

International Camellia Journal

Vol. 1

No. 3

May
1965



'ELEGANT BEAUTY'

An Official Publication of the
International Camellia Society

The International Camellia Society and Camellia Nomenclature

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AN important objective of the International Camellia Society is better worldwide camellia nomenclature. Camellia enthusiasts live in the temperate zones around the earth. New seedlings, new mutants, new interspecific hybrids are originated each year in points as far apart as Australia and the eastern coast of the United States; England and Japan, Portugal and New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia and California. Many of these countries have their own camellia societies and some of them undertake the registration of camellias originating in their own areas.

But unless there is some worldwide coordinating agency a duplication of names and consequent confusion in camellia nomenclature cannot fail to occur.

At the 1962 Horticultural Congress held in Brussels, the International Camellia Society was appointed the International Registration Authority for *Camellia*. In its work as such, ICS will be governed by the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*.

A most important first step was an authentic alphabetic listing of existing cultivar names. This giant step has been taken. It was initiated by the L. H. Bailey Hortorium and the work was carried out by Dr. Ralph N. Philbrick, with the enthusiastic support of interested persons and organizations over the world. After approximately seven years of intensive work all camellia cultivar names (amounting to approximately fifteen thousand) published from 1752 through 1958 have been indexed and annotated and the checklist will become the basic authority for camellia nomenclature for camellias from 1752—1958. This work will be offered to the public through ICS.

The Nomenclature Committee of ICS has been busily engaged in continuing this checklist from January 1, 1959, and it is planned that a supplemental list bringing the checklist up to January, 1965, will be published and thereafter frequent supplements.

The ICS bespeaks for its nomenclature the same fine cooperation from national and regional camellia societies and from the camellia people of the world which made the basic list possible and so complete.

The International Camellia Society wishes it to be clearly understood that there is no thought of supplanting national societies in the field of nomenclature but its sole aim is to encourage, assist and coordinate such work. The tremendous wealth of information in the hands of ICS will be available to such societies upon request. Before registering a proposed camellia, each society is urged to check with the International Camellia Society Nomenclature Chairman, whose address is Box 460, Brunswick, Georgia, U.S.A. An immediate reply will be furnished. It is hoped that in this way the duplication of already existing names will be avoided. Nurseries and others publishing lists of camellias are requested and urged to forward their catalogues to the above address.