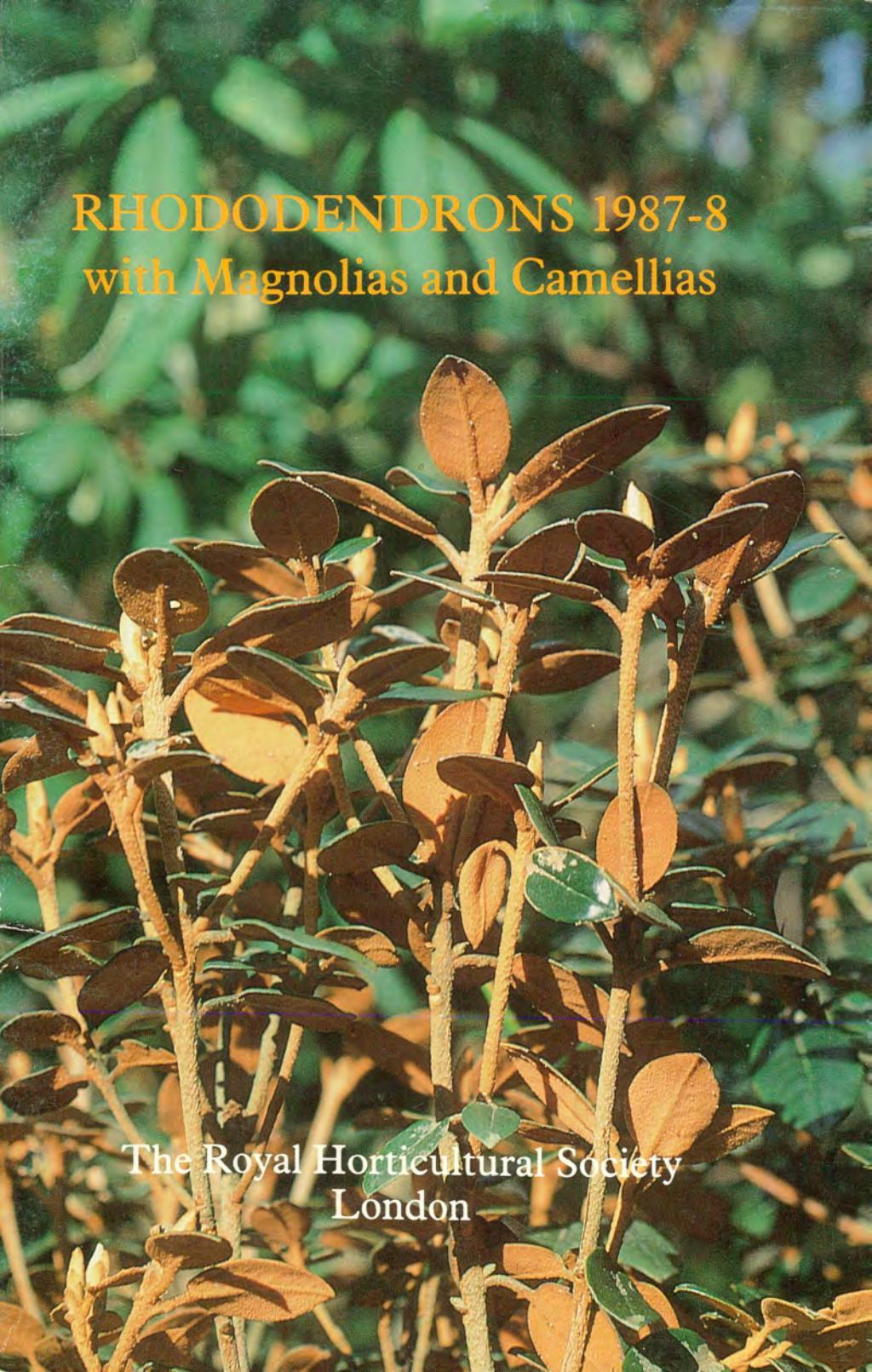


RHODODENDRONS 1987-8

with Magnolias and Camellias



The Royal Horticultural Society
London

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Front cover: Rhododendron lanatum at Strone. (For an account of this fine Scottish garden, see pp.3 to 12.)

Kenneth Lowes

Back cover: Camellia 'Nijinski', raised by the late Miss Carlyon of Tregrehan. (See p.71.)

Christian Lamb

RHODODENDRONS 1987-8

with

Magnolias and Camellias

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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Foreword

Another year and another yearbook and another winter which has made a lot of people think very hard about the true meaning of the word tender. At one time the West Country was regarded as some sort of plantsman's Shangri-la. No longer. Is the weather pattern changing? Only time will tell.

In this issue is a very topical article by Robbie Jack on the subject of the hard winter and Ed Wright comments on the same theme in his very welcome up-date on that fine garden at Arduaine.

Still north of the border, Ken Lowes writes about the garden at Strone which the Group last visited in 1979 so an up-to-date report is welcome as is the news that the garden is still being developed. George Witherwick writes about the mechanics of gardening and Walter Magor contributes from his wide knowledge on a variety of subjects. Thanks are also due to him for his valuable assistance with the production of the year book, in particular for the preparation of the index.

Very many of us will read Nigel Holman's article with a great deal of sympathy and the two accounts of expeditions to Nepal with envy.

The achievements of hybridizers figure prominently: all 266 rhododendron and azalea hybrids which have received a First Class Certificate are enumerated; Karel Hieke writes about Czechoslovakian rhododendron hybrids and Christian Lamb describes three fine camellias bred by the late Miss Carlyon of Tregrehan.

Following Philip Urlwin-Smith's item it is re-assuring to see from Peter Wharton's contribution that the superb 'Lanarth' clone of *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* is still flourishing in the wild.

Finally, let it be said that even after two foul winters, this year has seen rhododendrons produce a show of blossom, from Treliwick to China, that must cheer even the most pessimistic heart.

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The garden at Strone, Argyll

KENNETH LOWES

Strone is a woodland garden of 10 acres or so, placed in a seemingly ideal situation at the head of Loch Fyne in Argyll. The crescent-shaped loch is a sea loch, and penetrates quite 40 miles inland in a north-easterly direction from Ardlamont Point at the northern end of the Sound of Bute. It is sheltered from Atlantic gales by a substantial land-mass, much of it between 1,000 and 2,000 feet high, rising from the loch's western edge.

Near Strone House the River Kinglas emerges from its steep glen to flow into, and mingle with, the tidal sea-water which laps the shores of the loch. The lower edge of the garden is very roughly parallel to the loch-edge, at no great distance from it, and at a height above sea-level of fewer than a 100 feet. So the site has some of the most telling advantages that a garden intended as a predominantly rhododendron garden can have, with a fair balance of quite good winter temperatures, summers which are rarely extremely hot, a fairly humid atmosphere for most of the year and at least some protection from the severe gales which regularly trouble our western coastal landbelt. The very high annual rainfall of somewhere approaching the 100-inch mark is another great advantage enjoyed by, among other things, rhododendrons and conifers. So is the more or less acid growing-medium, whether rock, peat, soil or leaf-and-needle fall. The peaty soil and the sphagnum and other mosses which it supports ward off that great enemy of the rhododendron, drying-out of the root area in rainless periods. There are, of course, some drawbacks. Snow does fall at times but is seldom aggressive, heavy rain and violent winds bring down trees and slow down work. Whichever factors we may think are the important ones, lush leaf and plant growth and eye-catching natural regeneration are conspicuous features of most of the woodland gardens of the region, showing the plant's approval of their environment.

The lower edge of the garden, already mentioned, borders a fairly flat area in the shape of a long strip or ribbon, whose eastern edge forms the base of a steep hill which climbs away from the loch. This hill is in effect a very elongated triangle of school set-square memories, its narrow point at the car park, tipped up at the top corner, and bordered along its high side by a narrow road by-passing the Rest-and-be-thankful road, which here approaches Cairndow village on the shores of the loch. Between these two roads Strone House and its own more intimate garden are

positioned, well above the woodland which contains the conifers, rhododendrons, other trees such as enormous beeches, and a forest floor which is itself most interesting. In the very simplest terms (perhaps too simple) the flat area contains many of the biggest trees, of which several are quite notable specimens, and the lower hillside contains the majority of the larger rhododendrons. There are many medium-sized and generally lower-growing rhododendrons among them, both on the flat and higher up, on the hillside. At intervals this hillside is cut by tiny streams which enlarge after rain and rush and bound madly down towards the loch, away beyond the bottom boundary. Almost everywhere the earth is carpeted with mosses, often sphagnum, or great sheets of bluebells, or other native ground-plants.

In an article in *Country Life* for 8 June, 1978, concerning some of the more notable trees and entitled 'Big is beautiful', Alan Mitchell estimated that a predominantly beech canopy over the area, and silver firs which penetrate its surface, were probably both planted towards the end of the eighteenth century (perhaps about 1770). It is in such a place that the Strone Woodland Garden was begun.

Lady Glenkinglas tells us that the earliest date that can be given for the Pinetum is 1875, when the outstanding *Abies grandis* was planted. This dominating tree has recently become a newsworthy record-breaker, first as the tallest tree in the British Isles and more recently as the first tree in Britain to pass the 200-foot mark. Alan Mitchell's statistics in 1978 include 100ft by 11ft 8in. by 1931, and over 170 feet tall by 1953; then, 'in 1976 very careful, but not infallible, measurements from three angles gave it 188ft by 17ft 5in. From any angle it is a most imposing tree'. Since that account the latest estimate puts the tree's height at 202 feet, still increasing. Apart from the mind-catching achievement of its having passed 200 feet, the figures show a recent growth-rate of about 14 feet in the last 9 years or so.

Although Strone's big trees are not in themselves the *raison d'être* for this article, their presence in the garden cannot be ignored, nor should their horticultural significance be under-estimated. For instance, consider the annual leaf-fall of that one grand fir — I wish it fell on my garden! Add that of the other conifers and the great old beeches, and we begin to realise how great an influence this leaf-fall must have on the general fertility. For the rhododendrons, most of them appreciative of, or even dependent on, good wind-shelter and a clement all-round environment, the presence of the big trees is a godsend, and a mention of a few of the other notable specimens will probably interest rhododendron growers, many of whom already have their own reasons for an interest in trees in and around gardens.

Quite close to the Big Tree is another fir which is far more spectacular at eye-level. This is what Alan Mitchell has called "The Old Horror"; it

is an *Abies alba*, planted perhaps about 1770, now about 150 feet tall, and with a girth measured a few years ago at 3 feet from the ground as 29ft 5in., 'which, by a large margin, is greater than any other silver fir in the British Isles' (*Country Life* 8 June, 1978). If you have a high respect for the mere achievement of a giant tree, to behold this one is humbling. A man standing beside it one day remarked 'I am in steel but I couldn't build that!' No wonder - as this tree has four trunks!

There are other enormous silver firs, and several other species of note, including more outstanding specimens. To attempt to give a reasonably complete list, with details, is not within my competence, nor is it necessary for the purpose of this rhododendron-oriented account of the garden. What may be more justifiable here is a brief, but I think stimulating, mention of a few more notable specimens. These include *Araucaria araucana*, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, some *C. pisifera* of various forms, *Fitzroya cupressoides* (the tallest in Britain), *Larix decidua*, *Picea abies*, *P. orientalis*, *P. polita*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Thuja plicata*, *Tsuga heterophylla* and *T. mertensiana*. For this list and all the technical information on conifers I am indebted to Alan Mitchell's article in *Country Life* already mentioned.

These trees are of the most enormous significance in this garden, for they create an atmosphere of naturalness and a beautiful ever-changing ambience. Within it, the rhododendrons, which are our chief interest, dominate the garden for a long period in spring; for weeks on end their flowers, supplemented by those of sheets of bluebells and frequent clumps of narcissi, enliven every scene we may contemplate, no matter which way we direct our gaze. So, to the garden which was made there, and to the rhododendrons.

We should begin when the decorative planting began, over fifty years ago. From notes supplied by Lady Glenkinglas, who has been actively interested and involved since the 1940s, I am able to give some account of the way in which the existing woodland was used and the advantage taken of its inherent qualities. The property was bought by the Noble family in 1900, and Sir John Noble and his son Michael started planting rhododendrons in the Pinetum about 1930. Michael Noble became a politician, being made Secretary of State for Scotland, then the last President of the Board of Trade, and finally, in 1974, a life peer taking the title of Baron Glenkinglas of Cairndow. 'Started planting rhododendrons' is a simple enough phrase to utter or write, but it is interesting to disengage one or two details concerning the considerable planting programme that ensued. There were, of course, influences, and encouragement came from a number of sources. During the 1930s two rail-truckloads of rhododendrons were sent from Bodnant by the second Lord Aberconway — 'a wonderful present'. Evidence of the Bodnant influence still exists in the garden and comes to mind on reading some of

the older labels, borne by mature plants of high quality; some identities are set out below. Another planting is interesting, this time of a batch of azaleas from Belgium, decided on when the second world war seemed inevitable, whereupon labour for the garden would not be obtainable. There were about 100 and they cost a shilling apiece. I like another story about rhododendron enthusiasm, related by Lady Glenkinglas and confirmed by Major Walter Magor. 'I first met Walter Magor on an aerodrome, where he was chatting to my husband; they were talking about rhododendrons. The aerodrome was in Jamaica!'

There were other friendships, and good relations with other enthusiasts. Among them, Sir George Campbell and his son (now Sir Ilay) of Crarae, Sir Eric Savill of Windsor, Sir James Horlick of Gigha and the Gibson brothers of Glenarn, Rhu. There were of course still others; for example, many exotic trees came from the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Naturally, there were also purchases from commercial sources to help stock the garden and I have noticed a number of particularly good hybrids originally bred at Exbury. Not content with that, some of the plants were brought back by the owners themselves, more recently, from travels abroad. Examples are *Gunnera magellanica* and *Nothofagus dombeyi*, both from Patagonia, and a lovely deep rose-coloured single peony whose identity is still not clear, raised from seeds brought back from Russia by Lady Glenkinglas.

The war over, and after leaving the R.A.F., Lord Glenkinglas began a hybridizing programme of his own and shared his seeds and seedlings with others, among them Sir George Campbell of nearby Crarae. From the first hard-back post-war *Year Book* (1946, p.88), we learn that Michael Noble was already a member of the Rhododendron Group. Fortunately, some of his views and aims have been preserved for us through his contributions to these older *Year Books*. Some of his remarks of this time are especially interesting now that we can study the results, or just admire them in the garden. For example (taken from the 1960 *Year Book*, p.29): 'It is possible without great risk to follow two plans. The first and least adventurous is to follow the successes of past growers and, provided good forms of species or hybrids are used, it is a relatively quick and cheap way to get a large quantity of good garden plants. We have made a large number of crosses with *R. ellottii* or *R. griersonianum* as the parents, which are not very original, but which will, we hope, produce some good reds, particularly as with most of our crosses we have kept to the same colours in both parents.' As the garden now glows with 'good reds' in the late spring, this aim has clearly been achieved, and with outstanding success. Then we read '... there are opportunities for producing some fine yellows and perhaps good pinks. If shape can be improved, hardiness and stamina increased and scent maintained, we may, we hope, give some pleasant plants to gardeners on the west and

south coasts'. On present-day visual evidence I can also vouch for success in these two colour-ranges. Ten years later (1970 *Year Book*, pp. 18-19) we read: 'After an enforced ten-year gap in my hybridization plans due to absence on parliamentary duties, it is rather fun to look forward to resuming again in a few years' time. Also this period has enabled me to study the results of my first programme and make some judgements about its successes and failures. I have never had any intention of producing hybrids for the ordinary garden and I will certainly not enter that field in the future. For this reason, attractive as its offspring may be in the future, I will not use *yakushimanum* as a parent'. This is followed by: 'The basic characteristics that I thought were important ten years ago were: 1. A pleasantly shaped bush or tree with a reasonable chance of regular flowering once it has reached flowering size. 2. Good quality and substance of flowers, as this tends to give a longer flowering period and less damage from frost or hail. 3. Scent where possible. I see no reason to change these aims for the future. I have also been influenced by the availability of really good forms. As in breeding any other animal or vegetable the crossing of inferior forms is essentially a waste of time. In the post-war period the pollen parents that I mainly used were: *griffithianum*, *elliottii*, *haematodes*, and *meddianum*. In the more tender classes, *johnstoneanum*, *burmanicum* and *lindleyi* were also used, but a large proportion of these seedlings got lost in their early years as I was away too often. As a result I have a good collection of superb reds from March to mid-June. I have some interesting pale pinks and whites and some creams.'

For some years after the war exhibiting was occasionally possible. This must have been a most pleasurable indulgence in the midst of a very busy political life — or two lives, one in Argyll and the other based in London. I quote from the report by Dr J. Macqueen Cowan on the Scottish Rhododendron Show, 1957 (1958 *Year Book*, p.65), 'Mr Michael Noble of Ardkinglas showed an interesting truss of *R. parvulatum*'. Various successes recorded include a first prize for *R. adenophorum* (now *R. adenogynum*), still not common in gardens.

From 1957 and through the 1960s the name of Michael Noble appears in the lists of members of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee. The 1950s and 1960s were years of great activity in the making of, and enjoyment of, the garden. With maturity of the plants came the need for maintenance on a bigger scale. Two problems which demand attention and consideration in rhododendron gardens of any size are weed control and dead-wooding or the rejuvenation of the rhododendrons themselves. Weed control became the subject of a vigorous campaign to combine the killing of unwanted weeds with the encouragement of desirable cover-plants in the woodland floor. A system was worked out of spraying with carefully selected sprays which killed grass and bracken and encouraged

the mosses and woodland wild flowers. Now that the undergrowth has been controlled, the amount of spraying required is minimal, and great areas of bluebells, supplemented by skullcap, cow-wheat, creeping jenny, bugle and various ferns are dominant in the open areas among the trees and shrubs. The overhauling of azaleas was taken in hand by Lady Glenkinglas and her methods became the subject of a 'note', under the heading 'Pruning of old azaleas', in the 1960 *Year Book* (pp. 100-1).

