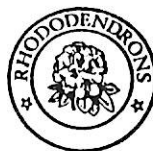


# The Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group



BULLETIN No. 48 - December 1991

## Forthcoming Events

January 28-29	Ornamental Plant Competition	April 28	Group A.G.M. 4.30pm Committee Room, Vincent Sq.
February 18-19	Ornamental Plant Competition	April 28-29	Main Rhododendron Competition; Late Daffodil Competition; Tulip Competition
March 10-11	Early Camellia Competition; Early Rhododendron Competition; Ornamental Plant Competition	May 7-11	Group Spring Tour (see Text)
March 27-29 (Approx)	Group Early Spring Visit (see text)		
April 7-8	Main Camellia Competition; Ornamental Plant Competition; Daffodil Show		

All competitions and shows at Vincent Square

## Chairman's Notes

Members of the Group may be interested to learn the latest news about the Seed Exchange which, regrettably, had to be abandoned so that no exchange took place this year. Happily, a new exchange is in course of preparation with a very generous gift of seed from Chris Brickell from his collection in Yunnan and this, together with other seed from collections of this year's harvest is being organised with the help of Ness Botanic Garden and it is hoped that a list will be circulated soon.

It is with great regret that the Executive Committee has received from the Bulletin Editor a request that, due to pressure of other work, he does not feel able to continue after this issue. We are all very appreciative of the hard work involved and for the excellent results that Geoff Taylor has attained. Our grateful thanks go to him for a job well done.

This retirement will leave a vacancy for the editorship of the Bulletin and if any member would like to take on this very worthwhile job would they please get in touch with the Chairman as soon as possible.

It might be an appropriate time to remind members that the Bulletin is not only for information but also for their use, and articles, comments etc. are always welcomed by the Editor.

B.A.

## Editorial Note

Although I shall not be editing the April issue of the Bulletin, communications may be forwarded to my address and will be passed on to whoever is taking over.

G.H.T.

## Hon. Secretary — Change of Address

Please note that John and Josephine Warren are now residing at the following address:

Netherton, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7NL. Tel: Yelverton (0822) 854022

## An Early Spring Visit to Hergest Croft Gardens

During our visit to Hergest this autumn, we were told that the gardens are very beautiful in the Spring, so I am planning a weekend visit in late March, probably 27-29th.

Mr Richard Banks has written to me to say that while the azaleas are a wonderful sight at the end of May, March is the time for 'rhodo buffs'. He says the early blooms can be spectacular and ethereal as one looks through the leafless oaks to ever more distant splashes of colour, and there is a good set of buds for next Spring. Some of the early rhododendrons to be seen are *R. thomsonii* hybrids, *R. shilsonii*, *R. sutchuenense* and others.

If you are interested in joining a small party for this weekend, let me know and when all the arrangements are finalised I will send you details. (s.a.e. please).

Valerie Archibold

## Spring Tour: 7-11 May, 1992

Last year (1990), after the S.W. Scotland tour I called at Achnacloich at Connel, near Oban. It has now been taken over by a young head gardener who has made impressive progress in the garden. The Group visited this garden last in 1979, so this will be included in the programme. Also included will be Brodick Castle on the Isle of Arran, an outstanding

rhododendron garden and Glenarn at Rhu near Helensburgh which is such a wonderful garden that although we saw it three years ago, is well worth seeing again.

We will meet on the first night at the Commodore Toby Hotel, Helensburgh, leave our cars there next morning and continue by coach. We shall call at Glenarn in time for coffee, also have lunch there and continue on after lunch to the main hotel at Loch Melfort for a stay of four nights. Those who came on the tour in 1979 will remember that we stayed at this hotel and found it very comfortable. All the rooms I think overlook the loch; it is a beautiful situation.

