

# The National Collection of Camellias at Mount Edgcumbe, Cornwall

L. WOODWARD

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La collection nationale de camélias de Mount Edgcumbe (Cornouailles)

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La Colección Nacional de Camelias en Mount Edgcumbe, Cornualles

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La Collezione Nazionale delle Camelie a Moun Edgcumbe, Cornovaglia

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Die Nationale Kameliensammlung in Mount Edgcumbe, Cornwall

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The United Kingdom National Reference Collection of Camellias is located within Mount Edgcumbe Country Park in Cornwall. Mount Edgcumbe, described as the most beautiful Country Park in England, stands in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and includes 9 miles of Heritage Coastline.

The Park, situated in East Cornwall overlooking the River Tamar and Plymouth Sound, was purchased in 1971 from the Estate of the 6th Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, by Cornwall County Council and Plymouth City Council and is managed by a Joint Committee of the two Councils.

Covering an area of 350 ha (864 acres), it consists of the 18th century landscaped Park centred around the House, the Formal Gardens comprising an Italian Garden and Orangery, a French Garden, and an English Garden, are enclosed by very old 30ft high hedges.

It is one of the few Grade I Historic Gardens in the whole of the Southwest.

There are also extensive woodland areas with many unusual trees and shrubs to be seen, and magnificent views over Cornwall, Plymouth and Dartmoor. The Camellia Collection was started in 1976 with a gift of 70 Camellias from the International Camellia Society; these were planted in the Formal Gardens under the direction of David Trehane, by members of the Society from various parts of the world, during their visit to Cornwall that year.

In the following two years a hundred mature Camellias were dug up and carefully transported 50 miles from David Trehane's garden nr. Truro and re-planted in the Higher Amphitheatre, where the majority of the collection is to be housed. The Amphitheatre is a large wooded valley of some 148 ha (60 acres) planted during the 18th century where there are also a good selection of Rhododendrons, and interesting trees and shrubs, underplanted with bluebells (*Scilla non-scripta*) and a water feature and pond.

Since then cuttings of a great many varieties and species have been obtained, and we have to thank the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley, the Crown Estates Windsor Great Park, The National Trust, private collectors and various nurseries for being so generous. These have been propagated and we now have some 450 varieties and species in the collection. Then in 1984 we received a most generous gift of Carlyon

camellia hybrids raised in Cornwall, by the late Miss G. Carlyon of Tregrehan. During the first 5 years of the collection we experienced a number of problems. Mount Edgumbe had been in a state of neglect for nearly 30 years prior to its purchase in 1971, everywhere resembling jungle conditions; clearing the sites in the Amphitheatre of bramble, bracken – some 8ft high *Rhododendron ponticum*, dead and dying trees, proved to be quite a task.

Our first camellia plantings were attacked by sheep, fallow deer and even field mice. The sheep and deer are now kept out of the area by an 8ft high mile long fence. Field mice ring barked several plants under cover of snow during a cold spell, but fortunately these have now recovered.

Over the years too a number of plants have been stolen, and although we have tried to overcome this problem by growing on the plants in our nursery and planting them out in their permanent sites as larger bushes, with 200,000 visitors a year to the Park, it is not an easy problem to solve.

Earlier this year, 1987, a small group was formed of David Trehane, Kenwyn Clapp, Dr J. Smart, Mrs B. Kitson, Don. Waterhouse, Mrs M. Campbell- Culver (Park Manager) and myself to oversee and advise on the collection.

The majority of the Camellias are planted in the Higher Amphitheatre, and grouped by Countries of Origin, Singles, Formal Doubles, Reticulatas, and Species.

The following is a list of the varieties as they are grouped:

*English section*

Alba Simplex	Nagasaki	Beatrice Michael
Altheaflora	Candidissima	Exaltation A.M. 74
Alba Plena	Candidissima Pink	November Pink
Anemonaeflora	Lady Vansittart	Inspiration
Chandleri	Lady Vansittart Pink	Leonard Messel
Adelina Patti	Lady Vansittart Lanarth	Coppelia
Mrs. William Thompson	Countess of Orkney	Coppelia Alba
Lady-de-Saumarez	Eugenie - de - Masena	Mars
Preston Rose	The Mikado	Apollo
Jubilee	Mary Christian	Marguerite
Peach Blossom	Citation A.M. 60	Caerhays Best
Mercury	Hiraethlyn	Bartley Pink
Parkside	Twiss Cornwall	Salutation
Charles Michael	St. Michael	Caerhays
St. Ewe	Joy Saunders	Exbury
Hope	Kimberley	Imbricata
Cornish Snow Winton		