A rhododendron enthusiast going round the garden for the first time is likely to be overwhelmed by the problem of noting the vast number of names, and trying to remember those most interesting or outstanding according to his or her own criteria. To pretend to arrange them in an order of encounter as we go round is not to face up to reality, for we all make different sallies away from paths as a result of spotting the next plant to provoke our curiosity; nor would everyone wish to have his expeditions regimented. Lists become boring, yet there is some feeling of need for at least a foundation list of what is to be found and seen in the garden. I would never claim to have seen everything, even after many tours of the garden in which, usually, only a limited area was explored at one time; this I consider to be a practical approach to the problem once the general layout and content have both been taken in.

Labelling of the plants is of course very important, especially for those new to the garden. Yet the labelling and recording of large gardens has always been a problem, and the more the range of plants that it contains is extended, the more serious the problem becomes. With the passage of years, labels are removed by several different agencies, such as gales and animals. At Strone an overhaul of the labelling and recording system was recently initiated by Lady Glenkinglas, and is well under way. To help trace a plant from its written record, a zoning system is used. Then all trees and shrubs of permanent value have a garden number, even when, as occasionally happens, identification has not so far been achieved. For the garden visitors, as distinct from the owners, the desired result is an organized system with a name on a label. Name-labels have now been put on the plants wherever possible in cases where they have not always been there. The work is not quite completed (in 1987); when it is, a few mysteries may still have to be left unsolved. But already it is true to say that Strone is a very well-labelled garden.

However, a special note is needed on the subject of the crosses made by Lord Glenkinglas in his own programmes. Few have a name registered with The Royal Horticultural Society, but one exception is 'Hariet' (*racemosum* \times *ciliatum*), registered and given an Award of Merit in 1957. Two other hybrids which were given names form the subject of an interesting story, related by Sir Ilay Campbell on pages 124-5 of the 1965 *Year Book*, but too long to quote in full here. Briefly, during the 1950s seed or seedlings of some of the crosses for late reds which were

being made at Strone were sent to Crarae. The late red species mentioned in this context were *elliottii*, *eriogynum* and *griersonianum*. Some years later they began to flower, and one plant at Crarae was selected as being superior to all the others, and registered under the appropriate name of 'Secretary of State'. Shortly afterwards another superior seedling flowered and was named 'Shadow Secretary' — a change of government having taken place in the meantime, this name was also appropriate.

A note is needed here to explain the kind of specific name used from now on, whether for species themselves or in giving the parentage of hybrids. In general, I employ those specific epithets which were in use at the time of making out labels, or those given in Part Two of *The Rhododendron Handbook 1969*. In nearly all cases these names are familiar to gardeners; it is fully realized that for various reasons many are now replaced.

To go back to the gift of plants from Bodnant in the 1930s, there is still a good deal of visible evidence of them in the garden. Hybrids raised at Bodnant include 'Cheronia' (*orbiculare* × 'Rose Perfection'), 'Conroy' (*cinnabarinum* var. *roylei* × *concatenans*), 'Coresia' ('Cornish Cross' × 'Penjerrick'), 'Cowslip' (*wardii* × *williamsianum*), 'Edusa' (*campylocarpum* × 'Penjerrick'), 'Elizabeth' (*forrestii* var. *repens* × *griersonianum*), 'Elsie Phipps' ('Penjerrick' × *souliei*), and 'Orestes' (*griersonianum* × 'Shilsonii'), of which a large mature plant can be seen on the right in the photograph of Strone House in Figure 1. Two more are 'Peace' (*rigidum* × *concatenans*) and 'Siren' ('Choremia' × *griersonianum*). A photograph of the pale lemon-coloured 'Edusa' at Crarae, where it had been received from Strone, appears as Figure 14 in the 1959 *Year Book*. This hybrid, used as a parent, has magnificent progeny at Strone, to be seen near the car park.

Another source of good hybrids is Exbury, and there are several plants in the garden of some of their best. A magnificent plant of 'Brocade' ('Vervaenianum' × *williamsianum*), now at least 9 feet tall and 10 feet across and regularly covered with flower, occupies a conspicuous position beside the private drive at the bottom boundary of the woodland garden. 'Naomi Glow' ('Aurora' × *fortunei*), beside the 'Orestes' in the photograph mentioned above, looked most attractive this spring (1987). There are several plants of 'Carmen' (*didymum* × *forrestii* var. *repens*), including a beauty near the side of the house. Other good reds I have noticed are 'Gaul' (*elliottii* × 'Shilsonii'), 'Grosclaude' (*eriogynum* × *haematodes*) and 'Kiev' ('Barclayi' × *elliottii*). 'Avalanche' (*calophytum* × *Loderi*) and 'Lady Bessborough' (*campylocarpum* var. *elatum* × *discolor*) are two others of the larger growers, while splendid plants of 'Halcyone' ('Lady Bessborough' × *souliei*) and its clone 'Perdita', introduced some years later, are side by side in a beautiful position above the top path, which climbs from the car park and picnic area to a height

from which the top of the big tree can be seen with relative ease. Both 'Lady Chamberlain' (*cinnabarinum* var. *roylei* × 'Royal Flush') and its near-twin 'Lady Rosebery' are both to be found elsewhere in the garden, as are the smaller-growing 'Eldorado' (*johnstoneanum* × *valentinianum*) and 'Quaver' (*leucaspis* × *sulfureum*). The last two are visible from the private drive mentioned above.

Other crosses of interest include 'Elsae' (*grande* × *hodgsonii*) and a pair of *macabeanum* hybrids from Glenarn, which I feel may be the well-known *falconeri* cross which the Gibsons considered a successful bit of hybridizing. There are also older-type labels bearing the parentages of crosses which may well have been made at Strone but about which I have no information; such might include (*neriiflorum* subsp. *euchaites* × 'Gaul') and ('Edusa' ×). There must, of course, be others.

By now a good deal has been made of hybridizing and the results. Maybe it has become necessary to refute any idea that may have arisen that Strone is simply a garden of hybrids, or perhaps even, a garden in which the species were not welcome. Perish the thought. I have either written notes or mental notes on at least 200 plants in at least 60 different species; these are only the ones that have taken my attention at some time. I know there are many more which I have not yet been able to examine or verify. Of species alone, Strone contains a most interesting collection, one which ranges from the standard repertoire of good rhododendrons to many uncommon, or rare, plants. The selection is conspicuous for the good forms which Lord Glenkinglas preferred and sought out, and which the real enthusiast so enjoys seeing. Of what may be considered 'standard' species you may encounter either several individual examples, or clumps, or a combination of both. Examples are *augustinii*, *oreotropes* and *yunnanense*, in Subsection Triflora. But there are also *bauhiniiflorum*, *ambiguum*, *lutescens*, *concinnum* forms, *rigidum*, *zaleucum* and *chengshianum*, now sunk under *ambiguum*, which have flowered. This is a good amalgam of favourite and less common Triflora. Of the 'big-leaved' and other species which are normally very large-growing there are several very good examples, usually encountered as single plants although there may well be another plant or two in another part of the garden. For example, there are two very large *falconeri* and two *arizelum* K.W. 20922 specimens. Of the latter I have an old note of seeing it in August one year, with the new foliage expanded and thickly covered with rich velvety indumentum of the colour of cocoa-powder. This is a characteristic usually associated with *eximium*, itself very uncertain in this matter. This *arizelum* is of the form I like best, with milk-white corollas blotched red-purple in the throat. Other rhododendrons in the two big-leaved Subsections include several *macabeanum*, *sinogrande* and *fictolacteum*. Moving down in scale, the following are all represented: *arboreum*, *niveum*, *argyrophyllum*, with

newly collected *zeylanicum* and *pingianum*; *calophytum*, *sutchuenense*, *decorum*, *discolor*, *fortunei*, *vernicosum*, *oreodoxa* and its var. *fargesii*; frequently there will be two or several specimens. So are *barbatum*, *glischroides*, *smithii* and a splendid plant of *erosum* from Ludlow and Sherriff who discovered it. They seem to have collected several herbarium specimens, 'a beautiful deep crimson tree 1387 which looks like a barbatum series', and seed under 2755. This plant has handsome barbatum-like trunks and impressive new foliage.

In this company you might presume to find *thomsonii*, *cerasinum*, *griersonianum* and various forms of close relatives of *cinnabarinum*, and you certainly can; it all depends on the areas you explore. Lord Glenkinglas's interest in breeding yellows and creams has resulted in a very strong representation of different forms of *wardii*, including *litiense*, and of course *campylocarpum*. *Rhododendron wardii* (and therefore its offspring) is especially interesting because he crossed *wardii* with *wardii*, using different forms. There are many outstanding ones in the garden.

Readers will be aware of the complexity of Subsection *Neriiflora*, so the names which follow are offered with a caution. I am probably omitting several good representatives, unknowingly. There seem to be: *neriiflorum*, *beanianum*, *pocophorum*, *haematodes*, *forrestii* (including *repens*), *chamaethomsonii*, *dichroanthum*, *sanguineum*, *gymnocarpum* and *eudoxum*. In this batch, the problem of adequate accuracy of nomenclature is well outside the scope of this account, essentially horticultural.

The range of species has not by any means been exhausted yet, but after those groupings a list of miscellaneous names, not necessarily connected, will show that a visit to the garden would be very rewarding even if interest were confined entirely to species. Bear in mind too that several of the plants named here are first-rate forms or first-rate specimens. They include: *pseudochrysanthum*, *mori*, *souliei*, *yakushimanum*, *wasonii*, *lanatum* (an outstanding plant) (see cover photograph), *campanulatum*, *fulgens*, *habrotrichum*, several plants of various *maddenii*, *luteum* and *vaseyi*, *tsangpoense*, *glaucophyllum*, *tephropeplum*, *auritum* and *leucaspis*, *scintillans*, *campylogynum*, *trichostomum*, *fastigiatum* and *impeditum*. This last list alone would whet the appetite of most rhododendron enthusiasts, yet it cannot be thought of as being complete.

In the garden around Strone House there is a great variety of plants other than rhododendrons. A large cherry, magnolias, acers and sorbuses, daphnes, euphorbias, peonies, erythroniums, pulmonarias, primroses and many different narcissi are eyecatching and provide variety.

In the car park, at the end of the garden nearest Cairndow village, and alongside the honesty box, there is a plan of the site giving routes to follow. From there you will find signposts to help the first-time visitor on



Fig. 1 *Strone House, which lies above the woodland garden.*

Kenneth Lowes

a tour to include the most famous trees. This plan shows that a substantial area furthest from where you are standing is known as the New Garden. This ought to be visited if at all possible, partly for its contents - many of the plants are mentioned above - and partly because it is such a beautiful place. It is easy of access, some of it is wooded but some of it is open to the sun and sky, and a section of the path runs alongside the River Kinglas, whose chatter can be heard no matter which part of the whole garden you may be in.

After the death of Lord Glenkinglas the property was inherited by his four daughters.

The woodland is open to visitors during the hours of daylight; this usually means from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the best months. For flower the best period of the year is of course April, May and June, but the garden will give pleasure whenever you visit it, because of its trees, its rhododendrons and its atmosphere. Use of the car park is free and there is a picnic area alongside.

The garden is maturing all the time, and is certainly one of the most beautiful woodland gardens I have ever seen. Rhododendron enthusiasts especially can count on passing many a happy hour in it, and will be grateful that it has been made accessible to them.

First Class Rhododendrons

MAJOR E. W. M. MAGOR

In *Rhododendrons 1981-82*, with *Magnolias* and *Camellias* are listed (pp.57 to 60) awards to camellias from the RHS up to that time since the establishment of the Floral Committee in 1859.

Since that time, First Class Certificates alone have been awarded to 190 rhododendron hybrids, 72 species and 76 azaleas; the other awards to rhododendrons are almost innumerable.

The first recorded FCC rhododendron was *R. 'Maculosissimum'* in 1860, described as 'spotted all over with little dots and streaks of blackish purple on pale blush lilac ground'. In the nineteenth century, hardy hybrids, azaleas and rhododendrons grown under glass seem to have been most prominent. A good many of these plants, azaleas and Vireya hybrids in particular, are probably no longer in cultivation. Five clones of the Vireya hybrid 'Duchess of Edinburgh' × *javanicum* received FCCs between 1883 and 1893 and four of 'Princess Alexandra' × *javanicum* between 1882 and 1886.

The parents of many of the early hybrids, particularly the hardy hybrids and azaleas, do not seem to be recorded, and this applies also to some of those which have received recent awards in the Trials.

Rhododendrons which have been awarded First Class Certificates

SPECIES (V:Vireya A:Azalea)	Raiser or Exhibitor	Year of FCC
<i>albrechtii</i> 'Michael McLaren'	Aberconway	1962
<i>arboreum</i> 'Tony Schilling'	RBG Kew	1974
<i>arboreum</i> subsp. <i>delavayi</i>	Fletcher	1936
V <i>brookeanum</i>	J. Veitch	1869
V <i>brookeanum</i> 'Mandarin'	E. F. Allen	1970
V <i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> 'Raja'	E. F. Allen	1972
<i>calophytum</i> pink form	Godman	1933
<i>calostrotum</i> 'Gigha'	Cox	1971
<i>campylocarpum</i>	Veitch & Sons	1892
<i>campylogynum</i> Myrtilloides Group	Rothschild	1943
<i>cinnabarinum</i> Concatenans Group KW5874	Messel	1935
<i>dalhousiae</i> 'Frank Ludlow' LS&T 6694	Hardy	1974
<i>dalhousiae</i> var. <i>rhabdotum</i>	Rothschild	1934
<i>dauricum</i> 'Midwinter'	Crown Estate	1969
<i>davidsonianum</i> pale rose form	Aberconway	1955
<i>dendricola</i> Taronense Group	Rothschild	1935

<i>edgeworthii</i>	Messel	1933
<i>edgeworthii</i> (as <i>bullatum</i>)	Rothschild	1937
<i>edgeworthii</i> (as <i>bullatum</i>) 'Red Collar' KW 20840	Loder	1981
<i>elliottii</i> KW 7725	Heneage-Vivian	1937
<i>facetum</i> 'Eric Rudd' F 13508	Stephenson Clarke	1980
<i>formosum</i> var. <i>inaequale</i> 'Elizabeth Bennet'	Mrs Mackenzie	1981
<i>forrestii</i> Repens Group	Stevenson	1935
<i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i>	RBG Kew	1922
<i>fulvum</i> F 24314	Stephenson Clarke	1981
<i>grande</i>	Godman	1901
<i>griersonianum</i>	Lowinsky	1924
<i>griffithianum</i>	Standish	1866
<i>haematodes</i>	A. M. Williams	1926
<i>hookeri</i>	Aberconway	1933
<i>intricatum</i>	J. Veitch	1907
<i>japonicum</i> var. <i>japonicum</i> 'Ho Emma'	Stephenson Clarke	1982
<i>johnstoneanum</i> Parryae Group	Gorer	1973
A <i>kaempferi</i> 'Eastern Fire'	Crown Estate	1955
<i>lacteum</i> (with crimson blotch)	A. M. Williams	1926
<i>lacteum</i> 'Blackhills' (unblotched)	Christie	1965
<i>lanigerum</i> 'Chapel Wood'	Crown Estate	1967
<i>leucaspis</i> KW 7171	Rothschild	1944
<i>lindleyi</i>	Heneage-Vivian	1937
<i>luteiflorum</i> 'Glen Cloy' KW 21556	NTS, Brodick	1966
<i>lutescens</i> 'Exbury'	Rothschild	1938
<i>macabeanum</i>	Bolitho	1938
<i>magnificum</i> 'Kildonan' KW 9200	NTS, Brodick	1966
<i>montroseanum</i> 'Benmore'	RBG, Benmore	1957
<i>mucronulatum</i> 'Winter Brightness'	Crown Estate	1957
<i>niveum</i> 'Crown Equerry'	Crown Estate	1979
<i>nuttallii</i>	Victoria Nursery	
<i>orthocladum</i> var. <i>microleucum</i>	Highgate	1864
<i>pachypodium</i>	Rothschild	1939
<i>polycladum</i> Scintillans Group	Rothschild	1936
A <i>prinophyllum</i> (syn. <i>roseum</i>) 'Philip Holmes'	Rothschild	1934
<i>protistum</i> var. <i>giganteum</i> F 19335	NT, Nymans	1981
<i>quinquefolium</i> 'Five Arrows'	Montrose	1953
<i>racemosum</i>	Rothschild	1967
A <i>reticulatum</i> 'Sea King'	J. Veitch	1892
<i>rex</i> KW 4509	Hydon	1982
<i>russatum</i>	Crosfield	1935
<i>sanguineum</i> subsp. <i>sanguineum</i> var. <i>haemaleum</i>	Rothschild	1933
	'Phantom Rock'	
A <i>schlippenbachii</i>	Stephenson Clarke	1981
A <i>schlippenbachii</i> 'Prince Charming'	Aberconway	1944
A <i>simsii</i>	Loder	1965
<i>sinogrande</i>	Loder, Wakehurst	1933
<i>souliei</i>	Johnstone	1926
<i>souliei</i> 'Exbury Pink'	J. Veitch	1909
<i>souliei</i> 'Windsor Park'	Rothschild	1936
<i>sutchuenense</i> 'Seventh Heaven' W1232	Crown Estate	1951
<i>taggianum</i>	Stephenson Clarke	1987
<i>temenium</i> Chrysanthum Group 'Cruachan'	Adams-Acton	1943
<i>trichostomum</i> Ledoides Group 'Collingwood Ingram'	Mrs Kenneth	1964
<i>veitchianum</i> Cubittii Group 'Ashcombe'	Lady Anne Palmer	1976
<i>wardii</i> Litiense Group	Crown Estate	1962
<i>yakushimanum</i> 'Koichiro Wada'	Digby	1953
	RHS, Wisley	1947

Registrar's note

Some parents given in this list as named cultivars may in fact only represent un-selected forms of a grex bearing the same name.

