

Camellia japonica

'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto'

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This beautiful camellia attracted considerable admiration on the Naples tour, and has also come to notice recently in Cornwall. It received an Award of Merit from the R.H.S. in April 1958, when shown from a cold greenhouse at South Lodge, Horsham in Sussex, by the Misses Godman. It has a large rose-formed light coral pink flower, sometimes flushed with lavender, and with each petal bordered white. There is a black and white photograph at figure 56 of the *Rhododendron & Camellia Yearbook*, 1959 and coloured illustrations in Beryl Urquhart's book 'The Camellia' vol I 1956, and plate 9 in the *Rhododendron & Camellia Yearbook*, 1970.

It arose as a sport of *C. 'Mathotiana'* in the garden of Senhor Augusto Leal Gouveia Pinto at Alta Beira in Portugal and was given to Moreira da Silva to propagate, who named it after him and introduced it in 1890. Synonyms in America are 'Portuguese Pink' and 'Jack McCaskill'. 'Shepherdess' is a rose coral sport of this, raised in America in 1956 by McCaskill.

'Camellia Nomenclature', the Official Nomenclature Book of the American Camellia Society, describes it however as a sport of 'Grand Sultan'.

The original 'Mathotiana' was a seedling of 'Anemoneflora' and 'Sieboldii', a very large red formal double, raised by H. Mathot of Ghent in Belgium in the 1840s. This was described and illustrated in 1849 by Verschaffelt, who the same year also described and illustrated 'Grand Sultan', which had originated in Italy about the same time as 'Gran Sultano', a large dark red semidouble to formal double.

The 'Mathotiana' camellia commonly grown today is a large rose form double, flowering late in the season, with a purplish cast to its crimson petals, not the original Belgian variety of that name, but descended from a plant that arrived in America in the 1840s possibly wrongly labelled and, from the evidence of the Verschaffelt plates, it is almost certainly 'Grand Sultan'.

Other synonyms by which the original Belgian 'Mathotiana' is known are 'Julia Drayton', 'Mathotiana Rubra', 'Purple Dawn', 'Purple Emperor', 'Purple Prince' and 'William Hastie'.

'Grand Sultan' is also known as 'Dr Shepherd', 'Firegold', 'Morague', 'Pasha of Persia', 'Shah of Persia' and 'Te Deum', by which latter name it was introduced in America in 1890.

The International Registrar, Mr Tom Savige, has recorded that the 'Mathotiana' in the camellia glasshouse at Chatsworth is believed to have been obtained from Mathot and to have been planted there by Joseph Paxton when head gardener in 1854. With its full petallage, it is much closer to the Verschaffelt illustration than other clones masquerading under this name, and its superiority can be seen from the number of awards it has received at the R.H.S. shows in competition with the form of 'Mathotiana' now regarded as 'Grand Sultan'. Mr Savige records having seen plants of this Chatsworth form occasionally in the Channel Isles, Italy and Portugal.

It seems therefore that *Camellia japonica* 'Augusto Leal Gouveia Pinto', to give it its full name, is almost certainly a sport of the 'Grand Sultan' form of 'Mathotiana', as are

'Mathotiana Variegated' and 'Mathotiana Supreme', but NOT 'Mathotiana Alba' which was raised by Mathot, and of which 'Mathotiana Rosea' and 'Souvenir de Bahuaud Litou' are sports. 'Shepherdess', as already mentioned, is a sport of 'Augusto L'Gouveia Pinto'.

References

1. Beryl Urquhart. 'The Camellia', Vol I, 1956.
2. Rhododendron & Camellia Yearbook 1959, p. 137 & Fig. 56.
3. C. E. Puddle & F. E. W. Hanger. 'Thirtynine Popular Camellia japonica varieties'. Rhododendron & Camellia Yearbook, 1960, pp. 155-6.
4. Dr J. A. Smart. Rhododendron & Camellia Yearbook 1970, p.64 and p1.9.
5. Stirling Macoboy. 'The Colour Dictionary of Camellias' 1981, pp.90-91 and 103-104.
6. T. J. Savige. 'Camellia Nomenclature' International Camellia Journal no. 15 1983, p. 26.
7. Camellia Nomenclature, 1984, pp.17, 48 and 73.
8. Yvonne Matthews. Rhododendrons 1989, with Magnolias and Camellias.