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KATE SHEPPARD. A WHITE CAMELLIA FOR CELEBRATION (PAGE 37)

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EXPOSITION OF CAMELLIAS OF YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY AT THE HALL OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HORTICULTURE OF FRANCE PARIS — 5-7 MARCH 1993

MRS. V. LORT-PHILLIPS, CHANNEL ISLANDS

EXPOSITION DES CAMELIAS D'HIEU ET D'AUJOURD HUI

AUSSTELLUNGEN VON KAMELIEN VON GESTERN UND HEUTE

EXPOSICION DE LA CAMELIAS DE AYER Y DE HOY

LA ESPOSIZIONE DELL CAMELLIA DI LERI E DI OGGI

Vice-President Mrs. Mayda Reynolds and I were honored to receive and accept the invitation from Monsieur Marcel Cointet to attend the prestigious exposition of Camellias of "Yesterday and To-Day" at the Society's Hall in the Rue Grenelle Paris 7, where we celebrated my 84th birthday.

Claude Thoby had arranged for us to stay at their hotel which was within walking distance of the Exposition. We arrived with Anne and Claude and were greeted by Madame Brivet, President of the Camellia Section of the Society Nationale D'Horticulture de France and Jean Laborey, our ICS Director for France, who has been a friend to many of us, who is retiring as President of the Camellia Section of the SNHF.

In the entrance foyer, there were splendid examples of the treat in store, beautifully grown and shaped trees of Camellia 'Gloria de Nantes,' and C. 'Scentsation', grouped together, planted in a large container made to look like the straw wicker baskets used in olden days to transport merchandise in ships.

This set the theme of "The Introduction of Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) to Europe" and "The New World from China." The walls of the hall were covered with pictures, maps and posters, with dates telling when the first camellias reached the west - Portugal was the first in 1703, England 1739, France 1783, U.S.A. 1797, Denmark 1807.

Maps showing Para Camellia section, *C.sasanquas* and the highly scented small yellow camellia 'Euphlesia', which we hope to learn more about when we join the

Symposium in China next year. There were too, a board with the enemies of the camellia graphically illustrated, also, posters of Past Expositions, hybridization and legends with the story of Budhha cutting off his eyelashes, in repugnance after a carnal dream with the first camellia trees springing up from the earth where they fell.

In the center of the hall, tall Bamboos were used to form canals through which the flower bedecked Clippers sailed, each avenue of black or golden stemmed Bamboo (*phyllostachys nigra* and *aurea*) 10-12 feet high in matching big containers. On the decks were grouped splendid trees and shrubs of our favorite flowers, reds along one canal amongst which I noted Camellias 'Audolph Audusson', 'Apollo', 'Jupiter' and 'R. L. Wheeler' - rose colored, striped and variegated and in the next canal, old favorites 'J. C. Williams', 'Fleur de Pecher', 'Chandleri Elegans', 'Ville de Nantes', 'General Lamoricriere', 'Kellingtonia', 'Marguerite Gouillon' and 'Contessa Lavinia Maggi'. A group of white camellias included 'Alba Plena', 'Fimbriata' and 'Oblissima'.

Hanging over all were the square rigged sails, cleverly draped and made of the fleece/muslin which is useful in preventing frost damage and wind burn. This picturesque and original grouping of the camellia in their colored bands was the work of the Landscape Architect and Decorator, Arnana Mauriorea.

I emphasize the difference between our competitive shows - there were no prizes, no individual blooms displayed. It was a

cooperative effort by the foremost botanical gardens and nurserymen of France, including our friends from Nante's Botanical Garden, Claude Thoby from Caquefou and his son, Jean Thoby from the southwest of France, Alain Stervinou's Jardin de Kergaradec, Trevarez from the Department of Finisterre, Jean-Yves Roue and Robert Cadiou and others who specialize in seaside plants.

We attended a lecture with slides by Madame Fourier and Monsier Hahn showing and renewing our pleasure in her beautiful "Plantsman's" Garden we visited when on our Brittany Tour. There were two Flower Arranging demonstrations by Madame Eliane Boulongne, Maitre Komon Ikebana, President of the French Branch of the Sogetsu School and by her two col-

leagues, at different times, Madame Louise Kieffer and Madame Marie Alice Sinnatt. The evening ended with an inaugural reception "le Cocktail" when we all drank to the health of our ICS Director Jean Laborey. The President read out the long list of Jean Laborey's work and achievements for horticulture. Jean made us laugh in his witty reply when he said he felt he was listening to his own funeral eulogy. I am glad to tell his many friends on both sides of the Atlantic that he is very alive and sparkling as ever. He welcomed and paid tribute to Madame Brivet, the new President (Camellia Section).

The Societe Nationale d'Horticulture de France has been serving gardens and gardeners since 1827. May it continue its good work in a peaceful future.



*Francoise Brivet, Mayda Reynolds,
Jean Laborey, Vi Lort-Phillips*



Camellias en route from China