CULTIVARS (T: after trial at Wisley)		Parentage	Raiser or Exhibitor	Year of FCC
'Alice Mangles'	<i>griffithianum</i> × <i>ponicum</i>	Mangles		1882
'Altaclarens'	<i>arboreum</i> × <i>catawbiense/ponicum</i>	Gowen		1865
'Amilcar' (purple, spotted black)		Standish		1860
'Aries'	<i>neriiflorum</i> × <i>thomsonii</i>	Ramsden		1938
'Arthur Bedford'	mauve seedling × <i>ponicum</i>	Lowinsky		1958 T
'Avalanche'	<i>calophyllum</i> × <i>Loderi</i> grex	Rothschild		1938
'Azor Sister'	<i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i> × <i>griersonianum</i>	Stevenson		1960
'Beauty of Littleworth'	<i>griffithianum</i> hybrid	Mangles		1904
'Beauty of Littleworth'				1953 T
'Beauty of Surrey' (scarlet, finely spotted)		A. Waterer		1872
'Beauty of Tremough'	<i>arboreum</i> × <i>griffithianum</i>	Gill		1902
'Beefeater'	<i>elliottii</i> × 'Fusilier'	RHS, Wisley		1959
'Betty Wormald'	'George Hardy' × red garden hybrid	M. Koster		1964 T
'Bianca' (salmon pink)		Bull		1866
'Blewbury'	<i>roxieanum</i> × <i>maculiferum</i> subsp. <i>anhweiniense</i>	Crown Estate		1983
'Blue Diamond'	<i>augustinii</i> × 'Intrifast'	Crofton		1939
'Blue Peter' (pale lavender blush, deep blotch)		S. & C. Waterer		1958
'Bodnant Yellow'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> (yellow form) × 'Royal Flush' (orange form)	Aberconway		1944
V 'Bride' (syn. 'The Bride')	'Caucasicum Album' selfed	Standish & Noble		1871
V 'Brilliant'	'Duchess of Edinburgh' × <i>javanicum</i> (crimson)	Veitch		1883
V 'Britannia'	'Queen Wilhelmina' × 'Stanley Davies'	C. B. van Nes		1937 T
'Cardinal'	<i>arboreum</i> × 'Barclay'	Aberconway		1937
V 'Cardinale'	'Duchess of Edinburgh' × <i>javanicum</i> (scarlet crimson)	Veitch		1885
V 'Carminata'	<i>jasminiflorum</i> × <i>javanicum</i>	Davies		1886
'Charles Dickens'	<i>catawbiense</i> hybrid	A. Waterer		1865
'Chikor'	<i>rupicola</i> var. <i>chryseum</i> × <i>ludlowii</i>	Cox		1968 T
'China'	<i>fortunei</i> × <i>wightii</i>	Slocock		1982 T
'Choremia'	<i>arboreum</i> × <i>haematodes</i>	Aberconway		1948
'Cilpinense'	<i>ciliatum</i> × <i>moupinense</i>	Aberconway		1968
V 'Conqueror'	'Duchess of Connaught' × <i>javanicum</i> (scarlet)	Veitch		1884
'Coreta'	<i>Loderi</i> grex × <i>arboreum</i> subsp. <i>zeylanicum</i>	Aberconway		1935
'Countess of Haddington'	<i>ciliatum</i> × <i>dalhousiae</i>	Parker		1862
'Cream Trumpet'	<i>dalhousiae</i> × <i>nuttallii</i>	RBG, Edinburgh		1958
'Crest'	'Lady Bessborough' × <i>wardii</i>	Rothschild		1953
'Curlew'	<i>ludlowii</i> × <i>fletcherianum</i>	Cox		1969
			+	1986 T
'Dainty'	'Elizabeth' × 'May Day'	Aberconway		1944
'David'	'Hugh Koster' × <i>neriiflorum</i>	Swaythling		1939
'Diadem'	'Duchess of Edinburgh' × <i>javanicum</i> (orange-scarlet, tinted carmine)	Veitch		1896
'Diana Colville'	<i>yunnanense</i> hybrid	Colville		1972 T
'Dopey'	(<i>facetum</i> hybrid × <i>Fabia</i>) × (<i>yakushimanum</i> × 'Fabia Tangerine')	S. & C. Waterer		1979 T
'Dora Amateis'	<i>minus</i> <i>Carolinianum</i> Group × <i>ciliatum</i>	Amateis		1981 T

	'Dorinthia'	<i>griersonianum</i> × 'Hiraethlyn'	Aberconway	1938	
	'Duchess of Connaught'	<i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> × <i>lobbii</i>	Mason	1881	
	'Duchess of Edinburgh'	<i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> × <i>lobbii</i>	Veitch	1874	
	'Duchess of Teck'	'Princess Royal' × <i>brookeanum</i>	S. & C. Waterer	1879	
	'Earl of Athlone'	'Queen Wilhelmina' × 'Stanley Davies'	C. B. van Nes	1933	T
	'Early Gem'	<i>dauricum</i> × 'Praecox'	Veitch	1874	
	'Elizabeth'	<i>forrestii</i> Repens Group × <i>griersonianum</i>	Aberconway	1943	
	'Empress'	'Crown Princess of Germany' × <i>javanicum</i> (yellow-orange)	Veitch	1884	
	'Ethel'	'F. C. Puddle' × <i>forrestii</i> Repens Group	Aberconway	1940	
	'Exbury Albatross'	<i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i> × <i>Loderi</i>	Rothschild	1935	
	'Exbury Angelo'	<i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i> × <i>griffithianum</i>	Rothschild	1947	
	'Exbury Lady Chamberlain'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> Roylei Group × 'Royal Flush' (orange form)	Rothschild	1931	
	'Exoniense'	<i>ciliatum</i> × <i>veitchianum</i>	Veitch	1881	
	'Favourite'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Alexandra' (pink to salmon)	Veitch	1882	
	'Firetail'	'Britannia' × <i>facetum</i>	Crosfield	1937	
	'Flame'	<i>javanicum</i> (rich orange scarlet) hybrid	Morley	1931	
	'Fortune'	<i>falconeri</i> × <i>sinogrande</i>	Rothschild	1938	
	'Fragrantissimum'	<i>edgeworthii</i> × <i>formosum</i>	Rollison	1868	
	'Fred Wynnatt'	<i>fortunei</i> × 'Jalisco'	Rothschild	1980	
	'Furnivall's Daughter'	seedling from selfed 'Mrs Furnivall' (pink, heavily spotted)	Knap Hill	1961	T
	'Fusilier'	<i>elliottii</i> × <i>griersonianum</i>	Rothschild	1942	
	'Galactic'	<i>lacteum</i> × 'Avalanche'	Rothschild	1970	
	'Golden Oriole Talavera'	<i>moupinense</i> × <i>sulfureum</i>	C. Williams	1963	
	'Golden Queen'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> Roylei Group × 'Royal Flush' (orange form)	Rothschild	1947	
	'Goldsworth Crimson'	'Doncaster' × <i>griffithianum</i> hybrid	Slocock	1971	T
	'Goldsworth Pink'	<i>griffithianum</i> hybrid	Slocock	1987	T
	'Grenadier'	<i>elliottii</i> × 'Moser's Maroon'	Rothschild	1943	
	'Grenadine'	<i>griersonianum</i> × 'Pauline'	Rothschild	1982	T
	'Henryanum'	<i>dalhousiae</i> × <i>formosum</i>	Henry	1865	
	'Her Majesty'	<i>arboreum</i> × 'Forsterianum' (soft crimson)	Veitch	1889	
	'Hydon Dawn'	<i>yakushimanum</i> × 'Springbok'	Hydon	1987	T
	'Hydon Hunter'	<i>yakushimanum</i> × 'Springbok'	Hydon	1979	T
V	'Imogene'	'Taylori' × <i>javanicum</i> var. <i>teysmanii</i> (pale yellow)	Veitch	1888	
	'Impeanum'	<i>hanceanum</i> × <i>impeditum</i>	RBG Kew	1934	
V	'Incarnatum Floribundum'	'Maiden's Blush' × 'Prince Leopold' (rose)	Veitch	1885	
	'Jalisco Elect'	'Dido' × 'Lady Bessborough'	Rothschild	1987	T
	'Jalisco Goshawk'	'Dido' × 'Lady Bessborough'	Rothschild	1954	
	'Jocelyne'	<i>calophytum</i> × <i>lacteum</i>	Rothschild	1956	
	'Kilimanjaro'	'Dusky Maid' × <i>elliottii</i>	Rothschild	1947	
	'Kluis Triumph'	<i>griffithianum</i> hybrid	Kluis	1971	T
	'La Belle'	<i>ciliatum</i> × 'Forsterianum'	Veitch	1887	
	'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam'	<i>edgeworthii</i> × <i>ciliatum</i> or <i>formosum</i>	Fisher	1881	
	'Lady Berry'	'Rosy Bell' × 'Royal Flush'	Rothschild	1949	
	'Lady Bessborough'	<i>campylocarpum</i> × <i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i>	Rothschild	1933	

	'Lady Chamberlain'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> Roylei Group × 'Royal Flush' (orange form)	Rothschild	1931
	'Lady Clermont'	<i>catawbiense</i> hybrid	A. Waterer	1865
	'Lady Rosebery'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> Roylei Group × Royal Flush (pink form)	Rothschild	1932
	'Lamplighter'	'Britannia' × 'Madame Fr. J. Chauvin'	M. Koster	1955
	'Laura Aberconway'	'Barclayi' × <i>griersonianum</i>	Aberconway	1944
	'Lavender Girl'	'fortunei' × 'Lady Grey Egerton'	Slocock	1967
	'Leonardslee Yellow'	'lindleyi' × <i>nutallii</i>	Loder	1980
	'Letty Edwards'	<i>campylocarpum</i> × <i>fortunei</i>	Stephenson Clarke	1948
	'Little Ben'	<i>forrestii</i> Repens Group × <i>neriiflorum</i>	Scrase-Dickens	1937
	'Loderi King George'	'fortunei' × <i>griffithianum</i>	Loder	1970
	'Loderi Pink Diamond'	'fortunei' × <i>griffithianum</i>	Loder	1914
	'Loderi White Diamond'	'fortunei' × <i>griffithianum</i>	Loder	1914
V	'Luteo-roseum'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Alexandra'	Veitch	1886
	'Maculosissimum'	'pale lilac, much spotted'	Standish	1860
V	'Maiden's Blush'	<i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> × 'Princess Alexandra' (pinky yellow)	Veitch	1876
	'Manglesii'	<i>catawbiense</i> hybrid × <i>griffithianum</i>	Veitch	1885
	'Marcia'	<i>campylocarpum</i> × 'Gladys'	Swaythling	1944
	'Marinus Koster'	<i>griffithianum</i> hybrid	Koster	1948
	'Mars'	<i>griffithianum</i> hybrid	S. & C. Waterer	1935
	'Matador'	<i>griersonianum</i> × <i>strigillosum</i>	Aberconway	1946
V	'Minerva'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Alexandra'	Veitch	1885
	'Minterne Cinnkeys'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> × <i>keissii</i>	Digby	1952
V	'Monarch'	'Duchess of Edinburgh' × 'Princess Alexandra' (yellow orange)	Veitch	1882
	'Morvah'	<i>elliottii</i> × <i>wattii</i>	Bolitho	1959
	'Mount Everest'	(white, small red blotch)	Slocock	1958
	'Mrs A. M. Williams'	(bright crimson scarlet)	Koster	1961
	'Mrs Charles E. Pearson'	'Catawbiense Grandiflorum' × 'Coombe Royal'	Koster	1955
	'Mrs Furnivall'	<i>caucasicum</i> hybrid × <i>griffithianum</i>	A. Waterer	1948
	'Mrs G. W. Leak'	'Chevalier Félix de Sauvage' × 'Coombe Royal'	Koster	1934
V	'Mrs Heal'	<i>multicolor</i> × 'Princess Beatrice'	Veitch	1894
	'Mrs John Clutton'	<i>maximum</i> hybrid	A. Waterer	1865
	'Mrs Philip Martineau'		Knap Hill	1936
	'Naomi Stella Maris'	'Aurora' × <i>fortunei</i>	Rothschild	1939
	'Nimbus'	'Cornish Loderi' × 'Snow Queen'	Knap Hill	1967
	'Pearl'	<i>griffithianum</i> × 'Princess Royal'	Veitch	1885
	'Penheale Blue'	<i>concinnum</i> <i>Pseudoyanthinum</i> Group × <i>russatum</i>	Colville	1981
	'Percy Wiseman'	<i>yakushimanum</i> × 'Fabia Tangerine' selfed	Waterer	1986
	'Picotee Roseum'	(white, edged pink)	Veitch	1963
	'Pink Pearl'	'Broughtonii' × 'George Hardy'	J. Waterer	1900
	'Polar Bear'	<i>auriculatum</i> × <i>diaprepes</i>	Stevenson	1946
	'Portia'	<i>neriiflorum</i> Euchaites Group × <i>strigillosum</i>	Aberconway	1947
	'Praecox'	<i>ciliatum</i> × <i>dauricum</i>	Davies	1978
V	'Primrose'	'Maiden's Blush' × <i>javanicum</i> var. <i>teysmannii</i>	Veitch	1888
V	'Prince Leopold'	<i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> × <i>lobii</i>	Veitch	1876
	'Princess Alice'	<i>ciliatum</i> × <i>edgeworthii</i>	Veitch	1862
	'Princess Anne'	<i>hanceanum</i> × <i>keissii</i>	Reuthe	1983
V	'Princess Beatrice'	'Duchess of Edinburgh' × 'Princess Alexandra'	Veitch	1884

V	'Princess Christian'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Frederica'	Veitch	1883
V	'Princess Helena'	<i>lobbii</i> × 'Princess Royal'	Veitch	1865
	'Princess William of Wurtemberg'		Veitch	1894
	'Ptarmigan'	<i>leucaspis</i> × <i>orthocladum</i> var. <i>microleucum</i>	Cox	1965
	'Purity'	<i>edgeworthii</i> × <i>formosum</i>	A. Waterer	1888
	'Queen Mary'	'Marion' × 'Mrs C. S. Sargent'	Felix Dijkhuis	1948
	'Queen of Hearts'	<i>meddianum</i> × 'Moser's Maroon'	Rothschild	1986
V	'Queen of the Yellows'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Frederica'	Veitch	1886
V	'Queen Victoria'	<i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> × <i>lobbii</i>	Veitch	1882
	'Razorbill'	<i>spinuliferum</i> hybrid	Cox	1983
	'Redwing'	'Barclayi' × 'Shilsonii'	Aberconway	1937
	'Roberte'	<i>campylocarpum</i> × <i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i>	Rothschild	1936
	'Romany Chal'	'facetum' × 'Moser's Maroon'	Rothschild	1937
V	'Rose Perfection'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Alexandra'	Veitch	1886
	'Roza Stevenson'	(as 'Roza Harrison') 'Loderi Sir Edmund' × <i>wardii</i>	Harrison	1968
V	'Ruby'	<i>jasminiflorum</i> var. <i>carminatum</i> × <i>multicolor</i>	Veitch	1888
		var. <i>curtisii</i>	Magor	1962
	'Saint Beward'	<i>augustinii</i> × <i>impeditum</i>	Harrison	1986
	'Saint Merryn'	<i>impeditum</i> × 'Saint Tudy'	Harrison	1986
	'Saint Minver'	<i>russatum</i> × 'Saint Beward'	Harrison	1986
	'Saint Tudy'	<i>augustinii</i> × <i>impeditum</i>	Magor	1973
V	'Scarlet Crown'	'Duchess of Edinburgh' × <i>javanicum</i>	Veitch	1883
	'Seagull'	'Loderi' × <i>sutchuenense</i>	Loder	1976
	'Selig'	<i>maddenii</i> subsp. <i>maddenii</i> × <i>cinnabarinum</i>	Loder	1937
		Blandfordiiflorum Group	Rinz	1862
	'Sesterianum'	<i>edgeworthii</i> × <i>formosum</i>	Aberconway	1960
	'Seta'	<i>moupinense</i> × <i>spinuliferum</i>	Crown Estate	1974
	'Seven Stars'	'Loderi Sir Joseph Hooker' × <i>yakushimanum</i>		T
	'Sir Frederick Moore'	<i>fortunei</i> subsp. <i>discolor</i> × 'Saint Keverne'	Rothschild	1972
	'Sir John Ramsden'	'Corona' × <i>thomsonii</i>	S. & C. Waterer	1955
	'Sir Robert Napier'		Smith	1868
	'Snow Queen'	'Halopeanum' × 'Loderi grex'	Sir E. Loder	1970
	'Souvenir de Doctor S. Endtz'	'John Walter' × 'Pink Pearl'	Endtz	1970
V	'Souvenir de J. H. Mangles'	'Crown Princess of Germany' × <i>javanicum</i>	Veitch	1888
	'Stella'	(syn. 'Stella Waterer') <i>catawbiense</i> hybrid	A. Waterer	1865
	'Sunrise'	<i>griersonianum</i> × <i>griffithianum</i>	Aberconway	1942
	'Superbissimum'		Veitch	1897
	'Susan'	<i>campanulatum</i> × <i>fortunei</i>	J. C. Williams	1954
	'Sylvania'	<i>edgeworthii</i> × <i>formosum</i> var. <i>inaequale</i>	NTS, Brodick	1984
	'Tallyho'	'facetum' × <i>griersonianum</i>	Crosfield	1933
V	'Taylori'	<i>brookeanum</i> var. <i>gracile</i> × 'Princess Alexandra'	Veitch	1877
V	'Thetis'	<i>javanicum</i> × 'Princess Frederica'	Veitch	1887
	'Tip-the-Wink'	<i>griffithianum</i> × 'Kewense'	G. H. Loder	1936
	'Touchstone'	<i>griffithianum</i> 'Roseum Superbum' hybrid	Crosfield	1937
	'Trewithen Orange'	<i>cinnabarinum</i> Concatenans Group × 'Full House'	Johnstone	1950
V	'Triumphans'	'Princess Royal' × <i>javanicum</i>	Veitch	1883
	'Tyermannii'	<i>formosum</i> × <i>nuttallii</i>	Tyerman	1925
	'Unique'	<i>campylocarpum</i> hybrid	Slocock	1935

