during 1950 or thereafter will be listed. In such cases all related sports and synonyms will be listed for completeness. For species other than *japonica* and *sasanqua* and for hybrids, all cultivars, regardless of date of registration or introduction, will be listed. The result of this is that such well known *Camellia japonica* cultivar names as 'Contessa Lavinia Maggi', 'Devonia', 'Furoan', 'Jupiter' and 'Sylva', for which until recently the R.H.S. had special classes, are no longer to be found.

When Mr Tom Savige was its President, the International Camellia Society was appointed International Registration Authority for Camellia, and set up an Advisory Group for Nomenclature, on which the United Kingdom members are Vice-President, Mr John Tooby, and Regional Director, Mr David Trehane. Mr Tom Savige, now Patron of the Society, is the International Registrar for the genus *Camellia*.

Readers of the International Camellia Journal will be familiar with Mr Savige's erudite articles on nomenclature, and the 1984 journal contains a report from him on the compilation of the International Camellia Nomenclature List. This at present covers 22,960 entries and includes the 1983 registrations (not in the 1983 journal). A cultivar registration system is being organised by the I.C.S., and this will shortly be available for the registration of new camellia names in areas without national registration authorities. For the United Kingdom, registrations should be communicated to one the two U.K. members of the Advisory Group for Nomenclature. A footnote at p.77 of the 1984 I.C.S. Journal contains the three registrations made in 1984 (nos. 8, 9 and 10): a *reticulata* cultivar from Japan, a *japonica* from Essex, and a × *williamsii* 'Donation' mutant from Cornwall. No. 7, a miniature from Devon, was published in a similar note in the 1982 Journal. Progress indeed, if modest by comparison with the annual list of additions to the International Rhododendron Register, particularly this year.

For Magnolias, the International Registrar is Dr John M. Fogg of the Barnes Arboretum, Merion Station, Pennsylvania 19066, a past President of the American Magnolia Society. He was a co-editor of a 'Check List of the Cultivated Magnolias', which was published by the American Horticultural Society in 1975. Mr Neil G. Treseder's monograph 'Magnolias', published by Faber and Faber in collaboration with the R.H.S. in 1978, includes a very full list of the named Magnolias in cultivation.

W.M.

BOOK REVIEWS

RHODODENDRON NOTES & RECORDS. The Journal of the Rhododendron Species Foundation, Vol. I. 176 pp., 16 black & white photographs; 2 maps; 8 black & white drawings. Triad Press, Bellevue, Washington. US \$15.00. £13.50 from R.H.S. Enterprises Ltd. plus 60p p&p.

Rhododendron species lovers will welcome the appearance of the first volume of this important new annual, edited for

the Rhododendron Species Foundation by Mrs Judy Young, one of the two translators of the Chinese text of 'Rhododendrons of China', reviewed at pp. 69-70 of the 1981-82 Yearbook. David Chamberlain and Peter Cox are among the 6 members of the Editorial Advisory Board, and both have contributed short articles. Mr John Bond and Mr Davidian are among the 9 Honorary Directors of the Foundation.

Dr H. T. Skinner, a Vice-President of the R.H.S., in a 14-page contribution, explains the inconvenience caused to American nurserymen by the fact that the specific name *japonicum* had already been applied by Blume in 1826 to a rhododendron of the Ponticum series before it was suggested for an azalea by Gray in 1908.

Dr Wolfgang Spethmann of Hamburg University elaborates on a talk that he gave to the New York Conference in 1978 on how, on the basis of biochemical and anatomical evidence, the rhododendrons not belonging to subgenus *Hymenanthus* (ie. Chorus Subgenera Rhododendron and Nomazalea) might be divided into 9 subgenera. This is illustrated by a comparative table, but should not cause much anxiety to horticulturists.

There are some fine micrographs of the hairs and scales of rhododendron leaves, but the contributors question whether trichomes are a useful aid to distinguish between taxa.