*American section*

Ada Pieper	Ann Smith	Alexis Smith
Aarons Ruby	Belle of the Ball	Alice Wood
Miss Universe	Extravaganza	Emmett Pffingstl
Tiki	Marie Bracey	Cheryl Lynn
Scentsation	Clarise Carleton	Berenice Perfection
Wildwood	Kick Off	Seventh Heaven
Clara Green	Ace of Hearts	Debutante

J. J. Whitfield	Cecile Brunazzi	Nuccio's Gem
Kramers Supreme	King's Ransom	Billie McCaskill
Spring Sonnet	Wonderland	Pearl Maxwell
Beau Harp	Premier	Blaze of Glory
Winter Morn	California	Disneyland
High Wide 'n' Handsome	Lady Campbell	Blood of China
Berenice Boddy	Grandeur	Julia France
Jingle Bells	Tinker Bell	Coral Queen
Moonlight Sonata	Matador	Mrs. D. W. Davis
Splendens	R. L. Wheeler	Dr. Tinsley
Midnight	Lucy Hester	Dear Jenny
Yours Truly	Guilio Nuccio	Drama Girl
Jessie Katz		
Purple Emperor	June McCaskill	Dian Hartman
Lady Mary Cromartie	Fire Falls	Emily Wilson
R. L. Wheeler	Victor Emanuel	Virgins Blush
Onetia Holland	Rainy Sun	Shiragiku (syn. Purity)
Laura Schafer	H.M. Queen Elizabeth II	Betty Sheffield Supreme
Emmett Barnes	Tomorrow	Princess Lavender
General George Patton	Coral Pink Lotus	Lieut. William Hearn
Finlandia	Mrs. Anne Marie Hovey	Reg Ragland
Forest Green	Brigadoon	Monte Carlo
Sunset Glory	Bleichroeder	Professor Charles Sargent
Nina Avery	Conspicua	Haku Rakuten
Coed	Mollie Moore Davis	
Mrs. Lyman Clarke	Paulette Goddard	Guest of Honor
Frosty Morn	Senator Duncan V. Fletcher	Little Bit
Firebird	Mary Wheeler	Mattie O'Reilly
Bobs Tinsie	Star Shadow	Mary Margaret
Morning Glow	Flamingo	Sierra Spring
Adolphe Audusson Special	Cardinal	Star Dust
Apple Blossom	Ballet Dancer	White Empress
Susan Carter	Hana Fuki	Jenny Lind
Mathotiana Supreme	Coronation	Waterloo
Edwin H. Folk	Rev. John Bennett	Alison Leigh Woodroof
Elizabeth Arden	Herme	Felice Harris
Ama-no-Kawa	Manana	Niagra
Purity	Whitefing	Snowflake
Auburn White		

*Japanese section*

Yuki Botan	Taro-an	Haku-tsuru
Gauntletti	Yukimi-guruma	Hassai
Trebah Gardens	Kishu-Tsukasa	Kumasaka
Are-jishi	(Admiral Nimitz)	Satenella
	Eximea	
	Hito-suji (Aranin)	

*New Zealand section*

Dream Boat	Elsie Jury	Brian
Rose Bouquet	Debbies Carnation	Ellen Sampson
Water Lily	Harriet Durrant	Anticipation
Phyl Doak	Bright Buoy	Elegant Beauty

*Australian section*

Debbie	Clarrie Fawcett	Burwells Primas
Shocking Pink	Edith Linton	Princess Anne
Spencer's Pink	Thompsonii	Bowen Bryant
Mattie Cole	Ellamine	Arpasia Macarthur
Can Can	Otahuhu Beauty	Lady St. Clair
Beverley Caffin	Ruth Kemp	Polar Bear
Rosemary Elsom	Alexander Hunter	Nancy Bird
Odoratissima	Lillian Ricketts	Leila
Henry Price	Margaret Crozier	William Honey
Laurie Bray	Merrillees	Winter Cheer
Helenor	Chandlers Victory	Centenary
Cathy Becher	Harriet Beecher Sheather	Jean Lyne
Martha Brice	Sheatheri	William Bartlett
William Bull	Mrs. Bell	Prince Frederick Williams
Metallica	Azurea	Alexander Black
Ardoch	Barbara Mary	Australis
Anna M. Page	Daintrie Sievers	Simplicity
Elizabeth Cole	A. W. Jessep	Erica Sievers
Somersby	Red Moon	The Czar
Red Ensign	Waverley	Roberta
Mrs. Swan	Great Eastern	Constance
Dr. King	Andromeda	Betty Cuthbert

