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INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA TIJDSCHRIFT



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CAMELLIA EVENTS, COMMENCING IN SPAIN —

MARCH 1981

- 1981, *Espagne*
- *Nel 1981 — SPAGNA*
- *Espana en 1981*

March 1981 has been set as the month for the commencement of an interesting series of events in Western Europe.

The Marques de Figueroa, ICS Director for Spain, is currently firming up arrangements for an ICS Congress to be centred on Santiago De Compostela, Galicia, and he is receiving enthusiastic support from important elements of the Galician community. In a letter to ICS President Tom Savige the Marques writes: "SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA is a centre of art, history and science, located in the middle of Galicia and having excellent communications with Portugal. The city is recognised as a convention centre with the appropriate facilities. The city's gardens are known throughout the country and so are the Camellia forests in the vicinity". The Marques also said: "I have had the opportunity of talking to friends — growers, technicians etc., some of whom belong to the most venerable families in our country. All of them are of the opinion that ideas on the Spanish-Portuguese Congress are realistic, promising and most satisfactory".

Mrs. Violet Lort-Phillips, the Society's Direc-

tor for Other Regions, is planning towards an extension of the Spanish Congress to the Channel Islands. This has all the hallmarks of an exciting event and there is a likelihood that the overall arrangements can include transportation from Spain to the Channel Islands through interesting points in France amongst which would be Nantes and Brittany. Many Camellians have happy recollections of Nantes and its Camellia growing environs, stemming from the 1977 International Congress. After the Channel Islands the route for many would be sure to be towards the annual "get-together" of the U.K. members of the ICS. This is always held in late April and its location each year is in a centre close to many world famous gardens, usually in the beautiful Southern counties of England.

The whole offering and each of its components is certain to be attractive to Camellia lovers, not only from the countries of Western Europe, but to those from the distant Regions of Asia, Northern America and the southern hemisphere. ICS members will be kept informed of this exciting prospect as plans develop.

day, sometimes on foot if conditions were too bad for wheels.

From Kunming the steep mountains (10,000 ft) were crossed on foot and by chair over the rugged terrain down to the Yangtze River whence boats could take travellers to Shanghai via Cheng Tou City.

Today, access is by rail from the main northern cities or by air from Peking to Canton. We travelled by the latter.

A visit to the Temple Park Gardens, Kunming, was arranged for us. Located some 20 miles approximately west-northwest of the city about 300 ft higher in gently undulating country, they are most attractively placed. The park area is adjacent to the Botanical Institute. It is a place of great beauty and very extensive, with flowing water, still ponds, tall straight pines, giant bamboo, ancient spreading Chinese Walnuts, plums of considerable girth, hollowed out with age. This area bore evidence of the establishment of the garden in the 8th century, and of subsequent additions. We found, to our delight, some excellent *Camellia japonica* and *C. reticulata* specimens in boxes and in ground surrounded by pavements. The highlight of this area was a flowering plum said to be some 1200 years old.

Mr Tang, the curator of these extensive gardens and of the temple museums (containing

relics of antiquity), showed us the production nursery and glass houses. Camellias are struck in terracotta pots in sand and, on rooting, transplanted. They are grafted some 1 to 2 years later. Some specimens in the growing out area were several feet high but had been grafted onto white flowering stock about 4 in. above ground.

Some *Camellia sasanqua* were flowering in pots. Mr Tang was most interested in pictures I showed him of the Wagga Wagga gardens and the Camellia species therein. He gave some details as to the care of Camellias and said that only organic manures in liquid form should be used. Pot mix was from dried cleanings from the fish ponds (high in nitrogen). Cuttings are struck in the open beneath partial shade of tall reticulata trees and grafting is done 1 to 2 years later.

We were greatly impressed with this truly lovely, quiet place with the Western Mountains rising beyond. Our one regret was that no Camellias, other than sasanquas, were in flower. Trees and smaller plants were well covered with buds. There were signs of heavy insect infestation. We heard that spraying is unusual because various predators keep check on infestations from time-to-time.

Kunming and its Institute, and its gardens, is a really lovely place and it will live long in our memories.