Perhaps the most interesting part of this publication are translations by the Editor of three articles by Chinese botanists, published in 1981 and 1982, describing 18 new species and about the same number of new subspecies, varieties and forms. One of these articles appeared before the Edinburgh revision was completed, and 5 of the new species here described were included in Dr Chamberlain's revision of *Hymenanthus*. Ms R. C. Fang's contribution on new taxa from Yunnan has taken a different view to Dr Cullen on the status of a number of the subspecies and varieties which he described. In all three articles, in particular in Ms Fang's, it is noticeable that names have been applied to supposedly new taxa which are already associated with well known species, though in most cases these are obsolete names. This may nevertheless cause a repetition of Dr Skinner's *japonicum* problem on a wider scale.

There are accounts of a visit to Mount Omei by a Canadian party in 1981, and of the Caucasian rhododendron species by a Russian lady botanist in 1973, as well as an article by Canon Norman Crutwell, the Curator of the Lipizauga Botanical Sanctuary in Papua New Guinea, on some of the *Vireya* species there.

W.M.

THE KEW MAGAZINE, incorporating Curtis's Botanical Magazine, published by the Bentham-Moxon Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in association with Collingridge Books, and distributed by Marston Book Services Ltd., 108 Cowley Road, Oxford.

The Botanical Magazine was started in 1787 by William Curtis, author of the 'Flora Londiniensis', from his Botanic Garden at Lambeth Marsh. For some years now, it has been produced at Kew, and until recently its editor has been a member of our Group, Dr David Hunt. The editorship has now been taken over by a colleague of his, Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson and, in addition to the fine colour plates and descriptions of choice plants in cultivation, which have been the main feature of the Botanical Magazine since its foundation, there are to be articles on the conservation and ecology of plants in the wild and in cultivation.

The new magazine is to appear quarterly in future, instead of half-yearly, in February, May, August and November, and the annual subscription in the U.K. is £30. The first two numbers of Volume I appeared in April and May this year; they bear cover illustrations published in 1858 and 1871, by Walter Hood Fitch, who did most of the botanical drawings

for Bentham & Hooker's 'Handbook of the British Flora', on which so many of us probably cut our botanical teeth. Part I contains a pen portrait of him by the Editorial Assistant, herself a botanical artist.

Part I has plant portraits of six plants, including two members of the Ericaceae, *Dimorphanthera kempteriana*, a liana about which a note from Edinburgh in 'The Garden' for August attracted considerable attention; and *Rhododendron rarilepidotum* of the Javanica series (Subsect. *Euvireya*) from Sumatra. This Part has an interesting article by the Editor on the Alpine Ecology of the Barun Khola on the south east slopes of the Everest region.

Part II contains an article on the *Arisaemas* (Araceae) in cultivation with plant portraits of six of the 170 or so species. There is an article on the flowers of the Phu Luang Wildlife Sanctuary in Thailand, and the first of a series by the Editor on Plants in Peril, starting with the African Violet (*Saintpaulia*) beloved secretaries in the Civil Service.

Each Part contains Book Reviews and Readers' Letters. Contributions should be sent to the Editor at Kew, and 20 off-prints of each published paper will be supplied free of charge to each author (R.H.S. Nota Bene).

W.M.

'CAMELLIAS' by Chang Hung Ta and Bruce Bartholomew. 211 pp., and 74 plates bearing line drawings of 92 spp. B. T. Batsford Ltd., £20 carriage free to members of the International Camellia Society or £25 plus £1.98 postage and packing from R.H.S. Enterprises Ltd.

This is the Commonwealth edition of the new standard work on the genus *Camellia* for English speaking readers. It is an updated translation into English of a monograph of the genus in Chinese by Professor Chang Hung Ta, the head of the Department of Biology at Sunyatsen University in Canton, prepared in collaboration with Dr Bruce Bartholomew, Director of the Herbarium of the California Academy of Science. As with Mr Davidian's 'The Rhododendron Species', the original book was produced by Timber Press of Beaverton, Oregon, U.S.A., price \$29.95.

The book includes the original botanical Latin (with English translations) descriptions of 92 new species of *Camellia* hitherto unknown in the West, as well as shorter accounts of another 108 species already described elsewhere. A number of the new species are included among the illustrations.

The first monograph of *Camellia*, by Samuel Curtis, was dated 1819, and dealt with only two species. Cohen Stuart published a synopsis of the genus in 1916, recognising 38 species in five sections. Originally two genera were recognised by Linnaeus, *Camellia* and *Thea*, but it was later realised that the two could not be separated, and the name *Camellia* had priority. This name commemorates Georg Joseph Kamel (or Camelus), a Moravian Jesuit missionary who worked in the Philippines between 1688 and 1710, and was "well skilled in Botany".