T

'Vanessa'	<i>griersonianum</i> × 'Soulbut'	Aberconway	1929
'Vanessa Pastel'	<i>griersonianum</i> × 'Soulbut'	Aberconway	1971
'Wayford'	<i>calophytum</i> × 'Gill's Triumph'	Magor	1976
'Welkin'	'Eros' × <i>haematodes</i>	Aberconway	1951
'White Swan'	<i>decorum</i> × 'Pink Pearl'	S. & C. Waterer	1957
'Wilgen's Ruby'	'Britannia' × 'John Walter'	van Wilgen	1951 T
'William Wright Smith'	<i>nuttallii</i> × <i>veitchianum</i>	RBG, Edinburgh	1960
'Windlesham Scarlet'	'Britannia' × 'Doncaster'	Fromow	1971 T
'Wishmoor'	<i>yakushimanum</i> × <i>litense</i>	Crown Estate	1987
V 'Yellow Perfection'	'Lord Wolseley' × <i>javanicum</i> var. <i>teysmannii</i>	Veitch	1885

AZALEA HYBRIDS

(Azd: Azaleodendron)

	Parentage	Raiser or Exhibitor	Year of FCC
'Antigone' (double, ivory white with purple spots)	Schultz	1883	
'Balsaminiflorum Album' (double, white)	Veitch	1882	
'Balsaminiflorum Aureum' (double, yellow)	Veitch	1882	
'Balsaminiflorum Carneum' (double, flesh pink)	Veitch	1887	
'Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild'	L. van Houtte	1883	& 4
'Beauty'	Veitch	1887	
'Bengal Beauty'	'Daimio' × <i>simsii</i>	Haworth Booth	1973 T
'Betty'	'Malvaticum' × <i>kaempferi</i> (orange pink)	Knap Hill	1972 T
'Blue Danube'	'Malvaticum' × <i>kaempferi</i> (blue purple)	van Hecke	1975 T
Azd 'Broughtonii Aureum' (<i>maximum</i> × <i>ponticum</i>) × <i>molle</i>	Godman	1935	
'B. S. Williams' Indian (lilac rose with blood red blotch)	L. van Houtte	1885	
'Camelia Suprema'	Indian (double, pure white)	Haerens & Wille	1914
'Colyer'	purple, spotted crimson	C. E. Brown	1985 T
'Comte Adrien de Germinaly'	Indian (salmon rose)	L. van Houtte	1884
'Comte de Chambord'	Indian (salmon rose)	Apers	1883
'Comte de la Torre'	Indian (pale rose)	L. van Houtte	1884
'Comte de Paris'	Indian (light cream)	L. van Houtte	1884
'Comtesse de Beaufort'	Indian (bright rose)	L. van Houtte	1871
'Comtesse de Flandre'	Indian (rose red)	D. Vervaene	1871
'Couleur de Paille'	Veitch	1877	
'Duc d'Arenberg'	Indian (white with red spots)	A. Verschaffelt	1862
'Duchess of Albany'	Todman	1883	
'Duke of Connaught'	<i>obtusum</i> var. <i>amoenum</i> form	J. Waterer	1879
'Duke of Edinburgh'	Parsons	1876	
'Eclaireur'	Indian 'Eggebrechtii' × 'Etoile de Noel'	A. Haerens	1914
'Exquisitum'	Occidentale (creamy white)	M. Koster	1968 T
'Fanny Ivory'	Indian (salmon scarlet)	Ivery	1872
'Fedora'	'Malvaticum' × <i>kaempferi</i> (dark pink)	van Nes	1960 T
'Florida'	'Vuyk's Scarlet' hybrid	van Nes	1974 T
'General Wavell'	<i>indicum</i> × 'Glory of Namazu'	Ingram	1961
'George Loddiges'	Indian (salmon)	L. van Houtte	1871
'Hatsugiri'	Kurume (purplish crimson)	Knap Hill	1969 T
'Hino Mayo'	Kurume (soft pink)	Sunningdale	1945 T
'Honeysuckle'	Knap Hill (flesh pink, orange blotch)	Rothschild	1933
'John Gould Veitch'	Indian (lilac rose)	L. van Houtte	1872
'John Jennings'	Knap Hill (red)	Knap Hill	1927
'John T. D. Llewelyn'	Indian (large double pale red)	L. van Houtte	1887
'Juge de Ruyck'	Indian (double rose)	Harens & Wille	1914
'La Superbe'	Indian (lacquer red)	van der Cruyssen	1869
'Lizzie'	Indian (white, striped rosy crimson)	Kinghorn	1867

'Louise Dowdle'	(‘Mucronatum’ × ‘Vittata Fortunei’) × ‘Shinny-no-tsuki’ (rose pink)	Glenn Dale	1976	T
'Lord Shaftesbury'		Curbush	1886	
'Mahler'	'Vuyk's Rosy Red' hybrid	van Nes	1976	T
'Martha Hitchcock'	'Mucronatum' × 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'			
'Miss E. Jarrett'	Indian (pure white)	Glenn Dale	1976	T
'Mother's Day'	'Hinodegiri' hybrid	L. van Houtte	1883	
'Mrs Carmichael'	<i>amoenum</i> hybrid	van Hecke	1970	T
'Narcissiflorum Plenum'	Ghent (chrome yellow)	Carmichael	1877	
'Orange Beauty'	Kurume × <i>kaempferi</i>	L. van Houtte	1963	T
'Palestrina'	<i>kaempferi</i> hybrid (pure white)	Knap Hill	1958	T
'President Claeys'	Indian (salmon red)	van Nes	1967	
'President Ed. de Ghellinck de Walle'	Indian (large double rose)	van der Cruyssen	1863	
'Princesse Victoria'	Indian (very large red)	L. van Houtte	1871	
'Princess of Wales'	Indian (magenta rose)	L. van Houtte	1885	
Azd' Ria Hardijzer'	<i>racemosum</i> × 'Hinodegiri'	Todman	1884	
'Rosebud'	'Louise Gable' × 'Caroline Gable'	Hardijzer	1980	T
'Semi-Duplex Maculatum'	Indian (rose with red blotch)	Gable	1975	T
'Sibelius'	'J. C. van Tol' × 'Maxwelli'	Knight	1865	
		Vuyk van Nes	1931	
'Sigismund Rucker'	Indian (magenta with black centre)	A. Waterer	1872	
'Silver Slipper'	Knap Hill (white flushed pink)	de Rothschild	1963	T
'Sir Beauchamp Seymour'		Veitch	1882	
'Sir Garnet Wolseley'		Veitch	1882	
'Smithianum'	form of <i>amoenum</i>	Smith	1873	
'Souvenir de Marie Roseel'	Indian (double, rosy salmon)	Roseel	1884	
'Souvenir de S. Rucker'	(probably the same as 'Sigismund Rucker')	van Houtte	1872	
'Souvenir de Duc d'Albany'	Indian (semi-double, white)	van Houtte	1884	
'Spek's Orange'	Mollis × <i>kosterianum</i> clone	Spek	1953	T
'Stella'	Indian (orange scarlet red)	Veitch	1864	
'Sun Chariot'	Knap Hill (golden yellow)	Rothschild	1967	T
'The Tocsin'		Noble	1878	
'Vervaeniana'	Indian (deep rose)	Vervaene	1888	
'Vlaamsche Perel'	Indian (double white, red stripes)	Haerens	1914	
'Vuyk's Scarlet'	(deep red)	Vuyk van Nes	1966	T
'Willem Hardijzer'	Mollis (deep red)	Hardijzer	1944	

Some thoughts on winter hardiness in rhododendrons and the protection of young plants

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Winter hardiness in rhododendrons is the sort of topic that comes to the fore every time there is a severe winter. When the after-effects show and damage or outright plant death is apparent everyone becomes pre-occupied with winter-hardiness for a while. It is often difficult to learn from the events sufficiently to avoid further heartbreaks in subsequent years, for the actual cause can be obscure. For instance, someone may regard a casualty and wonder why that particular plant has suffered, especially if it is considered to be a hardy variety, or why it happened at that time when a previous winter seemed much colder, and not find any clear-cut answer.

Even assuming that the prime cause was cold there can be so many contributory causes, not merely the severity of the frost itself. For example, what was its duration? Was there snow cover or a freezing wind? Did the cold spell occur in early winter, mid-winter or late winter almost on the verge of spring? Was it of sudden onset and so on? Or, indeed, was it perhaps caused by several of these factors in combination.

There are however important points worth considering. The first is the inherent hardiness of the particular plant. Could it ever have been expected to survive in that garden? Was it too tender for the conditions where it was growing? Weather, we are assured, goes in cycles and cold winters more clearly so than other features. After a succession of relatively mild winters much of the British Isles has now had one or two colder and longer winter spells with consequent widespread frost damage. So were those specimens that were so successful in the relatively mild years quite unsuited to a winter which was merely on the cold side of the average range for that area?

Additionally, several areas in recent winters have experienced unprecedented, indeed freak, levels of frost considering the long records available for those areas. Shrewsbury in Shropshire, Hook in Surrey and parts of southern Scotland have experienced 35° to 45° of frost (Fahrenheit) i.e. temperatures in the range of -19°C to -25°C. Damage to all manner of shrubs, not only rhododendrons, has been severe but then not all have perished and even plants severely damaged have subsequently revived. Where total kill has not been universal to a variety it is the larger healthy

established plants which have recovered. The young and the old are those which have succumbed. The very old lack the necessary vigour and for them the only help is patience plus care to encourage any subsequent signs of regrowth which may show even months later. Very young plants do not have the size and bulk which carries an established plant through to recovery. Furthermore, a young plant, being small, experiences more frosting in an unprotected site than a larger one. Being small it stands only a little above the soil surface and the roots only a little way beneath. Those are the very zones where chill conditions are most frequent. For them a 'touch of ground frost' in fact means frost, an actual frost, and if it is sharp enough to crust the surface around that plant's roots it means a total frost above and below ground. A larger plant will have its foliage above the immediate ground frost and its roots beneath the immediate soil surface and so is unaffected.

Dwarf rhododendrons, by contrast, being alpines, are adapted to cold conditions and their small, thick scaly leaves give protection so that they are not the principal casualties from winter cold. For them summer heat and drought are more deadly — two things for which they are not so well adapted.

Unlike old plants young ones can receive help. For them the thought, 'what can I do to make sure damage does not happen', can produce the positive answer, 'quite a lot if you are prepared to take the trouble'.

Living in a cold area and having suffered from severe winter frosts on an all too regular a basis, the topic has been an important one here and so a system of protection has been developed in response.

Previous articles on winter hardiness seem to have been concerned with the endurance abilities of essentially tender rhododendrons such as those with H₁ (rhododendrons usually grown in a cool greenhouse) and H₂ (those suitable for sheltered gardens in mild southern and western areas) hardiness ratings, growing in sheltered outdoor situations and in the southernmost counties of England. Here, the concern is to grow hardy species and hybrids of H_{3.4} (hardy in the south and west but requires some shelter elsewhere) and H₄ (hardy anywhere in the British Isles) through their early years by cushioning the severity of winter temperature changes until they are large enough to succeed in their permanent positions. This is the stage beyond a nursery glasshouse or polythene tunnel. So, all rhododendrons are grown on in a protected area, in a sort of winter-bunker as shown in the photograph. It measures 20 feet × 10 feet, with a south-west aspect, walled with timber sleepers each 10 inches thick, built four sleepers high except along the north-east rear side where there is an extra, fifth, layer. The plants are grown within this enclosure in a peat and sandy soil mixture with leafmould. The sub-soil is deep sand so drainage is always adequate. In summer the whole bed is open above. In late autumn, wooden slatted panels are placed

across the top. This is the first stage of protection against early frosts. The plants have light and air and can harden-off fully. In late December dry beech leaves are spread to give a soil covering before the final degree of protection is added. This is a close covering of green Norway spruce branches. Any evergreen conifer would serve equally well. Inside is now darkened as well as insulated around and above but there is free access of air under the panels at the sides as the illustration shows. The aim is to cushion the severity of temperature changes and in particular to protect from low temperatures. In this there is a good measure of success.



Fig. 2 Protected area, 20 × 10 feet, with spruce branches removed, covers off and showing spring growth

Dr R. H. L. Jack

The following recorded figures give a measure of the benefit and, being those for a cold spell in March, are particularly useful for they illustrate several different things in one set of figures.

Typical overnight readings recorded on 10 and 11 March and daytime readings on 11 March, when the outside shade maximum was 42°F (5.5°C).

	Inside	Outside in sunshine	Difference
Minimum overnight	32°F (0°C)	24°F (-4°C)	8°F (4°C)
Maximum daytime	38°F (3.5°C)	60°F (15.5°C)	22°F (12°C)
Range night/day	6°F (3.5°C)	36°F (19.5°C)	
Relative atmospheric humidity	79%	74%	

Taking the week 17 to 24 March, the lowest and highest recorded temperatures were:

	Inside	Outside in sunshine	Difference
Lowest minimum	26°F (-3.5°C)	18°F (-8°C)	8°F (4.5°C)
Highest maximum	46°F (8°C)	63°F (17°C)	17°F (9°C)
Range min./max.	20°F (11.5°C)	45°F (25°C)	

Note first the minimum temperatures inside the protected area compared with outside. Just on freezing point compared with -4°C . When the external temperature is lower than -4°C the inside tends to follow it down but maintains that differential at that time of year which is a worthwhile benefit.

Next the maximum temperatures show the inside cooler than outside. This is daytime temperature and is important too. The difference is particularly marked if the temperature inside is compared with the external reading in sunshine. That after all is the temperature to which a leaf surface is exposed in spring sunshine and is what breaks winter dormancy and sets sap flowing with such disastrous consequences if winter chill suddenly returns. So inside is both milder at night and cooler by day.

The measure of temperature ranges inside and out are markedly different and this means the rate of change of temperature inside is much slower.

For a plant environment so many things interact that temperature alone is not the only factor of importance. The air inside is the same air as that outside. The protected area is open at the sides after all but with the cooler daytime temperatures the same air has a higher relative humidity inside.

The difference was sufficiently great for the air inside to feel cooler and more moist to the skin yet it felt buoyant and in no sense stagnant. Thus plants were not subjected to the drying effects of March air and wind. Indeed the internal timber surfaces were damp while the external ones were totally dry. Foliage was fully turgid at all times and at the end of March had maintained a fresh colour and was unblemished while leaves on adult plants outside were by then dull looking and in some cases bronzed. So the March figures show several benefits at once in the late winter period that borders on full spring conditions, but what about absolute mid-winter.

There are benefits in January and February which is the period of coldest temperatures. Day-length then is shorter, the sun is lower and has little warmth so external daily temperature rises are less marked.

When frost is continuous by day as well as by night the inside temperature slowly follows the outside temperature down, but conditions inside are never so severe as outside. The soil inside may freeze to a hard crust but with the beech leaves for extra insulation this is far less than outside where it can be rock hard to a considerable depth. If there is snow covering it helps to protect plants but outside plants, dwarfs apart, stand up into the freezing air fully exposed. Inside with snow over the spruce branches there is an igloo-like benefit.

There are therefore considerable gains from this form of protection for young rhododendron plants in a very cold district and the benefits can be

just as positive in less severe conditions elsewhere. It is important to remember that it is not a substitute for a cool greenhouse where there may be some heating facilities. Nor is it a method of growing very tender rhododendrons outside in very cold conditions.

It is a method of tempering fluctuating conditions in spring and reducing the severity of spells of intense cold in mid-winter. It is better than the old-style lath-house because it is fully open all summer and the evergreen top-covering gives extra protection in winter. It protects from wind damage both in the sense of mechanical bruising and breakage and physiologically by reducing the drying effect of wind over leaf surfaces. To the obvious feature of low temperature protection must be added the benefits of a lesser range of daily fluctuation from maximum to minimum and back to maximum again with the consequent benefits of slower rate of change of temperature and better maintained daytime relative atmospheric humidity.

All this reduces plant stress and the benefits show in the condition in which young plants emerge from the winter resting period to enter the growing season. Although it requires extra and timely work the results produced commend this method of protection of young rhododendron plants for any garden anywhere in the British Isles.

Arduaine today

ED WRIGHT

In a previous *Yearbook* I wrote of our first seven years at Arduaine, of the garden and its contents and our progress in the restoration and alterations to this old Campbell garden. Situated on a promontory at the mouth of Loch Melfort, Arduaine enjoys the moderating effect of coastal Argyll. My brother Harry and I having acquired the property in the autumn of 1971 had no illusions about the task that lay ahead, we needed to be dedicated and remain so. Now, after some 15 years, we feel we have accomplished, indeed surpassed, our original aims. The lower garden is now well under control, parts of the woodland still require attention, but in a garden of some 24 acres, working entirely on our own, we feel we have achieved reasonable success. We have been offered help through employment schemes such as the Manpower Services Commission, but having seen the results of such activity elsewhere the suggestions held little attraction. The frustrations envisaged and supervision required, make us very doubtful of possible benefit; we prefer to do the work ourselves.

There seems little point in reiterating the history of the garden as Sir Ilay Campbell wrote about Arduaine in the 1966 *Year Book* and my own

article in the 1979-80 issue added further information, so readers can refer to both articles. Here I will endeavour to give an account of progress during the intervening years, describing what visitors will find if they come to Arduaine today.

Major alterations have been made throughout the garden, in the semi-formal area of the lower garden, in the woodland, to the cliff with its winding paths, and in particular to the ponds. The latter are fed by springs, fortunately they have never been known to fail. The springs rise below the main path in the garden, one feeds a well from which our water supply is drawn, then runs into the round pond. The other spring gushes into a small pool, the water then falling through a series of ponds and finally to the sea.