While we are there we shall visit a few of the smaller gardens, including Drumnell House at Port Appin which belongs to Mrs J. Glaisher. This is a 10-acre garden overlooking Loch Linnhe with many varieties of mature trees and rhododendrons. It is planned to visit one or two other local gardens. Arduaine Gardens are next door to the hotel, so we shall certainly visit this famous rhododendron garden (now taken over by the National Trust for Scotland).

We will probably visit Brodick on the last full day, but return to the hotel at Loch Melfort and proceed back to Helensburgh the next morning to collect our cars.

Because of the size of the Melfort Hotel, numbers will be limited. The cost where two persons are sharing a room will be about £350.00 per head; there will be an additional supplement for single rooms. This sum will include hotel accommodation, all meals, coach, present to garden owners, etc.

If you are interested in joining the party please send a stamped, address envelope for final details, to me to: **Starveacre, Dalwood, nr. Axminster, Devon, EX13 7HH. Tel: (040488) 221** and include a deposit of £40.00 per person, returnable if all the places have been filled.

With compliments from your Hon. Tour Organiser (Mrs) Valerie Archibold.

## The Autumn Weekend (October 25-27, 1991)

About twenty members of the Group met at Glen Usk Hotel at Llandrindod Wells on Friday evening for our annual autumn weekend. We had a happy time renewing old friendships and welcoming three newcomers. After dinner we held an informal meeting to discuss Group affairs, including next year's plans for the Spring tour.

Saturday morning saw us transfer to the Metropole Hotel, just opposite Glen Usk (the Metropole had no room for us on the Friday). We were kindly given the use of a conference room for our plant sale (in aid of Group funds) and a rhododendron quiz kindly arranged by John and Margaret Bodenham. Prizes of plants were generously donated by John Bodenham to the winners of the quiz, in this case Stephen Fox and Bruce Archibold.

The morning passed pleasantly and we were joined by two or three local members. After a light lunch we all set off for Staunton Park at Staunton-on-Arrow, owned by Mr E. J. L. and Miss A. Savage. This 14-acre landscaped park contains many classical features and some excellent specimen trees, including a quite enormous *Liriodendron tulipifera*. There is a large lawn, lake, dovecote, ha-ha, ice-house and rockery with fountain and clipped yews. This garden has been open to the public for one year only and was worth seeing for the classical architectural features.

After about an hour, we left Staunton Park for Croft Castle. This has a



traditional estate garden with formal beds, a walled garden and also a fine avenue of Spanish chestnuts. The main interest in this case was the house, which had been carefully refurbished under the auspices of the National Trust.

The most exciting visit of the weekend was on the Sunday morning when we set off for Hergest Croft gardens near Kington in Herefordshire. Hergest Croft has been owned by the Banks family for nearly one hundred years and has been developed by three generations of enthusiastic plantmen. Mr and Mrs Richard Banks very kindly took us over the gardens. Since 1988, these have been largely taken over by their son Lawrence who is continuing the work with the help of his wife Elizabeth, who practises as a landscape architect.

We saw some beautiful autumn colour shown by such trees as *Acer palmatum* 'Senkaki', *Acer nikoense*, the latter a brilliant glowing red and orange fruits on *Viburnum opulus* 'Compactum'. In the Maple Grove we saw some lovely colour in *Sorbus cashmiriana*, *Sorbus hupehensis* and *Sorbus prattii* which provided contrasting pink and white berries. We rather concentrated on Park Wood, an old oak and beech wood, which has a valley in the centre. This engenders a microclimate in which grow an amazing variety of rare trees and rhododendrons.

There is also a new area of young plantings sloping down the hill towards the house. One's eye was immediately caught by an *Acer davidii* where large leaves had turned a marvellous honey gold. There were many young other plantings of birch and various conifers, and this should be spectacular area in a few years' time.

We presented the garden with *Cornus* 'Eddie's White Wonder' and after thanking Mr and Mrs Banks we left for lunch at Kington. At the Burton Hotel, we ate a most delicious freshly prepared meal, which made a fitting finish to a very happy weekend before we left for our various homes.

V.A.