For the last 26 years until now, the standard work on the genus has been 'A Revision of the Genus *Camellia*', published in 1958 by J. Robert Sealy of Kew, who had been Dr Otto Stapf's assistant, when the latter was Keeper of the Herbarium and Library of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Mr Sealy is the husband of the botanical artist, Stella Ross-Craig, who contributed the fine plate of *C. saluenensis*, which was the frontispiece of his monograph.

Sealy recognised 12 sections in the genus *Camellia*, covering 82 species, one of the sections being a ragbag of 10 spp. under the name 'Heterogenea'; he also listed another 24 doubtful or imperfectly known ('Dubiae'), and 10 excluded species.

The present work divides the genus into 2 subgenera, and 20 sections, covering 200 species. It retains 11 of Sealy's 12 sections, distributing the 10 species under *Heterogenea* and the 24 *Dubiae* between 8 new sections, and transferring a number of species between sections.

24 species are said to be in cultivation in the U.S.A., but there may be up to 40 being grown worldwide. Apart from the species of economic importance, *C. sinensis* (the teaplant) and *C. oleifera*, the species of ornamental value probably mostly belong to section *Camellia* (33 spp.); many of these may be of value both for their own merit as well as for breeding with horticulturally more important species, to provide either scent (*C. lutchuenensis*), greater hardiness or new colours. In the race to produce a yellow formal double (which has now perhaps been achieved with 'Nuccio's Golden Anniversary', a pure *japonica*), it is interesting that the initial results of 11 years of experiments at Kunming Botanical Garden, using *C. chrysantha* pollen to hybridise with *C. reticulata*, *C. japonica* and *C. saluenensis* cultivars, have been disappointing. The authors suggest that this may be because *C. chrysantha* belongs to subgenus *Thea*, and that more satisfactory results could be obtained using pollen from the smaller-flowered *C. luteoflora*, which does belong to subgenus *Camellia*, though to section *Luteoflora*.

W.M.

International Rhododendron Union

The following notice has been received from Ralph Sangster, a member of the Group living in Australia, who is Chairman of the I.R.U. Steering Committee. It is not yet clear whether the Royal Horticultural Society as a body will seek membership.

At the last International Rhododendron Conference, at Edinburgh 1982, delegates passed a resolution to form an International Rhododendron Organisation. A steering committee was set up with the task to get the organisation "off the ground". This committee has produced a proposed organisation, constitution and membership for an international body and their proposal will be put forward for approval at the first members' general meeting to be held in conjunction with the International Rhododendron Conference at Seattle, U.S.A. on May 1st, 1985.

The organisation is to be known as the International Rhododendron Union. Briefly it is to provide a communication centre which will receive and distribute information relating to the Genus *Rhododendron* from national societies, research institutions, botanic gardens, etc.

The organisation's objectives are:

1. To provide an international forum for communication about the genus *rhododendron*.
2. The collation, indexing and distribution of literature relating to *rhododendron*.
3. To encourage (a) exploration and introduction of new plant material from the wild (b) research relating to *rhododendron* (c) preservation of the *rhododendron* habitat.

A simple organisational structure is proposed and which will rely on enthusiastic members to provide management services on an honorary basis with some paid secretarial assistance.

Membership will be open to national societies, institutions and individuals interested in the genus *rhododendron*. The annual expenditure is estimated at U.S. \$5000. To achieve this financial figure, the proposed annual dues set are: US

\$0.5 levy on society membership, US \$45 for institutions and US \$15 for individuals.

The boards of the National Societies of America, Australia, Germany, Japan and Canada have indicated their support in principle to the formation of an International Rhododendron Union.

Application for membership is now open and by becoming a member you will have the opportunity of obtaining information and to be part of an international organisation whose activities are related to literature, research, plant exploration, etc. of the Genus *Rhododendron*.

Membership requests should be addressed to the Hon. Membership Secretary, International Rhododendron Union, c/o 67 Strabane Avenue, Box Hill North, Australia 3129. Send no cash with your membership application. An invoice for your membership fee will be sent to you after the members' meeting of May 1st 1985.