We had long cherished the idea of improving the layout of the water garden, indeed we have done so over the years by enlarging existing ponds and excavating others. However the ponds were too enclosed by old rhododendrons and other shrubs well past their prime. The area needed opening up and in the autumn of 1985 we decided on a major clearance; with the aid of our winch and a great deal of effort the majority of the big shrubs were removed and a view down the length of the water garden created. A few of the bigger plants that were worth saving were moved to other sites and we started some final alterations to the layout of paths, ponds, walls and planting areas. The soil here is mostly a deep moist peat and ideal for primulas; we have increased our collection to about eighty, mainly species but also hybrids. Other new plantings include *Meconopsis*, *Hosta*, *Astilbe* and *Cardiocrinum*; needless to say we are also planting rhododendrons, but only the dwarf plants, our intention being to retain a view from the top path to the lower ponds.

One aspect of our water garden always surprises visitors, the fact that we have no need to line our ponds, the subsoil being virtually impervious. One needs a crowbar to break it up and the resulting spoil, which gets wet in the process, is like natural concrete and ideal for paths. Having removed the soil from the line of a new path and poured in this mixture which consists of sand, rocks and grey clay, in two or three weeks it sets hard and is then topped with sandy gravel from the sea-shore. Our efforts to introduce fish have been a failure, the otters and herons having other ideas, but we still have hopes. In the case of herons deep water over the entire area of the ponds may be the answer. All of the ponds have shallow water and will require further excavation, a discouraging thought, but the birds must be prevented from wading. No doubt the odd fish would still be lost from birds standing on the bank but if the fish were in sufficient numbers one wouldn't mind.

Our new deer and rabbit-proof fence should be equally effective against the otters and prevent them reaching the water garden.

Another major alteration recently carried out in the lower garden is to

the east of the ponds. Here a large clump of bamboo, having flowered and died, needed removing, a dreadful job as anyone having the same problem will know. Again we found the winch invaluable; at least when the roots are on the surface you can attack them with an axe — reducing them to a manageable size. Having dealt with the bamboo the possibilities of the area became apparent, part of the space has been turfed over, further clearance of old shrubs and alteration to path and borders made, and best of all a new vista created.

There are other improvements that have been made since the last account was published, but they are difficult to describe; for example, we have opened up the old rock garden and exposed the area to more light. The tangle that used to surround the Lebanon cedar has been cleared away and the full beauty of the whole tree can now be admired. We are now using bark in great quantity as a mulch and weeding is no longer the chore it used to be, last year we used 60 tons, and would have spread more this year if the new fence hadn't taken up so much time.

Leaving the lower garden we move to the woodland. The new regulations concerning tree felling will have little effect on our plans, the thinning of the trees has already been accomplished and nature will continue the process. The Atlantic gales take an annual toll of the taller trees, which for the most part grow in thin soil on smooth rock and they eventually get too big for their own good. Nowadays we are planting rather than thinning, but taking care to plant small trees. Arthur Campbell, when planting the wood used mainly larch, a useful timber tree but growing far too high here. Needless to say the larch has been put to good use; most of the timber required for the new fence has been cut from it, we use it for guard rails on the higher path, for seat and bridge building and for constructing steps on the steeper paths, in fact for anything requiring the use of timber.

Soon after taking over here we started planting rhododendrons, many of these have been flowering for years, others such as *R. sinogrande* and *R. macabeanum* are in their second year of flowering. We now have most of the large-leaf series in the collection, exceptions being things like *R. peregrinum* and *R. decipiens* which are hardly worth considering. In other series I would mention *R. sherriffii*, which has blossomed for several years although still under a metre high; last spring it carried 22 trusses, this season 26. It flowers here in early March and seldom gets frosted; obviously the wood suits it and in a sheltered situation is a welcome sign of spring. Several young plants in the Barbatum Series are looking well, among them, *R. exasperatum*, *R. crinigerum*, *R. glischroides*, *R. glischrum*, *R. hirtipes*, *R. rude*, *R. spilotum*, *R. anhweいense*, *R. longesquamatum*, *R. maculiferum*, *R. monosematum*, *R. morii* and *R. argipeplum* are all doing well, most represented by two or more plants, the latter originally by four, but now down to three since one went

missing last summer. We also had a plant of what was reputed to be *R. vesiculiferum*. I had doubts about the plant when we received it and these doubts have been confirmed. Just as *R. strigulosum* is easy to recognize from its characteristic hairs, so is *R. vesiculiferum*, the plant we were sent is just a nice *R. glischroides*, there are no bladder-like hairs anywhere on the leaves.

The previously mentioned plants in the Barbatum Series were missing from the collection when we acquired the garden, but with those that were already represented we now have 21 species in that series and have endeavoured to increase species in other series in a like manner. Unfortunately the weather during the past four winters, though not as severe as elsewhere in the United Kingdom, has caused casualties amongst the more tender plants, particularly the Maddenii Series. *Rhododendron sinonutallii*, having suffered over the previous three winters, has finally expired — after what promised to be a success. We shall try again and already I have a new site in mind. Another loss, although not due to the weather, was *R. proteoides*; like the plant of *R. argipeplum*, it was stolen from the wood last summer; with hindsight one realizes it was a mistake to plant such a gem in the wood; but that was where the stump, on which it was growing, was located. Did the thief recognize its value, or will it be thrown away in a few years' time, having failed to flower, or even grow. I have acquired a replacement already and it is planted in a position where we can keep an eye on it when the garden is open.

Before leaving the wood I will mention the improvement in our paths, gumboots are no longer required anywhere in the garden. The woodland paths have all been widened and for the most part are gravelled, the intention being to avoid the crocodile effect when showing parties round. Obviously it still occurs to a certain extent but is not as bad as in some gardens. We can also take the tractor into most areas of the wood, necessary when extracting timber.

For years we have threatened to do something with the east end of the cliff, a cold windy situation that appeared to offer little prospect, an area one hurried through when conducting a group of visitors. The amount of reward, plus the immensity of the task, has meant that the work has continually been delayed, it was with little enthusiasm that we decided to make a start after Christmas 1986. The memory of enormous heaps of branches, roots and other rubbish is still with us, everything we cut down or winched out had to be carried away, there was no room for a bonfire and the bank is far too steep in any case. We must have walked miles during the operation and were always glad when it was time to leave off. The path was widened, roots and rocks removed, and it is no longer necessary to warn visitors to watch where they tread as guard rails have been erected on the steeper corners of the zigzag path that descends

the slope. Surprisingly the situation is not as bad as it had seemed, previously the plants that had survived, most of which were uninteresting, had been drawn up by the branches of two large oaks, which spread over a very large part of the area, necessitating some tree surgery (I cut them off). We are now replanting and already I envisage another 10 minutes will be required when showing parties round, perhaps longer as the new plantings develop.

Fortunately we have never had much trouble from deer; rabbits on the other hand have always been a plague. Having suffered considerable damage last summer we decided that the expense of a new deer and rabbit fence was justified. We thought it prudent to erect deer netting since the local hills have been afforested and we expect trouble when the trees get larger. Anyone who has experienced the ravages of either deer or rabbits will know how discouraging they can be. The perimeter of the garden is almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, some of it is on reasonably level ground but much is on steep rocky slopes, post holes are made with difficulty and in the case of the larger straining post, three feet deep, one of these is needed every time the line of the fence changes direction, which is frequently. As we are also putting up deer netting, intermediate posts are needed to support it, more than doubling the number of heavy posts required. Normal tools are virtually useless for making holes, a heavy crowbar is required and the point soon becomes rounded. The fence is proving a long and arduous task, but well worth the effort. Rabbit damage in the lower garden is now minimal, due I'm afraid to a couple of rabbits still inside, but we can deal with them.

Having escaped the devastation caused by powdery mildew in recent years, it has finally arrived here; many of our *cinnabarinums* are looking most unhappy and we have little doubt that some of the older plants will not survive. A big plant of *R. 'Elizabeth'* in the wood was in such a sorry state this spring that it was cut down and burnt, those in more open and exposed situations have not been affected and at the time of writing are covered in blossom. '*Elizabeth*' seems to be an excellent plant for growing by the sea; quite a number of our plants get drenched in salt spray during the winter, yet remain in superb condition without a mark on their leaves, '*Humming Bird*', *hanceanum* and *williamsianum* are just as salt tolerant.

A final comment on the weather. Recent winters have not only affected the plants we grow outside, but the birds too; we miss the shrill song of the wren, they are still here, but not in the numbers we used to have. Our woodpeckers are also absent and we no longer hear their rapid tapping echoing through the wood in the early morning. But I end this account on a happier note, the garden is fairly humming again, last spring and summer the bees were almost non-existent, this spring one hears a constant buzzing.

Spring tour of Sussex gardens

BRUCE ARCHIBOLD

On 3 May, 1987, some thirty members of the Group met at Wych Cross in Sussex for the start of the annual tour. The weather, which the previous week had reached nearly heat-wave temperatures, had decided to change and the journey to the hotel was through wind and sleet showers. Indeed one member from Scotland had started off in a blizzard. However, the accommodation was comfortable and the food excellent so the weather was forgotten in the pleasure of meeting old friends.

The following morning was dry but with an icy wind. We reached the first garden, Wakehurst Place, and were welcomed by Tony Schilling, the Deputy Curator. Wakehurst Place is a National Trust property leased by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1965 as an addition to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In 1903 Gerald Loder, later Lord Wakehurst, bought the estate from Sir William Boord and much of the fine plantings date from this time. Happily, under the guidance of Tony Schilling, there is a constant process of development and improvement.

The party set off down the long path leading to the main garden and then forked left where we were shown a group of interesting hybrid rhododendrons, *R. arboreum* 'Sir Charles Lemon' × *bureavii*, which, as might be expected, had very fine rusty red to almost chocolate brown indumentum. Following on round the Rhododendron Walk we came out at the Mansion Pond where there is a magnificent form of *Magnolia wilsonii* discovered by E. H. Wilson in western Szechuan in 1904 and introduced in 1908. Although not in flower the number of buds promised a fine display to come. Walking towards the house we passed under a very large *Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia' showing a shimmering display of finely cut, fresh green leaves, and reached the outskirts of the walled garden where we were interested to see *R. ponticum* var. *purpureum*, an unusual plant with almost purple leaves. Here too was *R. pentaphyllum* and the delicate *R. primuliflorum* with the added bonus of a sweet scent. It was now that we realized that the winter had not missed Wakehurst as a sad looking *Eucryphia cordifolia* bore witness. We then passed into the Heath Garden where are gathered a number of Australasian and South American species. *Nothofagus solandri* caused some interest due to its unusual leaf formation. There is also a fine collection of the Lapponicum Series.

On our way to the Slips — a valley containing a very cleverly constructed stream — we passed by a collection of more unusual trees amongst which were *Koelreuteria paniculata* (the golden rain tree) and

Stuartia pseudocamellia, which although not in flower has a very attractively coloured bark. We followed the course of the stream before veering to the right to examine a very fine *R. caloxanthum* in all its yellow glory with nearby a very large plant of *R. roxieanum* var. *oreonastes*, a shy bloomer, but in this case exhibiting a fine show of neat white trusses which sit so delicately above the narrow leaves. We passed the bog garden on our right not yet showing the fine display that comes later in the year and paused to admire the small pond set in a fine tracery of *Acer palmatum* hybrids and edged by *Primula sinopurpurea* in both the purple and the more unusual white forms and also *Primula melanops*. A good *Stuartia sinensis* caught the eye with its attractive bark before we left this sheltered spot to pass through a huge planting of *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, six or seven hundred we were told, with more to come next year to make up a round thousand. What a fine sight and scent this will be later!

Entering Westwood Valley we passed beneath a bank cleverly planted with *R. pocophorum*, *fulvum* and *bureavii* to show the beautifully coloured indumentum of each to best advantage. We were now in the area planted up with rhododendron species too numerous to itemize but a fine *R. fictolacteum* in full flower was very impressive. The most has been made of the very fine natural outcrop of sandstone in the Himalayan Glade which contains a group of plants collected in the Himalayas and, looking down, there was what appeared to be a fine *R. yunnanense* which, on closer inspection, turned out to be *R. hypoglaucum*.

One of the members of the tour was Tom Spring-Smyth, who has collected widely in the Himalayas and it was at this point that we came across a *R. campanulatum* with his collection number. From then on we kept hearing 'Here is another of Tom's', and, in fact, a historic photograph was taken in front of a very good deep yellow *R. campylocarpum* (TSS 13) showing the collector, the propagator (Tony Schilling) and the plant.

Time was pressing so we made our way back towards the house on the other side of Westwood Valley passing some *R. hyperythrum* in full flower — a good collection of *R. campanulatum* (more TSS!), a very compact *R. pocophorum* KW 21075 and an attractive form of *R. cerasinum* KW 6923 with cherry coloured tips to the white corolla. We were glad to sit down to an excellent lunch with Tony Schilling as our guest and thereafter presented him with a plant of *Arbutus andrachnoides* as a small token of our thanks.

After lunch we crossed the road to Stonehurst where we were met by Mr Harrison, the head nurseryman, who took us round the private garden in which there was a wealth of fine rhododendrons. We were shown a collection of *R. Mariloo* seedlings which were all good garden plants and, passing amongst the older plantings, the orderly train of

Group members soon became fragmented into small parts, as various members disappeared into the undergrowth to examine some partly seen treasure such as a *R. bureavii* not in full flower but outstanding with its rich red woolly indumentum, and a very fine *R. campylocarpum* hybrid, 'Memorial of Kate Baggs', so named after the wife of a one-time propagator of Stonehurst; a really first class plant well worth seeking out. There was some discussion about the name of a camellia with small white flowers; 'Cornish Snow' was suggested but the size of the flowers indicated *cuspidata*. Having now lost the main party with Mr Harrison, one group found themselves at the edge of a large lake which was the bottom one of a succession of small lakes which fell down a valley in a series of waterfalls. Beyond this very beautiful, unspoilt valley, rumour had it, was a very old sacrificial stone and also a balancing stone, but again time was against us and we had to make our way back to the cars left at Wakehurst, having thanked Mr Harrison and given him a plant of *Wisteria sinensis* 'Black Dragon' and *Kalmia latifolia* 'Clementine Churchill'.

On Monday evening Mr and Mrs Martin Furniss, who have a lovely garden at Crowborough, were our guests at the evening meal and afterwards Mr Furniss gave us a fascinating account of the history of the garden from a field to the present beautifully conceived and laid out garden pictured in many magazines and featured on television. We were shown slides illustrating the clever use of vistas and the landscaping which makes the fullest use of the sloping site. We were told that the object of the plantings was to have colour in the garden at all times and certainly Mr and Mrs Furniss are to be congratulated in that by their own efforts this has been achieved.

The following morning we all gathered at Borde Hill, just outside Haywards Heath, at the home of both Mr Robert Stephenson Clarke and some very exciting rhododendrons. We were met by the owner and Mr Vass, who for many years was head gardener and whose knowledge of the plants was all embracing. We started off with a visit to the propagating and glasshouse area where one house was filled with the more tender plants. A *R. parryae*, in full bloom with huge white trumpets, yellow blotched and heavily scented was followed by *R. Excellens*, a *maddenii* hybrid from Sweden which had nearly perished and which, thanks to Mr Vass, has now been propagated and the crisis averted. The propagation house had members positively drooling over the selection of young plants which will, in due time, be used to replace the older plants. We then went into the garden and those who attend Vincent Square for the shows will realize just how impossible it would be to do justice to the rhododendrons therein. Species and hybrids, all were magnificent and to name just a few — *R. maculiferum*, *R. morii* with eye-catching new growth, the dwarf *R. kiusianum album*, and the elegant,

delicately scented pink flowers of *R. primuliflorum*, the fine foliage of the AM form of *R. argyrophyllum*, *R. wardii* of Rock collection — one could go on endlessly but surely only Borde Hill could use *R. triflorum mahogani* of Kingdon Ward collection as a hedging plant at the edge of the garden! Near banks of deeply coloured *R. augustinii* we noticed that since the Group's last visit in 1977, a fine formal rectangular pool had been added to the garden which added to the vista of the lightly wooded countryside beyond. Nearby we saw *R. melianthum* with its unusual honey-coloured flowers. After a quick walk round Warren Wood we returned to the house where Mr and Mrs Stephenson Clarke very kindly and generously supplied us all with sherry before going to the restaurant for an excellent luncheon.

After lunch we picked up our cars and drove a short distance to Gores Wood, with an area of ten acres, which is planted up in separate sections of lepidote and elepidote rhododendrons, together with a large number of old and established shrubs and trees. A programme of re-planting is in progress and a circular area has been fenced off to provide protection for young plants. Despite the ravages of winter, *R. montroseanum* and *R. sinogrande* were flourishing and *R. delavayi*, though showing some distress, was well on the road to recovery. The rhododendrons in this wood form a collection which can be matched in only one or two places, many of them rarities seldom seen and all obviously very happy in their surroundings. To name a few — *R. zaleicum*, *R. callimorphum*, with a Rock number, *R. smithii*, *R. fulvoides* and *R. lanigerum*. Among associated plants there was a collection of *Enkianthus*, and in a clearing *Davidia* was a recent planting. There were huge plantings of *R. montroseanum*, perhaps the finest in the wood. We could have spent several days here and still not seen all the treasures, but sadly we had to take our leave and thank our host for his hospitality and present him with a plant of *Fremontodendron californicum* as a token of our appreciation.

From Borde Hill we went on to Newick Park, the home of Lord Brentford and his family. The gardens were planted mainly in the Victorian era, and occupy a small portion of the 200-acre estate; Lady Brentford is very keen to carry out new plantings to replace old trees planted at the turn of the century, and we saw clearings with many young rhododendrons and other plants. There is too a N.C.C.P.G. National Collection of candelabra and *sikkimensis* primulas. After a leisurely tour of the woodland garden Lady Brentford very kindly invited us into the house for tea. She and her husband had inherited the title and property some four years ago. The house was at once very elegant yet comfortable, and we all enjoyed our visit there, thanking Lady Brentford on leaving with a plant of *R. fargesii*.

On the Tuesday evening we were joined by Alan Clark who is widely known as an expert propagator of rhododendrons, as the visit to his

nursery close to Leonardslee confirmed, and he gave us a fascinating lecture on the mechanics of grafting, well-illustrated by slides and, at the end, gave the opportunity to members to try their skill (or otherwise!) on some material that he had brought with him. The interest of the members was evident from the number of questions that Mr Clark answered.