#### Camellia Register Offer extended until 31st December 1991

Since the Pre-Publication Offer for the International Camellia Register was announced, the Registrar, Tom Savige, has suffered two breakdowns of his word-processor. As he has been using it for up to 70 hours a week, this is perhaps not surprising! Also, Shinji Shinoda, who has been working on the correct transliterations of oriental names, has found that this is taking longer than he expected. Consequently publication will be delayed for at least three months, so the Pre-Publication Offer is being left open until December 31st, 1991.

Good progress has been maintained since March; over half the text and the colour slides are already with the publisher and most of the rest will follow in October. Everything is now on course for publication early next year and distribution to subscribers in the U.K. around April, 1992.

It is a remarkable bargain at the Pre-Publication price of £42 post free to subscribers in the U.K. and Channel Islands, and should be snapped up while the Offer is still open. From 1st January 1992 it will be £60 + postage (now £5.35). It will comprise two handsome volumes, each of 1300 pages, it will list 32,000 names with original descriptions, references to breeders, history and synonyms and will end with an appendix of oriental names and their correct transliterations. It is going to be indispensable for all camellia growers who want to put correct and correctly spelt names on their camellias. Orders for the Register should be sent to John Tooby, Acorns, Chapel Lane, Bransford, Worcester WR6 5JG. Cheques should be made payable to International Camellia Register.

In an item published in a local Albury newspaper, Jacinta Ryan describes how Tom Savige, a self-exiled Englishman in Australia, has devoted over ten years of his life to the preparation of this masterpiece, sacrificing much of his gardening time for the project. Fortunately, his wife Olive has stepped into that breach, but even after publication her services may again be required on the gardening front as Tom starts work on another volume, this time for the everyday gardener and doubtless we shall all look forward to seeing a new popular camellia work on our shelves.

#### Books

With little in the way of new titles about, members may be interested to know that Book Lists have been received as follows:

Comprehensive list of titles in both English and German on the subjects of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias from:

Dieter Ohrnberger,  
Skalitzer Str. 43, D-1000 Berlin 36,  
Federal Republic of Germany.

General list of horticultural volumes from:  
Timber Press Inc.,  
Portland,  
Oregon, USA.

#### Prospects for an exciting holiday break in Holland - Floriade 1992

Held only once every ten years, a floral spectacular will be staged close to

the town of Zoetermeer, near the Hague, where hotel accommodation is available in package style embracing travel from Britain and an attractive itinerary of visits. With tours ranging from three to five days in duration, the prices are quite moderate and full details are obtainable from: Independent Coach Travel, Studios 20/21, Colman's Wharf, 45 Morris Road, London, E14 6PA. Tel: 071 538 4629.

#### The Rhododendron Leaf

The Wessex Branch have purchased a Video Tape on the Rhododendron Leaf, produced by the 'Friends of the Garden', University of British Columbia.

Any other Branch of the Group wishing to hire this interesting 20-min tape should apply to Lady Adam Gordon, Hethersett, Littleworth Cross, Seale, Surrey, GU10 1JL. The price of hiring for a week is £10 excluding postage and packing.

#### BRANCH NEWS

##### North West and North Wales

This Branch started its second year of activity with a demonstration of grafting given by Mr Gordon Lamming of Morreys, following the A.G.M. held at Ness Gardens in February. We subsequently visited gardens in Lancashire and in Wirral during May.

On May 11th, after unpromising early morning weather, some 25 of us spent a very pleasant and interesting day visiting three fellow-members' gardens in South Lancashire, two in the depths of the country, and the third on the outskirts of Bolton.