International Rhododendron Species Symposium

An International Rhododendron Species Symposium is to be held April 29 and 30, 1985 at Tacoma, Washington, USA. The meeting will be hosted by the Rhododendron Species Foundation. It will be held at the Executive Inn, Tacoma, Washington, about five miles from the Foundation's Garden.

Over twenty contributors from fifteen different countries, including USSR and mainland China, are scheduled to participate. Topics of discussion include taxonomy, classification adjustment in co-ordination with horticultural organisations, acclimatisation, garden and planting designs, establishing species collections, propagation and collecting in the wild.

The Symposium will be held prior to the American Rhododendron Society National Convention and has been co-ordinated with that meeting.

For information and registration data, contact: Rhododendron Species Foundation, P.O. Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98063-3798 Telephone (206) 927-6960 or (206) 838-4646.

Rhododendron Classification

In a recent review of Tam Puicheung's 'Survey of the Genus *Rhododendron* in South China', it was mentioned that the revised classification of certain elepidote subgenera (included by Dr Seithe in the Chorus Subgenerum *Nomazalea*) did not seem to have appeared yet in this country.

I have now been sent from Edinburgh a photocopy of Part III of the Preliminary Synopsis of the Genus *Rhododendron* by the Philipsons, published in the Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Vol. 40 in 1982. This covers six subgenera and nine sections, in addition to the subgenera *Rhododendron* and *Hymenanthes* previously published.

Apart from the *Azaleas*, these subgenera are mostly small, and as several botanists have suggested different status for them since Sleumer published his classification in 1949, members of the Group may find it useful to know the revised position under the Edinburgh classification given to some of the more obscure series listed at pp. 68-99 of the *Rhododendron Handbook*, 1980, and not considered to belong to subgenera *Rhododendron* or *Hymenanthes*.

Albiflorum series	subgenus <i>Candidastrum</i>
Camtschaticum series	subgenus <i>Therorhodion</i>
Ovatum series	subgenus <i>Azaleastrum</i>
	section <i>Azaleastrum</i>
Stamineum series	section <i>Choniastrum</i>
Semibarbatum series	subgenus <i>Mumeazalea</i> .

The *Azalea* series come under two subgenera:

- (1) *Pentanthera* (*Pseudanthodendron*, *Sleumer*), comprising four sections:
Section *Pentanthera*, equivalent to the *Luteum* subseries

Section *Rhodora*, covering *R. canadense* and *R. vaseyi* of the *Canadense* subseries

Section *Viscidula*, covering the *Nipponicum* subseries (1 species), and

Section *Sciadorhodon*, covering 2 species each from the *Canadense* and the *Schlippenbachii* subseries

and

(2) *Tsutsusi* (*Anthodendron*, *Reichenbachii*), not yet revised, but comprising three sections:

Section *Tsutsusi*, equivalent to the *Obtusum* subseries

Section *Brachycalyx*, covering the remaining ten species of the *Schlippenbachii* subseries

Section *Tsusiopsis* (type species *R. tashiroi*).

The controversially named *R. japonicum* (Gray) Suringar, formerly *R. molle* Sieb. & Zucc., of such concern to American nurserymen, re-appears as *R. glabrius* Nakai in Section *Pentanthera*.

W.M.

Bulletin No. 28 Due End March 1985.

The last date for receipt of material for inclusion in this issue is 10th March 1985.

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

Spring Tour 1985, May 10th-16th

The tour will cover parts of Devon, Somerset and Dorset. Brief details of the Gardens to be visited are set out here. Hotels have had accommodation reserved, one in south-west Devon and the other in south-east Devon. Full details of the tour will be sent to members who complete the form below.

THE GARDENS

1. **The Garden House**, The Fortescue Garden Trust, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton Devon. An 8-acre garden including a 2-acre walled garden, one of the finest in the country. Fine collections of herbaceous and woody plants, many of which are for sale. Fine collection of rhododendrons.

2. **Pound House**, Yelverton. The woodland garden of the Earl of Morley, covering several acres of level ground. Under the care of Lord Morley's brother, Brigadier Robin Parker, part of this woodland has been planted out with an interesting collection of rhododendrons, shrubs and specimen trees.

