

No. 7

NOVEMBER 1975

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA JOURNAL

国際ツバキ協会

KOKUSAI TSUBAKI KYOKAI
SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DU CAMELLIA
SOCIETÀ INTERNAZIONALE DELLA CAMELIA
INTERNAZIONALE KAMELIENGESELLSCHAFT



ARE THEY IDENTICAL?

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'Blood of China' and 'Crusselle'?

In the *International Camellia Journal* No. 6, 1974, p.50, the question was raised whether the above two camellias are identical. The following information from members provides us with the definite answer that they are two separate varieties:

Mrs Robert Edward Hodgson, 1166 Oxford Rd., N.E., Atlanta, Georgia writes: "Mr T. A. Crusselle tells me that back in 1954 or 1957, Forrest Park Nursery near Atlanta bought 500 seeds from a nurseryman in France. The camellia 'Crusselle' was grown from one of these. Everyone here says there is a distinct difference between 'Crusselle' and 'Blood of China'. Mr Crusselle says he has both plants and they are quite different, one being bright red, the other more of an orange-red."

Mrs Francis L. Edmondson, 2640 Mabry Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia write: "Mr Crusselle says that 'Crusselle' came from a batch of seeds imported from Dardanella, France. Tom and I agree about the differing characteristics. My 'Crusselle' is about 12 ft high, and yes, the foliage is almost identical to 'Blood of China', yet occasionally the leaves are a great deal larger. The flowers of 'Crusselle' are a brighter but lighter red, more ruffly, stamens slightly more dispersed, and more petals. 'Crusselle' also has a slight fragrance. Mr Crusselle says that upon entering his glasshouse, the fragrance is quite noticeable.

"Mr D. W. Doak, first President of the North Georgia Society, and instrumental in naming this variety had 'Blood of China' (syn. "Victor Emanuel") and 'Crusselle' growing almost side by side, and never dreamt of them being considered the same. Dave Strother was also of the same opinion that they are separate and distinct varieties."

'Jean Lyne' and 'Mrs William Beckman'?

Leslie Riggall, Quinta de Curvos, Farjaes, Esponende, Portugal, writes: "By sheer coincidence I happen to grow camellias 'Jean Lyne' and 'Mrs William Beckman' side by side, and have been surprised to find that they cannot be distinguished from each other, neither in flower, leaf, nor growth. The inference is that the American camellia is really 'Jean Lyne'. As your flowering season is now current, could you investigate this by comparing the two, assuming that both varieties are growing in Australia?"

Our Comment: 'Jean Lyne' was first listed in Australia by Hazlewood in 1941, "Large semi-double with pink stripes." The first publication of 'Mrs William Beckman' was in 1952. 'Jean Lyne' certainly came first. Whether it reached America by 1952 and was renamed there is extremely doubtful. It did reach America, as William Wylam reports having flowered it (*A.C.S. Yearbook* 1952, p.12). 'Mrs William Beckman, is described in the *A.C.S. Yearbook* 1952, p.4 as a "Tricolor seedling from Mrs Edinger's Rosebud Farm, sixteen miles south of Sacramento. A semi-double white, lightly variegated with red. It resembles 'Finlandia Variegated'. Solid pink sports of the variety have been reported."

This is so circumstantial that there seems no doubt 'Jean Lyne' and 'Mrs William Beckman' are separate, but closely similar varieties. 'Mrs William Beckman' does not seem to be known in Australia.