We met at Peter and Beryl Bland's near Inglewhite, east of Preston. Their 2-acre garden is quite exciting with a deep dell on one side, and a broadish wooded glen, complete with small river, on the other. A wide range of plants was to be seen, but the obvious favourites were rhododendrons, with an emphasis on the species. We enjoyed *R. augustinii*, *oreotrephes*, *wardii*, *haematodes*, *neriflorum* and *yakushimanum*, to name but a few among the medium-sized species. Perched on the lip of the dell was a fine plant of *R. campanulatum* 'Knap Hill' with its delightful lilac blue bells; such an unusual colour for that species. The smaller hybrids, such as 'Temple Bell', 'Elisabeth Hobbie' and 'Hawk Crest', were also well represented, as were the dwarfs. A wide range of the larger species were to be seen in the Glen, such as *Rr. falconeri*, *arizelum* and *calophytum*. One of the problems with Peter and Beryl's garden is exposure to wind which makes life difficult for the larger species. In the nursery area, fine plastic netting provides very significant protection. Other problems are a heavy clay soil, and the browsing activities of deer! Peter is very successful in raising his own plants from seed and by cuttings — we all admired his well populated nursery area. Beryl is particularly interested in saxifrages and is currently building up and caring for a collection (under the aegis of the Saxifraga Group) of the Section Ligulatae.

Around midday we drove through lovely unspoiled and hilly farmland to Cow Ark (quite an evocative place name!) in the Clitheroe region, where Philip and Joan Lord have a large wooded glen all to themselves. This very large garden, 6½ acres, is absolutely wonderful, with long and varied perspectives along sloping lawns and shrubberies, a wooded deep 'gorge' with a torrent which can at times sweep bridges (small wooden ones) away, winding paths with hundreds of steps up and down steep slopes — the mind boggles at the vast amount of hard physical labour which after some 15 years has converted a briar-scrub wilderness into this lovely and very natural park. One has too admire the vision and landscape sense with which the Lords have shaped their garden. Among a full range of tree and shrub genera and an abundance of herbaceous plants here too the emphasis is on rhododendrons with many of the larger species beginning to reach early maturity. In this brief report one can only indicate a few of the highlights we enjoyed on that sunny afternoon, such as the airy and delicate beauty of *R. vaseyi*, the relatively rare sight of a *R. bureavii* in full flower; the *R. augustinii* were over, but a gorgeous *R. cinnabarinum* 'Royley' was in full purplish red flower. Notable was a large *Magnolia* × *loebneri* 'Merrill'.

In the late afternoon we drove to the foot of Winter Hill near Bolton to Florence and Geoffrey Auckland's garden. This is a spacious rectangle on a south facing slope, and over many years has evolved into a pleasantly leafy garden, with a good range of habitats. It is chock-full of interesting plants, with a definite penchant for the smaller and dwarf rhododendrons. It was exciting to learn that the collection contains no less than 100 or so rhododendron species, not counting subspecies and varieties — an amazing concentration! Particularly well represented are the Laponica and Triflora sub-sections, each with a dozen species: very interesting were *Rr. yungningense*, *telmateium*, *intricatum*, *trichanthum* and *tatsienense*. All three species in the Arborea are there, *Rr. arboreum*, *lanigerum* and *niveum*, albeit as youngish plants; also well represented is the Pontica, with *Rr. hyperythrum*, sub-section *brachycarpum*, *japonicum*, *yakushimanum* and its



subsp. *makinoi*, and the interesting dwarf carpeting *aureum*, which in the wild covers vast tracts of moorland in Northeast Asia. In tubs on the terrace, getting some warmth and shelter from the house but exposed to much of the weather, are *R. lindleyi* and *edgeworthii*, both of which grow and flower well. The garden also contains several *Magnolia* spp., *M. denudata*, *kobus*, *wilsonii*, *stellata* and *soulangeana*. Add to these a full range of familiar and unfamiliar garden plants, and you will understand that our interest was still being vigorously stimulated! Thank you the Blands, the Lords, and the Aucklands for your kind hospitality and for a memorable day in May.

G.F.S.

A week later, on Sunday 19th, May, we visited three Wirral gardens owned by Group members.