3. **Woodland Grove**, Bovey Tracey. Major Dick Reynolds owns 22-acres of woodland here, and has planted out several acres of rhododendrons and associated plants. Major Reynolds has also a rhododendron nursery as a very going concern. He is the Branch Organiser for the South West. There are superb views from the garden of beautiful wooded Devon hills.

4. **Bickham House**, Yelverton. Home of Lord and Lady Roborough. Lady Roborough is now a member of our Group and is a very keen plantswoman. Bickham House has a lovely shrub garden with camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, cherries, bulbs and trees, with lovely views.

5. **Uphill**, Yelverton. This garden is owned by Mr Alexander Craig-Mooney, a member of the Group. Although comparatively small, it has some interesting rhododendrons, including a fair proportion from Glendoick. It is only a short distance from the Moorland Links Hotel.

6. **Killerton House** near Exeter (National Trust). 15 acres of hillside garden sweep down to large open lawns; the many vantage points afford splendid views of the Clyst and Culm valleys; delightful walks through rare trees and shrubs, including magnolias, azaleas, cork oaks and conifers.

7. **Knightshayes Court** near Tiverton, Devon. Presented to the National Trust in 1972 by Sir John Heathcote-Amory, much of the present planting and planning of the gardens

was carried out by Sir John himself together with his wife, Lady Amory (well known to an earlier generation as Joyce Wethered, the lady golf champion). Since then the head gardener, Michael Hickson, has continued the work begun in 1963. The woodland is full of fascinating rhododendrons, camellias and many fine and unusual trees. Walled gardens near the house present an interesting display of herbaceous plants.

8. **Clapton Court** near Crewkerne, Somerset. A lovely and interesting 10-acre garden comprising formal and woodland, (that won the Open Garden Prize of the Wilkinson Sword Gardens Award) has been developed beautifully over the last few years by Capt. Simon Loder. There are over 120 different rhododendrons, both species, and hybrids, as well as azaleas and some 80 camellias. The woodland boasts the largest Ash tree in Great Britain and there are many trees of botanical interest.

Capt. Loder also keeps a well-stocked Plant Centre, offering many of the more unusual plants.

9. **18-acres at Wayford**, near Crewkerne. (Wayford Rhododendron Wood). This woodland once belonged to Wayford Manor, and has been developed over the last 20 years by Mr M. L. Belfield and his sister. There is a large collection of rhododendrons planted in 1925-28, and Mr Belfield has the original records of these. Some of the original plants came from Lamellen, Walter Magor's home. Many have lost their labels, and Mr Belfield is hoping that some of our members may help in identifying species and perhaps hybrids. This is a collection of great interest.

10. **Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens** mid-way between Bridport and Weymouth, Dorset. The hills around Abbotsbury afford shelter from the colder winds, while south-westerlies from the sea are reduced by a deep shelter-belt of *Quercus ilex*. The sea itself exerts a moderating effect on temperature, frosts being rare. All these factors result in a climate which nurtures the more tender species and encourages lush growth. Mr John Kelly, who has been curator for the last five years, has been carrying out some exciting developments in the 16 or so acres. An especially interesting feature of the gardens is the large number of very old camellias, which have grown to a great size. Mr Kelly has added to the number and variety of rhododendrons, as well as introducing many unusual plants. There are some very good *R. arboreum*, with flowers of a deep, rich red. This is a very exciting garden.

11. **Minterne** near Cerne Abbas, Dorset. Home of Lord Digby, who with Lady Digby has continued to develop this fine garden of 29 acres. There is a notable collection of Himalayan and Chinese rhododendrons and azaleas, and also Japanese cherry walks at their best in late April or early May. Lord and Lady Digby have opened up parts of the woodland to reveal lovely vistas, and are constantly extending the plantings of interesting species. They have great plans for further projects.

12. **Fernwood** near Ottery St. Mary, Devon. The home of Mr and Mrs Hollinrake, members of the Group. The 2-acre woodland garden has been developed over the last 20 years. Mr Hollinrake has experimented with the hybridising of rhododendrons, producing some very interesting variants.

Group Tour 1985, Devon, Somerset & Dorset

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Please send me more details of the Tour. (The Gardens are set out in the November Bulletin). I enclose large s.a.e. for reply.

Signature _____ Date _____

To: Hon. Tours Secretary, "Starveacre", Dalwood, E. Devon, EX13 7HH.