*European section*

*French, Italian, Belgium, Portugal*

Mathotiana Alba	Baronne Leguay	Triumphans
Frederici	Hectotiana	Nobilissima
Kelvingtoniana	Monsieur Paugam	Pink Audusson
Valtevareda	Angela Cocchi	Duchesse de Montpensier
Contessa Lavinia Maggi	Comte de Gomer	Triomphe di Loddii
Bella Romana	Bella Romana Pink	Alba Casoretti
Imperator	Duchesse de Berry	Magnoliaeflora
Italiana	Bronomiana	Paolina Maggi
Sacco Nova	Picturata	Eugene Lize
Lallarook	Rose Emery	Centifolia
Tricolor Siebold	Frau Minna Seidel	Donckelarii Improved
Elisabeth	Anna Bruneau	Margherita Coleoni

*Formal Doubles section*

Keepsake	Fanny Bolis	Monsieur Faucillon
Reine des Fleurs	Rubescens Major	Elisabeth White Form

Archiduchessa Augusta	Eleanor Hagood	Tricolor (Nova) Mathot
Sea Foam	Mrs. Tingley	Pink Dawn
La Pace Rubra	Prince Murat	Konron-Koku
Marianna Gaete	Mme Haas	La Pace
Sarah Frost	Campbelli	Mme de Strekaloff
Pope John XXIII	Ave Maria	Pink Perfection
Duc De Bretagne		

*Singles and Semi-Doubles section*

C. F. Coates	Sylvia	Trewithen Red
Rosie Anderson	White Coppelia	Sheridan
Candy Stripe	Besant's White Czar	Clarissa
Devonia	Teringa	Myorenji
Akebono	Trumpeter	Momijigari
Mattie Cole	Charlotte Rothschild	White Lily
Hassaku	White Tulip	Tahiti
Jennifer Turnbull	Henry Turnbull	Julia Hamiter
Maud Messel	Trewithen White	
Fragrans Comber	Judith Anderson	Golden Spangles
Mrs. T. Brockhouse	Francis Hanger	Daitairin
Swan	Jitsu-Getsu-Sei	

*Reticulata section*

Captain Rawes	Professor Tsai	Noble Pearl
Shot Silk	Mary Williams	Butterfly Wings
Robert Fortune	Confucius	Mouchang

*Carlyon section*

Marjorie Waldegrave	Rosemary Sawle	E. T. R. Carlyon
Jenefer Carlyon	Yesterday	Tristrem Carlyon
Tregrehan	William Carlyon	China Clay
Duchess of Cornwall	Edward Carlyon	Belinda Carlyon

*Elegans section (Formal Gardens)*

Elegans	Elegans Supreme	C. M. Wilson
Elegans Splendor	Shiro Chan	

*Presentation section (Formal Gardens)*

E. G. Waterhouse	Gloire de Nantes	Brigadoon
Inspiration	Wilbur Foss	Bells
Grand Jury	Rosemary Williams	Farfalla
Pink Wave	Sayonara	Plymouth Beauty
Elizabeth Rothschild	Citation	Cornish Snow
Anticipation	Beatrice Michael	J. C. Williams
Lady's Maid	Bowen Bryant	Mary Jobson
John Pickthorn	St. Ewe	Little Lavender
Elsie Jury	Donation	

*Species section*

*Rusticana*

Kumo no Yeal

Kirin no Hon

Nome no Yeal

*Saluenensis*

Twiss Cornwall

Saluenensis

*Sasanqua*

Cleopatra

Rosy Mist

Super Rosea

Crimson Bride

Shirshigeshira

Plantation Pink

Narumi-gata

Sparkling Burgundy

Crimson King

*Cuspidata*

*Granthamiana*

*Taliensis*

*Oleifera*

*Tsaii*

*Wabisuke*

*Drupifera*

*Vernalis* Hiryu

*Heterophylla* Barbara Hillier

## The Quest for The Yellow Camellia

WILLIAM W. DONNAN

(Reprinted by courtesy of the Editor of 'The Plantsman')

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La quête du camélia jaune

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La búsqueda de la camelia amarilla

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Alla ricerca della Camelia Gialla

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Die Suche nach der gelben Kamelie

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In the galaxy of ornamental plants, the genus *Camellia* stands out as one of the most desirable shrubs in the western world. With its dark green leaves and its many flower forms it has become a favourite of gardeners and landscape developers everywhere. Two drawbacks have served to diminish its otherwise universal acceptance among flower lovers. They are: (1) the various species of camellia, almost without exception, lack fragrance; (2) the colours of the blooms are either red, white, pink, or shades and combinations of these colours.

For at least the last 200 years plant breeders and horticulturists have been hunting for a yellow camellia. The theory was that if a yellow species could be found, plant breeders and hybridisers could make interspecific crosses to produce yellow, orange, apricot, or