Beginning at the garden of Mr & Mrs J. Harsant, Newton House, Heswall, plants in varying stages of development were seen. The entrance area supported a range of mature plants and adjacent were plants rapidly approaching maturity. Here a fine specimen of the azalea 'Robert Whelan' displayed its pale yellow scented flowers. The views from the garden to the Dee Estuary are a reminder of the coastal climate enjoyed by this garden and we were not surprised to see thriving plants of *R. edgeworthii* and *R. burmanicum*. Striking contrast was provided by the bright red flowers of *R. 'May Day'* and the rich purple of *R. russatum*. Newer plantings included some American hybrids and well flowered specimens of *R. yakushmanum* hybrids.

The garden of Mr & Mrs H. B. Chrimes, Brackenbank, Heswall was visited by the Group in 1984 and the plant of *Magnolia* 'Heaven Scent', then presented to them, carried the remainder of this season's flowers. *R. 'Cornish Cross'* and *R. 'Penjerrick'* had passed their peak but *R. 'Loderi Venus'* and *R. 'Loderi King George'* were at the peak of their display. Established specimens of *R. luteum* scented the air and provided contrast for orange and pink azalea cultivars. Members noted an outstanding form of *R. yunnanense* in full flower. The great splashes of colour in the valley planting can be viewed with great advantage from the elevated terrace and camera shutters were duly operated to record the scene.

Recent plantings included groups of Pratt's late flowering hybrid azaleas.

The final garden was at the home of Mr and Mrs J. K. Hulme, Treshnish, Neston. The garden has only recently been planted. Young plants were interspersed by a few mature specimens transferred from the garden of a late alpine plant enthusiast. These included *R. luteiflorum* which promises a supply of propagation material and a promising plant of *R. 'Blewbury'*. Plants of *R. trichostomum*, *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy' and *R. cephalanthum* which came from Dr. Ian Wilson, and *R. pemakoense* and *Pieris 'Little Heath'* from John Harsant are a reminder of the plant exchange activity which takes place among members.

Good young plants of *R. proteoides* and azalea 'Summer Fragrance' (*R. luteum* × *R. occidentale*) came from Ness Gardens.

J.K.H.

### South West Wales

On 27th April, a good turnout of members gathered at Gelli Deg, home to two members. In fine sunny weather we strolled around the walled garden, once reserved for vegetable culture, but now a sheltered haven for many exotic plants.

In the woodland garden, many large rhododendrons were flowering, while around the ruined mansion, representatives of the sub-section Triflora presented a wonderful display with *R. 'St. Tudy'* being particularly fine, whilst *Magnolia 'Leonard Messel'* was exquisitely beautiful. Adjacent to the old mansion the remains of a conservatory were utilised to cultivate quite tender specialities planted in the original stone troughs and protected each winter with cut branches of *R. ponticum*, surely a noble use for a disdained member of the genus.

Before enjoying tea on the terrace, members spent a considerable time in the curator's own garden, where many quite unusual representatives of well known genera mingle with better known plants.

A fortnight later, we met in the morning at Bryn Ingli near to Newport. Home of another member, who had initially protested that little time would be required to see his garden, but in fact members required cajoling into leaving for the luncheon venue. An example to all, Bryn Ingli is a garden of only two years standing, but already full of interest and fascinating plants. It was particularly interesting to see a display of photographs depicting early days with a mechanical digger at work.

After enjoying a satisfactory repast at The Harp, Letterston, we went on to Picton Castle, where we were conducted around the garden by the curator. With the display possibly at its best, we could admire the towering specimens of *R. yunnanense* and those innumerable home-produced seedling rhododendrons presenting lofty spectacles of colour. Of particular

note, *R. 'Jock'* evoked considerable comment. Not freely available, *R. 'Jock'* (*R. griersonianum* × *R. williamsianum*) was registered in 1939 by Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollock Park, Glasgow. Sir John did not distribute his hybrids widely and one is left to conjecture how 'Jock' arrived in West Wales.