Wednesday dawned bright and sunny, warm after the first rather cool days, and we set off for Sheffield Park where we were met by Archie Skinner, the head gardener. After giving us a short history of the garden he led us off in the direction of the top lake, passing a *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* notable for its balanced pyramidal shape. There is a fine view down the lake with the reflections of conifers, rhododendrons and acers, forming almost a mirror image. The elegant drooping outline of *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula' on one side of the path was followed by *Taxodium distichum* on the other and close by the more unusual *Taxodium ascendens* 'Nutans'. We then came across the first *Nyssa sylvatica* of which there are over 100 in the garden and for which it is justly famous. The autumn colour is breathtaking and the Group 'get together' in the autumn will have a chance to see it. Crossing over the bridge between the top and second lake there is another fine view up to the old house and one could see the good sense in clearing away a lot of old conifers at the end of the lake to open up the vista. We saw an *Abies magnifica* planted by Archie when he first came to the Garden 16 years ago; it was now very tall and mature looking. We carried on to see the National Collection of Ghent azaleas which has recently been started and which, already, is very comprehensive. Continuing on, a lovely *Picea breweriana* caught the attention with its cascade of dark foliage, quite unmistakeable and in contrast to the upright form of *Picea omorika*.



Fig. 3 Archie Skinner outlines the history of Sheffield Park Gardens to members of the Group tour

Bruce Archibald

which illustrates the vast range of form shown in the conifers in this garden. Mr Skinner pointed out great slabs of tree trunks, cut into to form garden seats, and remarked that they were useful in that members of the public could not move them about!

We were shown an open glade traversed by a stream which well illustrated Mr Skinner's idea that the middle of a clearing should be left clear, resulting in restful glades with smaller plantings carefully confined to the edges and so keeping a sense of space below the leafy cover. Further on the addition of a streamlet with the margins well planted with an assortment of moisture-loving plants, with *Primula pulverulenta* and *prolifera* providing splashes of colour, added to the peace and serenity. Crossing a bridge over the lake we came to one of the more recently developed areas of the garden, most of which has been left as wild meadow to encourage the growth of indigenous species. Apparently, between 1876 and 1896 the first match of the Australian cricket tour was always played in the parkland beyond this bottom lake. It was wild until 1976, when it was planted out as an area for the conservation of wild flowers and is now open to the public.

The edge of the bottom lake was planted out with a mixture of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* and *Taxodium distichum* which, in the boggy ground, was showing well the 'knees' which erupt from the roots to ensure an adequate supply of oxygen for the tree. We noticed too a *Betula utilis* with its lovely white bark, and returning up along the lakeside we saw many fine bushes of *R. Loderi*, generally considered to be the finest hybrid rhododendron. The buds were half unfurled and exuded the wonderful scent for which they are remarkable. We saw too a splendid plant of *R. 'Ightham Yellow'*, at its best with buds half open, and nearby *R. 'Grosclaude'* with its beautiful velvet indumentum.

We were so entranced by Mr Skinner's erudite and professional guidance that we arrived rather later than intended for lunch at the restaurant just outside the Garden. Mr Skinner and his wife were our guests for lunch and afterwards we presented him with his choice of *R. makinoi* as our thank you for a most enjoyable morning.

We then set off for Heaslands, the home of Mrs Kleinwort, who greeted us and we set off accompanied by her and her head gardener, Mr Staples. At the front of the house is a fine rockery upon which one could hardly miss two large *R. yakushimanum* in full bloom. Proceeding to the rear of the house we saw a lovely little formal garden planted most colourfully with tulips, wallflowers, and forget-me-nots round a pond and backed by a very large *Cedrus atlantica glauca*. Going down the slope away from the house we passed a large selection of rhododendrons, mainly hybrids, with a huge display of *R. 'Princess Anne'* in a blaze of yellow, an equally impressive *R. 'Carmen'* with the sun illuminating the dark red flowers. Species were not ignored and *R. anhweiense* showed a

cool mound of white whilst the dwarf *R. calostrotum* 'Gigha' showed how effective the smaller plants can be. The snake-like markings on the bark of *Acer pensylvanicum* 'Erythrocladum' contrasted well with the pinky red new growth and *Acer griseum* produced its fine polished trunk festooned with peeling old bark.

At the bottom of the slope is a valley containing a string of ponds and on the banks a sheet of bluebells which had the photographers reaching for their cameras. We were here to see the national collection of Knap Hill azaleas of which, Mr Staples told us, there were 174 varieties. The far side of the valley is covered in old oak forest and under the high cover flourish rhododendrons, both hybrids and species, far too numerous to specify, but all obviously excelling in the situation and the care lavished upon them. It is quite amazing that the 35 acres of this immaculately kept garden are maintained by only seven men.

Returning from this lovely garden in the warm sunshine we were very kindly provided with tea by Mrs Kleinwort, and as a gesture of our keen appreciation of her kindness and hospitality we presented her with a plant of *Nothofagus antarctica*.

The following day, Thursday, dawned sunny and warm and we set off for South Lodge which is now a hotel but which, not long ago, had been the house and garden of the Misses Godman. We were to be taken round by Alan Clark who, being now at Leonardslee just across the road, knows the garden well and told us that planting here had continued until the mid-1950s. Unfortunately the large part of the grounds given over to rhododendrons had been allowed to run riot but perhaps the very wildness has contributed to the shelter and well-being of the plants since we were soon to be treated to a fine display of very large plants, most of which were still in very good order — only the smaller growing species suffering, inevitably, from the smothering effects of the larger. *Rhododendron parvulum* was quickly followed by two *R. Cornish Cross* of the darker Exbury form — Naomi next to Matador and a large but unidentified Loderi. Rhododendrons *niveum*, *anthosphaerum* and *lanigerum* followed until a halt was called before a plant of "pink concinnum" which had the experts into their books and which was probably *R. searsiae*. Amongst the species was the South Lodge form of *R. meddianum*, also, though not in flower, the very rare *R. bainbridgeanum*. Owing to the cold late spring, followed by bursts of warm weather, the magnolia was in full flower, augmenting the rhododendrons and flowering cherries, so that the narrow avenues we passed along were heavy with scent and full of colour. Interspersed too, were *Davidia involucrata*, *Embothrium lanceolatum*, *Parrotia persica* and many other large trees which provided more colour and variety. The ruins of a rockery and water garden of large proportions suddenly appeared like some lost city rising from an Indian jungle. One had the

feeling that another expedition was called for to examine all the treasures in this fine old garden but time was pressing and we crossed the road to Leonardslee for lunch.

Unfortunately Mr Robin Loder had been taken ill and was unable to be with us so we set off round Leonardslee with Alan Clark. It was here that a nearly disastrous mistake was made in letting the Group loose in the plant sales area before touring the garden, as it took some time to tear people away from the plants! This accomplished however, our first glimpse of what was to come was *R. 'Fortune'* with its fine close truss of lemon yellow flowers. We then came to a plant which was named *R. martinianum* but which, having had the opportunity to compare it with a similar plant at Nymans and a plant of *R. dasycladum*, was almost certainly the latter.

Leonardslee has of course the name for fine rhododendrons and azaleas but there are very many other plants of great stature and presence. The conifers noted included *Dacrydium franklinii*, *Sciadopitys verticillata*, *Picea breweriana* and a lovely *Tsuga canadensis 'Pendula'* to name a few of the more unusual. At one point we all craned our necks to try to see the top of a *Hydrangea petiolaris* which must have reached 60 feet or more. We kept on coming upon the heady scent of *R. Loderi*, which here, of course, on its own homeground, was well-represented! It is said that the pollen used to make the original cross came from just across the road, South Lodge, which we had just left. The rhododendrons are far too numerous to list but to pick some of those which caused a lot of interest there were *R. beanianum*, a good form of *R. lacteum*, a *yakushimanum* \times *bureavii* cross which, predictably, had a superb indumentum, *R. hemsleyanum* and a group of *R. irroratum* in full flower. Once again time was against us and we had to leave feeling that there was very much more of this fine garden that we would have liked to have seen. In the absence of Mr Loder a plant of *Acer pensylvanicum 'Erythrocladum'* was left with Alan Clark to pass on.

Rather sadly we came to the last day and the last garden which was another famous one — Nymans at Handcross. Here we arrived to a cool misty start to be greeted by David Masters, the head gardener who, after giving us a short history of the garden led us down the main path and past a collection of *R. yakushimanum* \times *Carita* hybrids which had been made by John Clark, a solicitor, and passed to Nymans when he no longer felt able to give them the care they merited. The arboretum contained not merely a fine selection of conifers but also some of the large-leaved rhododendrons, notably *R. arizelum*, *R. sinogrande* and a *R. fictolacteum* under the Rock collection number 59250. Leaving the arboretum we had a chance to admire the fine view over a wooded valley before coming across the plant of *R. dasycladum* referred to previously, and very near, *R. martinianum*, so that a comparison could easily be made between these

two rather similar plants. There was a very effective colour combination of the yellow of *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* and the deep plum colour of *R. cinnabarinum* *roylei*, and in contrast, the cool, shimmering green of *Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia'. We then passed in front of the ruin of the old house which was built between 1922 and 1927. Sadly it caught fire on Mr Leonard Messel's 75th birthday on 19 February, 1947, on his return from a week in hospital. At that time all the hydrants were frozen solid and the vast majority of the house was destroyed and most has never been rebuilt, except that part which is occupied by Lady Rosse. Here we passed a vast *Araucaria araucana* which must have been at least 30 metres tall and is probably one of the largest in this country. We then started back towards the car park noting a good *R. roxieanum* and *R. cerasinum* KW 6923, white with deep rose margins and black spots to mark the nectaries, it makes a lovely plant.

On the way back we noticed a great tree, *Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia', one of the most effective of ornamental trees, known as the fern-leaved beech. Since our previous visit David Masters has made many new plantings and the garden has improved considerably over the last few years. A fountain we came across, which I had seen some years ago as just another piece of lichenened stonework, has been cleaned by Mr Masters to reveal a fine red-brown and white marble which has completely altered the character of the fountain and turned it into something of considerable merit. It would of course not be possible to visit Nymans without seeing the famous hybrid eucryphias named after the garden and it was with these still in mind that we said goodbye to Mr Masters, thanking him for giving us so much of his valuable time and presenting him with a plant of *R. schlippenbachii*.

The tour then came to its official end with Robbie Jack thanking Valerie Archibald for yet another very successful tour and making arrangements for her to receive a copy of Treseder's *Magnolias* as a token of our thanks.

A few members of the party had lunch in Handcross and afterwards four of us visited the little-known planting of rhododendrons on the other side of the road from the main garden. Here there is a wonderful collection of the lesser-known species and it is hoped that perhaps a day visit might be organized next year so that more people may have the chance to see them.

Rhododendrons in Czechoslovakia

KAREL HIEKE*

The first steps in the controlled breeding of rhododendrons in Czechoslovakia are connected with the name of the well-known dendrologist and garden designer – the owner and founder of the Schloss Park at Pruhonice – Graf Ernst Silva Tarouca. But there are only a few notes in existence from these early days, and firm facts cannot now be discovered. The real development of these plants, so important in gardens, began only in the 1930s with the work of J. Jelínek, B. Kavka and J. Scholz.

The objectives in the breeding of rhododendrons in Czechoslovakia were clear and limited right from the start, viz.,
Aesthetically –

the production of compact, well-flowered, semi- and fully evergreen sorts for rock gardens and smaller areas. For the large-flowered, evergreen sorts, the widening of the range of colour towards finer pastel tints and warmer, brighter shades, increasing the size of the flowers and the inflorescence and introducing fragrance.

For technical and ecological reasons –

for the large-flowered evergreen sorts, to improve their hardiness and so maintain the quality of their flowering. In the same way to increase the tolerance of drought among the large-flowered evergreen sorts.

Work on the improvement of aesthetic features came first. The breeding of low, compact, semi-evergreen azaleas started with J. Jelínek – he was professor of plant breeding at the Agricultural and Forestry University in Prague. He crossed the Japanese *Rhododendron obtusum* var. *amoenum* Rehder with *R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* Nakai from Korea. Both these basic sorts are semi- or fully evergreen, the one from Korea being hardier in central Europe than the Japanese one.

This work went on for some ten years and was continued and finished mainly by B. Kavka, M. Opatrná and J. Dvořák. It was some years before the final selections were made, but at last in 1962 they were officially recognized and included in the register of approved sorts. They were named after Czech rivers and nowadays are set out as a separate Group which comes between the Amoena and Kurume azaleas, and are called Jelínek Azaleas.

*We are very grateful to David McClintock for translating this article.

The cultivars of this Group make compact, low and well-flowered small shrubs. In the second half of May and early June, they are completely covered with their small flowers. Their height is 15 to 30 inches; breadth 20 to 35 inches; flowers funnel-shaped, about 1 to 1½ inches broad, in various pastel shades. The leaves are small, thick, and mostly evergreen. They are suitable for smaller rockeries and front gardens – best near roads or paths, so that they can be seen from nearby. They show up best in small groups in a well-mown lawn.

In order to get dwarf, evergreen, large-flowered rhododendrons, in 1929 to 1934, B. Kavka crossed *R. caucasicum* 'Cunningham's White' with *R. forrestii* var. *repens* Cowan & Davidian, which comes from Tibet and has red flowers. This resulted in a new group, *R. × pruhonicianum* Kavka. But this Czech Group lost out because of delays, the German and English breeders producing hybrids of the same or similar combinations. The cultivars of this Group are compact evergreen shrubs 6 to 8 inches high and 20 to 40 inches across. Their leaves are ovate or lanceolate, dark green, their flowers campanulate or funnel-shaped, 2 to 2½ inches across, of various shades of red. They are of use in similar situations to the Jelínek Group.

Rhododendron yedoense var. *poukhanense* was crossed with *R. mucronatum* G. Don, by B. Kavka, which produced the semi-evergreen *R. × pedicanense* Kavka, 32 inches high with lilac-coloured flowers. From the Japanese *R. kaempferi* Planchon (*R. obtusum* var. *kaempferi* (Planchon) Wilson), Kavka got semi-evergreen plants 32 inches tall with bright-red flowers, which were named 'Professor Jeršov'.

In the 1930s, Kavka was also concerned with large-flowered evergreen rhododendrons. In order to obtain well-coloured flowers, which were also as free-flowering and fragrant as possible, he used three basic combinations:

1. *R. decorum* Franchet × 'Caractacus' (A. Waterer 1865)
2. *R. decorum* × 'Pink Pearl' (J. Waterer 1897)
3. 'Pink Pearl' × 'Peter Koster' (M. Koster & Sons 1909).

'Caractacus' with its red flowers is hardy, but the pink 'Pink Pearl' and the red 'Peter Koster' are less reliable in central Europe.

Out of the first two combinations came plants comparable to those produced by the German grower Seidel as regards hardiness in Czechoslovakia, but flowering about 10 days earlier. They grew 6½ to 8 feet high with evergreen leaves 2¾ to 7 inches long and 1½ to 2¾ inches wide, smooth, shining and bright green. The inflorescence had 13 to 18 flowers, funnel-shaped, strikingly coloured and mostly fragrant.

Plants from the third combination proved less reliably hardy and need a sheltered position. They make fairly robust bushes, the leaves are somewhat narrower, long and acuminate, their flowers large, beautiful, strikingly coloured.

In 1969 to 1970, J. Kyndl of Pruhonice showed his three hybrids, from two combinations:

1. *R. decorum* × *R. caucasicum* 'Cunningham's White' (Cunningham 1850)
2. 'Violetta' (B. Kavka) × 'Farnese' (Seidel 1926).

The resultant sorts have evergreen, smooth and shining leaves and large flowers. These shrubs are of medium height, broad and very hardy.

J. Scholz bred his rhododendrons chiefly for greater hardiness and drought-resistance. It was for this, that, at the outbreak of the second world war, he used *R. smirnowii* Trautvetter. This species is known for its hardiness, has pink flowers and a characteristic tomentum on the shoots and the underside of the leaves. The second partner of his combination was 'Professor Sargent', which had been at Pruhonice for a long time under this name, but was of unknown origin.

Scholz's productions have shown themselves, after many years of testing, to be much hardier than any of their parents in continental conditions. They make fairly large, fast-growing shrubs, mostly flowering for the first time after seven years. The flowers are 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, broadly funnel-shaped with ruffled edges, strikingly, yet 'coldly' coloured with paler lines. The leaves are felted at first, finally smooth, dark green, grey-felted beneath, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inches long.

During the past ten years or so, J. Dvořák, another expert gardener at Pruhonice, has made crosses among the evergreen rhododendrons, using mostly the Czech red-flowered 'Don Juan' and *R. scyphocalyx* Balfour & Forrest in the following ways:

1. 'Don Juan' (B. Kavka 1965) × 'Dr H. C. Dresselhuys' (den Ouden 1920)
2. 'Don Juan' × 'Humboldt' (Seidel, 1926)
3. *R. scyphocalyx* × 'Don Juan'
4. 'Alfred' (Seidel 1899) × 'Purple Splendour' (A. Waterer before 1900).

These hybrids are predominantly dark-flowered except for those from *R. scyphocalyx* which are of a characteristic red.

Azaleas for use in pots were also intensively worked on in Czechoslovakia. But these do not concern us here and would be a suitable topic for another article. Kavka, who was Director of the Institute of Ornamental Gardening at Pruhonice for many years, also worked on deciduous outdoor azaleas. He crossed mainly 'Gloria Mundi' and 'Anthony Koster', but only a few of his raisings are to be met with nowadays.