With another fine day on May 18th, a party assembled at Pant-yr-Holliad Garden, where among the many rhododendrons in bloom, the scarlet pillar of *R. 'Cinnkeys'* perhaps stole the show. Due to the lateness of the season, many camellias sported flowers, which looked particularly attractive in the dappled sunshine of the woodland garden.

Following postponement of a week because of lateness of flowering, we met at Plas Glanrhyd near Cydweli on the first day of June. In this old garden, we admired the renovation work achieved by our hosts in a matter of just a few years. A garden of some size, the layout boasts many attractive facets such as fast running streams and extensive woodland areas graced with carpets of snowdrops and bluebells. Amongst the fine old trees, we admired the many elderly rhododendrons, identifying some and reserving judgement on others. Evidence of very early planting, an old specimen of *R. maximum* greeted us at one spot, while as the path petered out, we were informed that the remainder, a forest of lofty rhododendrons, had yet to be explored in detail. Finally, we enjoyed visiting the walled garden before being invited to the house for tea.

On October 19th, a gathering of members enjoyed a lecture at Post House Gardens. Given by Ivor Stokes of Swansea, this was a feast of colour as the pictorial history of Clyne Castle Gardens unfolded. Well known to all of us present, it was so refreshing to hear Ivor enthusing over a subject dear to his heart. Besides the horticultural aspects, the speaker touched on some very interesting points concerning the history of Clyne before the acquisition by the City of Swansea.

The evening concluded with refreshments kindly provided by our hosts and over cups of tea and coffee, discussion continued unabated until quite a late hour.

### South East

On Friday, 8th November, a lecture entitled 'Clyne and its plants' was scheduled to be held at the tea rooms of Heaslands Gardens by kind permission of Mr Kleinwort. Given by Mr Ivor Stokes of Swansea City Horticulture and Leisure Department, this talk had every ingredient for success.

### Wessex

On 25th October, John Sanders, a renowned expert in the field was scheduled to be talking on the subject of 'Ericas and Dwarf Rhododendrons', while a month later on 22nd November, a members' slide evening was to be held at Crosswater Farm, home of Mr and Mrs Millais in Farnham.

## NOTES FROM MEMBERS ON GROUP GENERA

### A Case History of Suspended Animation

1990: In the hot and dry summer, a ten-year-old *R. sanguinum* subsp. *didimum* suffered badly, although I had tried to keep the plant watered. Very few flower buds opened and the new growth, appearing from just behind, grew about one inch, but did not open. Other flower and leaf buds failed to open, but the plant continued to have life, if but a scant amount. Most of the leaves remained in place, but with browned tips for about one third of the leaf area. Autumn 1990: I transplanted it into a half-barrel in soil mixed with liberal amounts of compost and leafmould.

Autumn-Winter 1990: i.s.q. i.e. looking very miserable.

About March 1991: Somehow looked more alive — difficult to describe.

April-May 1991: Flower buds that should have opened the previous year started to swell and the growth of last year began to extend.

June 1991: A year late, six flower buds opened irregularly presenting misshapen flowers and leaves opened from the growth of last year, (those growths from behind the flower buds opening in 1990).

9th, July 1991: The six trusses were dead-headed. Much new growth had occurred with both that from behind the flower buds (a) and from the non-flowering shoots (b), distinguishable by the ring of scales remaining halfway up the stems of (b).

26th, July 1991: New growth buds showing green behind the spent flowers (c).

11th, August 1991: The plant now displayed newly opened leaves at three stages of growth — a, b, and c, as above. Incidentally, some old leaves remained in place.

Late August 1991: Now looking a healthy plant, three flower buds were developing, two on (a) growth and one on (b). Low down on the old branches, new growth had commenced to break.

18th, September 1991: An account written with some difficulty as I have



my fingers crossed for the health of *R. sanguinum* subsp. *didimum*!

Note: Situated on the north west edge of Bolton, our garden is about 600ft above sea level. During the 30 years we have lived here, I have tried to modify the heavy clay soil, with varying degrees of success.