Here is a chronological list of hardy rhododendrons and azaleas produced in Czechoslovakia:

1939 Ghent azalea: 'Vlasta', yellow (B. Kavka)

Mollis sorts: 'Dagmar', brick red; 'Zdena', whitish red (both B. Kavka)

1945 Gable sorts: 'Ledianense', bright violet (B. Kavka, M. Opatrná)

1958 Evergreen, large-flowered sorts: 'Arnost Silva Tarouce', pink; 'Marie Olova Schlicková', pink; 'Motyl', whitish pink; 'Panenka', pale pink; 'Violetta', purple pink (all B. Kavka)

1959 Evergreen, large-flowered sorts: 'Humoreske', red (B. Kavka)

1961 Evergreen, large-flowered sorts: 'Aurora', purple pink (J. Scholz); 'Lunik', pale purple pink (J. Scholz); 'Saba', purple pink (B. Kavka)

1962 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Beatrice', pink; 'Marka', pink (both B. Kavka)
Jelínek Group: 'Octava', pale violet; 'Mysík', bright pink; 'Vivata', pink (all Jelínek)

1965 Evergreen, large-flowered sorts: 'Dagmar', pale purple pink; 'Don Juan', bright red; 'Largo', pinkish red; 'Ma Vlast', pink; 'Rose Marie', whitish pink (all B. Kavka)

1966 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Lajka', bright purplish violet; 'Sputnik', pale purplish pink (both J. Scholz); 'Professor Jelínek', reddish pink (B. Kavka)
Jelínek Group: 'Boubín', pinkish violet (B. Kavka's team)

1969 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Antonín Dvořák', purplish red (B. Kavka); 'Milan', bright purplish violet red and 'Petr', pale purplish pink (both J. Kyndl)
Jelínek Group: 'Blanice', pale pink (B. Kavka's team); 'Oslava', purplish pink (J. Jelínek)

1970 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Alena', white (J. Kyndl)
Jelínek Group: 'Labe', pale pink; 'Orlice', bright purplish violet; 'Sázava', pale violet red (all B. Kavka's team); 'Morava', bright salmon (J. Dvořák)
Kaempferi sorts: 'Professor Jeršov', mid-pink (B. Kavka)

1974 Jelínek Group: 'Doubrava', bright purplish pink (B. Kavka's team)

1978 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Eva', purplish red; 'Moravanka' salmon pink; 'Vilém Heckel', dark purplish red (all J. Dvořák)

1984 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Bohumil Kavka', dark to blackish purplish red (J. Dvořák)

1985 Evergreen large-flowered sorts: 'Hutvínek', red (J. Dvořák).

Rhododendron, camellia and magnolia notes

In last year's 'Notes' I included taxonomists amongst my 'hazards', '... each new arrival must make his mark by proposing some preposterous name change. The final straw arrived in this morning's post; a letter advising me that the much-admired specimen here of *Dacrydium franklinii* should be labelled *Lagastrobus franklinii*. "What next?" I ask!' I did not have long to wait for an answer to my rhetorical question; it arrived with the delivery of the winter 1986-87 *Journal of the Magnolia Society*.

Here I learnt that the widely grown *Magnolia stellata* is in reality *M. tomentosa* and, added joy, *M. kobus* should be re-labelled *M. praecocissima* Koidz. (Readers are given helpful advice as to its correct pronunciation.)

The article is by M. J. Harvey, who is commenting on the work of a Japanese taxonomist Kunihiko Ueda. Without going into detail, Harvey also tells us that Ueda, in another paper, confirms the application of the names *M. heptapeta* and *M. quinquepetala* to *M. denudata* and *M. liliiflora*.

In the same *Journal* is an article signed by two taxonomists, Elizabeth McClintock (Research Associate, Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of California), and Frederick G. Meyer (Supervisory Botanist, US National Arboretum, Washington), summarizing their conclusions as to why they consider that the correct names are *M. denudata* and *M. liliiflora*. Their reasons for rejecting *M. heptapeta* and *M. quinquepetala* are the same as I put forward in *Rhododendrons 1979-80* under the title 'Magnolia heptapeta et alia'. (Reprinted from *The Plantsman* Vol. I, Part I.)

I await with interest the reaction to these claims and counter-claims by the various botanical factions; will Dr Spongberg fight back? Will the Arnold Arboretum declare war on the US National Arboretum? Sadly, the poor horticulturist loses whichever botanist wins. His interests are of no concern to the purist; the fact that every book, every catalogue could become out-dated is of no account.

What is needed is the sort of action suggested by Alan Bloom in the March 1987 *The Garden*; horticulturists to '... declare our intention to disregard further changes by inserting in every appropriate means such initials as C.U.P. standing for Common Usage Prevails ...' He ends '... it is high time we, the vast majority, stood up for common sense.'

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Magnolia Loebneri forms: Ballerina, Spring Snow

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Every gardener must echo these sentiments in light of *M. tomentosa* and such like; let us pray that the RHS takes up cudgels on our behalf, putting the taxonomists to flight; 'aux armes, jardiniers'!

NIGEL HOLMAN

***Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* 'Lanarth'**

One of the great loves of my gardening life has always been the genus *Magnolia*, and in particular my great favourite is *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata*. The finest specimen of *mollicomata* growing in Britain is without doubt the famous tree known as the cultivar Lanarth growing in the garden of that name in Cornwall.

'Lanarth' was grown originally from seed collected by George Forrest in 1924 in open thickets on the Salween-Kiu Chiang Divide in north-western Yunnan, China, at an altitude of 10,000 to 11,000 feet. Forrest gave this collection the number F25655 and as a result the magnolia is often called the telephone number magnolia.

This remarkable and magnificent magnolia first flowered at Lanarth in 1947, and in that same year it was also most deservedly awarded a FCC. The colour of the flowers, which are upward-facing, can be described, in my opinion, as a superb lilac-purple.

Several seedlings raised from this sensational magnolia have been planted in the garden at Lanarth, and these seedlings have already reached the flowering stage. The colour of their flowers is almost identical to the flowers of the parent tree, and are therefore also lilac-purple.

About 20 years ago I visited Cornwall in early spring in order to view the magnolias in several famous gardens. Among these gardens I visited Lanarth, where I viewed for the first time the famous Lanarth tree in all its glory. I am happy to be able to say that I became the owner of one of its seedlings. My tree is now a fine and well-grown specimen. Its height is around 40 to 45 feet, and it is well branched almost to ground level. It flowered for the first time in 1984, but in this spring of 1987 it flowered magnificently during April, covering itself all over with very many flowers. The colour of these flowers is also lilac-purple like those flowers of the parent tree, as can be seen in Fig. 11. The flowers this year, I am glad to say, escaped any spring frosts, although they did get damaged somewhat by a very heavy rain and hail shower.

I consider myself to be a most fortunate man to have a Lanarth seedling of *mollicomata* in my garden. I recommend my fellow gardeners to attempt to grow this very fine tree, so long as they are prepared to wait for flowers, either from seed or from a young plant, for between 15 and 25 years. The fine sight of my own tree during this spring of 1987 has made the wait for me very well worth while.

PHILIP URLWIN-SMITH

Rhododendron grande

I enclose a photograph of *Rhododendron grande* in flower here on Guernsey this spring. The big-leaved species do not usually thrive here due to the windy conditions and proximity to the sea; we also had one of the coldest winters on record.

The original plant was given to me by Tom Spring-Smyth as a seedling, probably from his collection no. TSS 37, which he collected in Nepal. The plant in the photograph is a scion of my original plant grafted on to a *Rhododendron falconeri* rootstock, one reason, perhaps why the plant has flowered in two consecutive years.

MICHAEL CRIPPS

***Rhododendron semnoides* Tagg & Forrest**

An interesting talking point around the species class benches at the Rhododendron Show was *R. semnoides*. Twenty years ago, Mr Davidian's disciples used to be taught to distinguish *R. basilicum* from *R. arizelum* (now *R. rex* subsp. *arizelum*) by its flattened winged petioles, and on this basis some consternation was caused during the cataloguing of Irish gardens for 'An Taisce' that a grove of tall large-leaved rhododendrons in a famous garden in the Republic had petioles that were terete and not winged and therefore were more likely to be *arizelum* than *basilicum* as they were labelled.

The *RHS Rhododendron Handbook 1980, Rhododendron Species in Cultivation* includes *R. semnoides* in Series Grande (p.78). The note on p.29 of the 1987 Rhododendron Competition Schedule however (para. 13) observes that this species is now included in Subsection Falconera, and reference to the Edinburgh revision of Subgenus Hymenanthes, pp. 252-3, shows that *R. semnoides* apparently replaces *R. basilicum* in north-west Yunnan.

People were saying at the Show that all the plants of *R. basilicum* in cultivation in this country are actually *semnoides*, a species which a few years ago one never saw and seldom heard of. Both species were shown from Exbury and from Blackhills, but not as far as I am aware from any other garden. It could well be that the older gardens have plants grown from F 12078 on the 1912-14 expedition to Upper Burma and south-west Yunnan, which was *basilicum*, while younger plants derive from F 21870 from the 1921-22 expedition to north-west Yunnan, which was *semnoides*.

While both species have flattened winged petioles, the leaf indumentum of *R. semnoides* is composed of strongly fimbriate narrowly cup-shaped hairs, which clearly places the species in Subsection Falconera and not in Subsection Grandia, its traditional position. In the case of *R. basilicum*, the leaf indumentum is composed of scarcely

fimbriate, broadly cup-shaped hairs. It is to be hoped that other gardens possessing plants which purport to be either of these species will subject their fimbriate cup-shaped hairs to critical examination.

WALTER MAGOR

Rhododendron species used in hybridization

The *I.D.S. Yearbook for 1986* contains an excellent, though anonymous, review of a fairly recent horticultural publication by Batsford, i.e. Salley and Greer's *Rhododendron Hybrids — a Guide to their Origins* which was also reviewed in *Rhododendrons 1986-7, with Magnolias and Camellias*.

Attention is drawn to the omission from Appendix A, of the authentic names of species involved in the parentage of the hybrids recorded, of nine taxa, and surprise is expressed that these have not been used in hybridizing. In alphabetical order, the taxa mentioned by the reviewer, are:

R. chryseum (Ss. *Lapponica*), *R. hunnewellianum* (Ss. *Argyrophylla*), *R. keleticum* (Ss. *Saluenensis*), *R. lapponicum* (Ss. *Lapponica*), *R. planetum* (Ss. *Davidii*), *R. primuliflorum* (Ss. *Pogonanthum*), *R. radicans* (Ss. *Saluenensis*), *R. sherriffii* (Ss. *Fulgensia*), *R. tsangpoense* (Ss. *Glauca*).

This is somewhat misleading, as the reviewer appears to have overlooked the fact that the authors are following the Edinburgh revision, and mention that Appendix A had been checked for them by Peter Cox. Four of these taxa are in fact included in Appendix A and it is understandable if the other five have not been used in hybridizing.

Rhododendron chryseum is now *R. rupicola* var. *chryseum*, and was crossed at Glendoick with *R. ludlowii* to produce 'Chikor', an FCC plant.

Rhododendron keleticum is now *R. calostrotum* subsp. *keleticum*, a high altitude plant perhaps less attractive than *R. calostrotum*; the latter has been crossed with *R. bullatum* to produce 'Elsie Purnell'.

Rhododendron radicans is now *R. calostrotum* subsp. *keleticum* Radicans Group. Crossed with *R. racemosum*, this has produced R. Radmosum.

Rhododendron tsangpoense is now *R. charitopes* subsp. *tsangpoense*. *Rhododendron curvistylum*, so named by Kingdon Ward, is thought to be a natural hybrid between *R. tsangpoense* and *campylogynum*.

Of the others, *Rhododendron hunnewellianum* is a not very outstanding species introduced from western China by Wilson in 1908; and *Rhododendron lapponicum* is a species from the extreme north, and not much grown in this country. *Rhododendron planetum* is unknown in the wild and thought to be a chance hybrid, perhaps of *R. sutchuenense*. The only species of the distinct Section of dwarf rhododendrons, *Pogonanthum* (which includes *R. primuliflorum*), that appear to have

been thought worth crossing have been *R. sargentianum* and *R. trichostomum*, from which Captain Collingwood Ingram made the good hybrid, 'Sarled'. *Rhododendron sherriffii* was not recognized as a separate species until 1937, and resembles *R. fulgens* which has been used in hybridizing.

WALTER MAGOR

Blackhills

In *Bulletin* no. 33 was reproduced, with kind permission, an interesting account of a visit to Blackhills in Morayshire on 27 September, 1986, by the 16 members of the Scottish Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. In this account, doubt is expressed whether *Rhododendron vialii* (Ss. *Ovatum*) and *R. calvescens* (Ss. *Sellesia*) are known to be in cultivation.

Neither species is shown as 'Q' in the *Rhododendron Handbook*, 1980. *Rhododendron vialii* has long been known as one of the treats in store for visitors to Blackhills, *vide Rhododendrons, 1974, with Magnolias and Camellias*, p.32. I do not remember having *R. calvescens* pointed out to us on that occasion, but I am glad to note that John Christie maintains his father's tradition of not letting visitors see his precious *R. nakotiltum*, so I hope that this did not encounter Mr Kessell's pruning knife.

I would have been interested to hear whether the layer of *R. peregrinum* which Robbie Jack some years ago took up to Blackhills from here had survived.

This was a very much fuller account of a visit to Blackhills than the published accounts of the visits by parties from the Rhododendron & Camellia Group on 14 May, or the International Dendrology Society next day. They do not seem to have seen the species named, or did not notice them.

The classification of rhododendron species as 'Q', 'not known to be in cultivation' in *The Rhododendron Handbook* is not infallible. For instance, *R. mishmiense* (now *R. boothii*, Mishmiense Group) Ss. Boothia, twice introduced by Kingdon Ward, and classed as 'Q' in the *Handbook*, is also recorded as the parent (with *R. megeratum*) of the Bodnant AM hybrid 'Moth' (Silver Ray grex).

WALTER MAGOR

Windowsill grafting

One morning in mid-January, 1987, during a howling blizzard, two scions of the very rare *Rhododendron lanatoides* arrived in the post. These had been kindly sent to me by Edmund Wright.

Visitors to the nursery will know I do not use any artificial heat at all and usually graft between late June and early September. The whole nursery was frozen solid and I recalled that buried somewhere in the

snow were a batch of young *R. 'Cunningham's White'* not considered usable the previous summer.

Nothing looks sadder than a frozen rhododendron but after a few hours in our kitchen they soon looked more normal. The scions of *R. lanatoides* were side-grafted on to 'Cunningham's White' and placed inside polythene bags containing a small amount of damp tissue paper. The bags were then sealed and placed on an east-facing windowsill which has a radiator beneath it.

Now, mid-June 1987, both grafts have been planted out and are growing away.

It is interesting to note, that although the understock could not have been in active growth (normally thought essential) they have taken approximately the same time to callus as those grafted on active rootstocks during the summer.

Perhaps talking to one's plants does help or were they spurred on by the comment made by one visitor to my wife, 'I see they have found their way inside then'. And why not!

ALAN CLARK

Removing heavy plants from their holes

The point about this procedure is to be able to do it yourself. Quite often when you come to depend upon others to achieve that which you wish to attain, the end result is often far from satisfactory - and always expensive!

Years ago, but maybe still around today at the back of the loose box or tack room, potting shed or garage or the lean-to woodshed, are to be found the rusting remnants of the garden hammock contraption of a bygone age. This hammock was suspended from a stout metal crossbar, supported at either end by two stout metal triangles. This has proved to be just the thing to suspend over a plant to be removed and transported.

It is, of course, necessary first of all to fork carefully around the perimeter of the plant, exposing and locating the fibrous roots which are so highly essential to attain successful transplantation, and to cut through the thick side roots and basal roots with a sharp spade held at an obtuse angle. In order to get clearance of the soil and roots beneath the plant a strong rope should be tied at the base of the main stem and torque or stress applied from the opposite side. The rope is then secured to a stout tree or a strong post is driven in the ground to tie the rope to. Using a sharp spade and a crowbar, leverage should then be applied from the side opposite to the fixed rope and as soil and debris is cleared away further torque applied. Before this torque procedure is used on the reverse side, a good deal of the soil underneath is removed to form a shallow pit, so that when torque is applied from the other side the plant will more readily fall into this lower level, giving better access to any anchor roots. The hammock contraption is now brought over the plant

and a mini hoist fixed to the crossbar and to the lowest part of the stem of the plant — the hammock contraption can always be raised by using cut 'rings' or blocks of wood under the tripod legs. Now, having lifted the plant up sufficiently to get the transport underneath on the side of the hole previously bevelled out for the removal of the plant, you stand, facing the mountain ready for lift off!

The mini hoist must be carefully fixed to a loop of nylon cord, which is itself securely tied to a hessian binding collar well-wrapped and tied to the lower part of the stem of the plant, otherwise serious chafing of the cambium can result. It is best to have this hessian collar well down towards the base of the stem and once the plant is ready to be transported the mini hoist can be removed from the nylon hoop and a 5-foot piece of strong cord tied to the loop. The puller now stands facing the plant with the ropes attached to the transporter in the left hand and the stem cord in the right hand, both hands pulling in unison up the shelved incline, bit by bit, and Bob's your uncle, you have it out of the hole and on to the flat!

It may be possible to hire a mini hoist; in any case it is a useful block and pulley piece of equipment to have, with many uses, giving one the satisfaction of being able to achieve the seemingly impossible single-handed, and master of one's own domain.

G. T. WITHERWICK



Fig. 4 The 'contraption' and a rhododendron ready to be transported

G. T. Witherwick

A do it yourself garden plant label

The basic material is a polystyrene ceiling tile, which can be cut with a razor-sharp knife from its smooth side into eight or ten sizeable labels, of any size you prefer or need. A felt-tipped pen will engrave the name of the plant best if printed, the ink in fact engraves the lettering as well, so the label is doubly permanent. The stake can be a thin bamboo, but better still is to use Greensticks, imported from the Far East and sold in three sizes. If you need small labels with short sticks then wooden skewers do fine. It is better to print the name on the label before fixing the stake to it with waterproof adhesive tape — the best kind found so far is that sold to farmers for putting on cows tails, which comes in several colours. Black lettering on this white background will be legible up to 5 yards or more. The labels can be left out all summer or maybe all the year round. Even if the label blows off the stake your total loss is about a 1/2p.

G. T. WITHERWICK

Overheard in a rhododendron garden

'Oh! Just look at that.' pause... (same voice)

'Isn't it perfectly beautiful.' second pause... (same voice again)

'But it's a hybrid. What a pity I don't like hybrids!'