Florence H. Auckland (Dr.)

#### Delving into the Past

In 1875, W. Binder of Kew crossed *R. griffithianum* with a 'poor form' of *R. fortunei* to produce the hybrid 'Kewense', a plant of which still survives in the dell at Kew Gardens.

Some 25 years later, Sir Edmund Loder selected the best forms of *R. griffithianum* and *R. fortunei* to produce the famous 'Loderi' grex, taxonomically correctly recorded as *R. 'Kewense Loderi'*, exhibiting larger foliage and flowers than the original 'Kewense'. *R. 'Kewense'* was quite possibly produced as a grex with distribution of seedlings, but nowhere is to be found the quality of 'Loderi'.

Presumably using good forms of each species, the cross has been repeated many times, but never with the success attending Sir Edmund Loder's work. Suggested by some horticulturists, 'Loderi' qualities might depend on the selection of subsequent generations from the first cross, but all the well known named forms of 'Loderi' currently offered by Leonardslee are warranted from first generation stock, so that argument is spurious.

For an outstanding form of *R. fortunei*, we must look to the named clone 'Mrs Butler', but this one has almost certainly been tried in efforts to duplicate the 'Loderi' story, without success and it seems unlikely that this clone was selected when Sir Edmund was hybridising.

In Pant-yr-Holiad Garden (West Wales), a batch of hand pollinated seedlings originating from a quite ordinary type species (now sadly no more) of *R. fortunei* has yielded one specimen which to the uninitiated appears to be a 'Loderi'. Is it possible that Sir Edmund raised a batch of seedlings from seed possibly collected in the Lu Shan valley in China, where *R. decorum* does not present hybridisation problems and selected the best of these as his starting block in the 'Loderi' story?

On the *R. griffithianum* side we have a problem in differentiating between

the original introduction and that of Sir Joseph Hooker who named his discovery as *R. aucklandii*, later to be declared a form of *griffithianum* with herbarium specimens showing no significant difference. Yet, Griffith describes his Bhotan find to be of small tree proportions, while Hooker's specimens in Sikkim were always of bush stature.

Writing around 1882, J. H. Mangles records that in his opinion, Griffith's specimen was never introduced, all stock emanating from seed sent home by Hooker, who described the plant in glowing terms when writing his Himalayan Journals. Found in Sikkim, his *R. aucklandii* did exhibit differences, particularly in flower size and truss numbers and in general it seems that seed was collected from large flowered sorts.

At Kew, Mangles records that among differences in the seedlings originating from Hooker's collections, the calyx may vary from green to pink, so did Sir Edmund Loder gain much of the colour variations in *R. 'Kewense Loderi'* from judicious use of *R. griffithianum*, possibly with selfing of seedlings to produce his stock plant?

Records are sparse and one may only ponder on the conundrum of why *R. 'Kewense'* was so inferior to *R. 'Kewense Loderi'* and why the many subsequent crossings of *R. griffithianum* and *R. fortunei* have yielded such disappointing results. Perhaps the answer lies in Sir Edmund Loder's own words that only the very best forms of species were suitable for use in hybridising — salutary remarks for the consideration of hybridisers today.

J. S. Mangles pleaded that efforts should be made to produce a race of *R. aucklandii* sufficiently hardy for outdoor cultivation in the British Isles. Sir Edmund Loder gave us a selection of hybrids surpassing either parent in beauty, while J. S. Mangles himself produced the *R. griffithianum* cross 'George Hardy' which is considered to be a parent of 'Pink Pearl', too well known and revered to warrant further words.

For my own contribution to the Loderi story, I have planted in a woodland clearing within Pant-yr-Holiad Garden, *R. 'Kewense Loderi'*, 'Game Chick', one of the strongest coloured clones, flanked by a good form of *R. griffithianum* and *R. fortunei* (Lu Shan seedling) and leave others to ponder on the miracle.

Geoff H. Taylor