DR R. H. L. JACK

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The purple Lanarth magnolia in the wild

A. PETER WHARTON*

Three years ago, the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden was visited by Dr Pei Sheng-gi, deputy director of the Yunnan Institute of Tropical Botany. During a fascinating conversation relating to the flora of Yunnan, he mentioned that he had travelled extensively in the north-western part of that province while undertaking botanical field surveys for the Academia Sinica. During these detailed surveys, his main role was to study the low level sub-tropical vegetation of the Nujiang (Salween) valley, but he did manage to accompany other field botanists studying the flora of the Nujiang Kiu Chiang divide at just over 10,000 feet. This is the same locality where George Forrest collected seed in 1924 of *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* under his number F 25655. The outstanding clone 'Lanarth' arose from this collection. This is without doubt one of the most spectacular, temperate, flowering trees with its startlingly large cyclamen purple flowers with darker stamens, and a very distinctive upright growth habit.

From my conversations with Dr Pei, I was able to ascertain that this unique population appears to be still intact, although he did mention that some logging was occurring at lower elevations. There appears to be some slight colour variation in the wild from shades of cyclamen purple and dark lilac purple to light mauve. He also commented that the wild trees had a distinctive upright habit and occurred in small groups amongst open sub-alpine coniferous forest. He said that these magnolias were flowering in early March while snow still lay on the ground, a fact which Forrest mentioned in relation to typical *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata*.

I was impressed with Dr Pei Sheng-gi's grasp of English and its many nuances, so I feel sure that the information he volunteered was accurate.

* University of British Columbia Botanical Garden



Fig. 5 *Rhododendrons* at Strone

Kenneth Lowes

Fig. 6 *Rhododendron morii* at Strone (For an account of the garden at Strone, see pp. 3 to 12.)

Kenneth Lowes





Fig. 7 *Rhododendron campanulatum* × *R. thomsonii* (left) and *R. campanulatum* × *R. campylocarpum* (right). (See 'Nepal 1985', p.61.)

Peter Cox

Fig. 8 John Christie's winning entry in this year's Lionel de Rothschild Challenge Cup class. From left to right, front to back, are: *Rhododendron roxieanum*, *R. wasonii*, *R. sphaeroblastum*, *R. thomsonii*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. basilicum*, *R. lacteum* 'Blackhills' and *R. rex* subsp. *fictolacteum*. (See p.81.)

Photos Horticultural

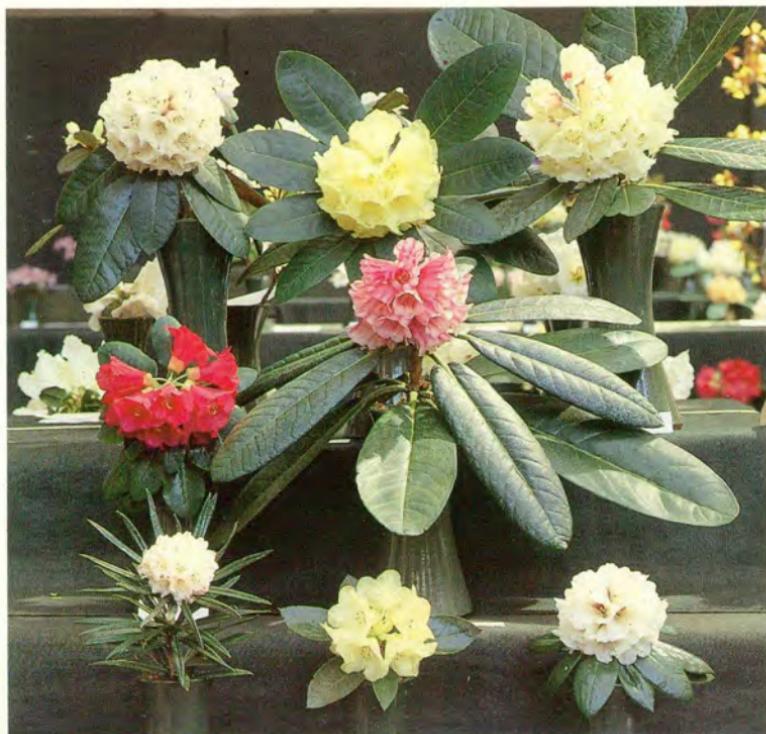




Fig. 9 Variation in *Rhododendron thomsonii*. (See 'Nepal 1985', p.63.)

Peter Cox

Fig. 10 In 1987, the McLaren Challenge Cup was won by Alan Hardy with *Rhododendron campanulatum*. (See p.82.)

Photos Horticultural





Fig. 11 Mr Urlwin-Smith's seedling from *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* 'Lanarth'.
(See pp. 45 and 52.)

John Sanders

Fig. 12 *Rhododendron grande* flowering on Guernsey. (See p. 46.)

Michael Cripps



The International Dendrology Society tour to Nepal, October and November, 1984

ANNE BOSCAWEN

Twenty-one members from seven countries gathered in Kathmandu on 28 October. Our leader was Nigel Taylor from Kew and the party included Paul Sondergaard, Curator of the Hilde Arboretum at Bergen in Norway, and Alan Jellyman, Director of Pukekura Parks, New Zealand.

We planned to trek on foot from Hile at 1,900m (6,230ft) up to the Milke Dara Ridge in little-known east Nepal; to make our highest camp at 3,760m (12,335ft); to return by another track, through Chainpur village, and over a short part of the route described by Roy Lancaster in his book *Plant Hunting in Nepal*; and finally to return by the trail beside the Arun River, back to Hile and the road head.

Thanks to our leaders, to Exodus Expeditions who did the planning, and not least to Mingma Tsering, our sirdar, our very large and fairly inexperienced party achieved all this successfully. Mingma and his Sherpa team worked tirelessly to keep us happy and safe and comfortable.

We left the wonders of Kathmandu and Patan behind, and flew to Biratnagar, getting our first view of the mountains from the aeroplane, and at the airport Mingma and his Sherpas joined us. It was a dramatic moment as the two groups sized each other up — calculating the odds for and against a successful trek! Then we all piled into a very cramped bus, luggage everywhere, people sitting on luggage, Sherpas and tents on the roof, and local hitch-hikers hanging on outside. The bus carried us up and up, on a remarkably good road, round hairpin bends and down into a river bed, past the huge remains of a concrete bridge, previously washed away by the monsoon.

We stopped at a roadside café at 1,420m (4,660ft) and here, to our great delight, Alan found our first scruffy piece of *Rhododendron arboreum*. Also here were *Luculia gratissima* and *Prunus cerasoides*, both in flower.

We were not expecting to see many flowers because the traveller in Nepal has to choose between spring flowers with almost certain mist and rain, or autumn seed with almost certain good weather and clear mountain views — and we chose the latter for this trek.

At Hile, Mingma hired porters, and we left the bus and walked the short distance to Choko and camp. Here we really began to notice the abandoned terraces and bare eroded hillsides which were once covered in *R. arboreum* and *Castanopsis* forest.

We set off in the morning at 7 am — this became camp routine, but on this first day's march we walked about 30 km (18½ miles), from about 2,050m (6,725ft) at Choko, to 2,600m (8,530ft) at the next camp at Tore. It was a hard day's walk even for those who were already fit. We made few pauses to botanise, and did not expect to see many familiar plants at this altitude, but we did pass through thickets of *Mahonia napaulensis* in full golden bloom, and saw our first *R. arboreum* tree beside the track. *Skimmia arborescens* and *Daphne bholua* were plentiful, and the blue climbing gentian, *Crawfurdia speciosa*, was flowering and seeding in the mossy banks at the side of the path.

Just out of camp the next day *Pieris formosa* was found, and Alan spotted *R. dalhousiae* growing epiphytically on *Mahonia napaulensis*. These mahonias were covered in moss and full of orchids and many other plants and seedlings.

We walked through thick forests of *Quercus lamellosa* and *Q. semecarpifolia*, sometimes growing together, which is unusual, with *Symplocos* trees, and open glades surrounded by *R. arboreum* with thin brown indumentum. A little further on we entered a forest of huge *arboreum* trees, a magnificent sight, with their thick red brown trunks and twisting branches. The ground underneath was almost bare of vegetation.

At 2,790m (9,150ft) there was a great variety of plants, including *R. pumilum* growing 21 inches tall on a rock face, *Piptanthus nepalensis* in clearings, and *R. arboreum* subsp. *cinnamomeum* with a typical indumentum. On a high narrow ridge, dropping away steeply each side and very exposed, we found *Corylus ferox*, *Acer campbellii*, *Betula utilis* with brown bark, and *R. arboreum*. *Rhododendron barbatum* forma *imberbe* was also growing here — typical of the species and with lovely red, peeling bark, but completely without whiskers.

Descending into a forested gorge from this ridge, we found large *Magnolia campbellii* trees, but little seed, and what there was had been eaten by bugs. In the next gorge, at 2,830m (9,280ft) we saw the first *Abies densa* (*A. spectabilis*?) with *Ilex dipyrena* and a *R. arboreum* with silver indumentum, and at the side of the path, just before camp, *R. triflorum* with rich red brown bark.

At sunrise on 2 November we had a lovely view of the Himalayas — Chamlang, Makalu, Everest and Lamtang. Everest looks small and black between the others, because from where we stood, it is further away, and the violent winds blow the snow away; later in the morning we could also see Kanchenjunga and Bandi.

After lunch we climbed on and up, past two ponds on the top of a ridge, the valley sides covered with *R. thomsonii* bushes, and the tall red brown trunks of *R. arboreum* clothed in thick wads of greenish brown moss. On the narrow stony path we met a party of young boys, all tidily dressed in smart anoraks and white shirts, going down to school, and later three ladies with a small child. One lady wore jeans, but the other two had beautiful saris and gold nose jewellery — a dangling gold fish. The little girl was all in red, with red bows in her hair. They were probably returning home after celebrating the Festival of Tihar. The last day of the Festival is Brothers and Sisters Day.

We camped near the village of Gupar Pokhari at 2,870m (9,415ft). Gupar was once a busy trading post between Tibet and Nepal, but since the Chinese invaded Tibet all trade has stopped. The countryside is almost bare of vegetation, with no firewood or anything else near the village. It was difficult to imagine how they could grow enough to eat. The cattle were probably grazing many miles away. There would be no money coming into the village unless there was a Gurkha pensioner, or some of the young people might be working as porters, but to get jobs they would have to go down to Hile, where the road stops. All our porters were men, but this is quite unusual. The girls carry the same loads and often a baby as well.

At dawn on 3 November we watched the sun as it rose and touched each mountain peak in turn with gold — Chamlang, Everest and Makalu. Then we set off, climbing very steeply upwards along the top of a ridge, which was quite bare of vegetation near the village, but later we were walking among *R. arboreum*, covered in moss, *R. cinnabarinum*, *Magnolia campbellii*, *Enkianthus deflexus*, and *Viburnum nervosum*, the last two with brilliantly coloured autumn leaves. In places water ran down the path, and primulas were growing among the stones and in the mossy banks at the sides. Suddenly we came out on to an open ridge, and saw the Tumbo Khula river far below us, and Kanchenjunga above.

We camped at 3,250m (10,660ft) in a clearing surrounded by *R. hodgsonii*. The Sherpas and porters built a huge hot fire of dead rhododendron logs, and the cook, Tensing, killed and roasted a whole sheep that had walked this far with us. After dinner there was dancing and singing, the Nepalese providing most of the entertainment. Among the rest of us, only New Zealand showed any talent at all, but everyone enjoyed it! The fire was also useful for drying flower presses and clothes.

On the morning of 4 November we were climbing up on to the Milke Dara Ridge, the mountainsides below us covered in rhododendrons, and golden leaved acers, with mist drifting up from the valleys. We came out on to a bare hillside with gaunt charred skeletons of dead *Abies densa*. In this desolate place we came to a pond with a herd of cattle and a tent, with children and a cattle-herding dog nearby. We passed a few surviving

Abies, with *R. hodgsonii*, and here there were yaks with calves and beautifully braided and tasseled tails. We camped at 3,650m (11,975ft) among *R. hodgsonii*, *R. campanulatum* and *R. campylocarpum*.

In the early morning there was ice on the tents but we started a steep climb in brilliant sunshine, up towards the snow peaks. We collected seeds of *R. campylocarpum* and *R. lepidotum* from beside the track. The shrubs here are stunted and sparse, the rhododendrons often defoliated and with much dead wood. There were many exposed rock faces. We followed the path round the sides of one tall peak, and were surprised by Mingma, who had gone over the top by the direct route, and presented us with sprigs of *R. anthopogon* — the first we had seen.

We camped on a ridge at 3,760m (12,335ft) with rhododendrons clothing the slopes below us on all sides. We stayed here two nights, and explored a side ridge, finding *R. lepidotum* and lovely rosettes of *Meconopsis paniculata* leaves in a damp hollow. There were big clumps of *R. thomsonii* and delightful blue-green seedlings of *R. cinnabarinum* in great quantities among low bushes of *Juniperus recurva*. We ate our lunch sitting on a large rock overhanging a mist-filled void, around us were *Cassiope fastigiata*, and *R. anthopogon*. Some of the party scrambled down in to the abyss, and found good cones of *Abies densa* at last.

In the evening there was a birthday party for a member of the expedition, Chris Williams. The porters had spent their free day collecting slivers of juniper wood, which they cut with their knives and which they greatly prize, and also moss, which they used to disguise Mingma as a yeti! We all had to eat an incredibly solid and heavily decorated birthday cake.

At breakfast on the next morning we could see right over to the high plateaux of Tibet, but sadly it was then time to go back the way we had come, as far as the turning for Chainpur, and a very steep scramble downhill, with *R. glaucophyllum* among the rocks. The ridge below us was ablaze with autumn colours and in a glade we came upon a lovely small plant of *R. ciliatum*, growing against a rock.

The path went on steeply down through woodland with *R. barbatum*, *R. arboreum* and *Mahonia napaulensis*, and at last we reached camp in an open glade, and tea. We had come down over 3,000ft that day.

We were back now to below 2,680m (8,780ft) and one would not expect many of the plants we saw here to be hardy in the UK. The forest was mainly *Quercus lamellosa* and *Quercus semecarpifolia*. We found *Edgeworthia gardneri* in flower and *Castanopsis tribuloides* and many epiphytes and climbers. By the end of the day we were back in terraced and cultivated countryside and at 1,640m (5,380ft) we found great banks of *Camellia kissii* in flower beside the path.

It felt strange to arrive in the crowded market place of the town of

Chainpur, and here Mingma heard that Mrs Gandhi had been shot several days before.

We walked for two more days, most of the time beside the Arun River, where rice is grown on every fertile inch, and then a last uphill walk to our camp on a bare hillside at Hile once again.

Here we said goodbye to the porters and the rest of us boarded the horrible bus again, and after a long hot drive we reached our final camp in a mango grove outside Biratnagar. Here we all ate together for our farewell dinner — one felt this was a great concession on the part of the Sherpas, who disapprove of many of our habits and manners — and then it was a sad farewell to Mingma and his henchmen, who had looked after us so well, and to many friends at various stages of the long flight home.

Now, two years later, in the spring of 1987, some small rhododendrons, sorbus and acers, tiny as yet, but actual plants, are here to remind us of the wonderful country from which we collected the seed.

Nepal 1985

PETER COX

While Nepal has been more thoroughly explored botanically in recent years than perhaps any other part of south-east Asia, it has the great advantage over other areas in its comparative freedom for travelling, camping and collecting. Through various tour operators, it is possible to organize a trip for a large or small party with remarkably little hassle. Peter Hutchison, my travelling companion of many years standing, and I were determined to go somewhere in 1985 and for various reasons, alternatives fell through. Peter suggested that Donald Maxwell Macdonald, a descendant of such famous gardeners as Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollok and Corrour and Sir Herbert Maxwell of Monreith, should join us, which was a splendid idea as Donald proved to be an excellent companion in every way, except for his ability to snore almost as loudly as Peter! Donald was recently able to reacquire Corrour back into the family from the Forestry Commission when they started selling off some of their land. This acquisition has inflamed Donald with a passion for rhododendrons of which there is an amazing collection in that highest and most remote of Scottish gardens.

Nepal lies across northern India, straddling the main Himalayan range. The west is fairly dry, becoming wetter as one approaches the frontier with Sikkim which is sandwiched between Nepal and Bhutan. Being interested in as wide a range of plants as possible, especially rhododendrons, we chose the eastern-most ridge before the frontier

Singalila ridge. This is known by us as the Milke Danda though the Nepalese told us it should be Milke Dara. This ridge runs more or less north and south, with the bigger, higher bulk of the Jaljale Himal just to the north, rising above the Arun river to the west and the Tamur to the east. Several British parties have been there recently, both before and after us but most had either been in the autumn when the weather is at its best or in the early spring (April) before the monsoon starts building up. Nepal has become so popular for treks that in high season, campsites are liable to become overcrowded and the paths on the popular routes may resemble the M25 during the rush hour!

So with due consideration, we decided to go in May. Our advisers told us that not only would there be fewer people but there would be considerably more in flower. The big snag would be having to put up with some rather unpleasant weather. And so it proved. So with 19 days' trekking planned, we left home on 11 May.

After a very short night due to the time change, we arrived in Delhi. Chaos reigned. One would have thought from the difficulties we encountered, first in getting hold of our baggage and then in transferring it to another building, that nobody had ever made a similar journey before. We had to wheel our own baggage on trolleys (lucky to get them I suppose!) half-way across the airport. The 737 which took us to Kathmandu was borrowed by Royal Nepalese Airlines from Indian Airways. Kathmandu at 4,386 ft had a very pleasant temperature and we spent the first evening attempting to photograph flying foxes (fruit bats) and egrets in the *Grevillea robusta* trees. We were briefed on our trek and after two nights, took off for Biratnagar. Contrary to one's usual ideas of Nepal being entirely mountainous, we were deposited in a vast plain at only 400 ft above sea level. This was extremely hot and dry. Here we were introduced to our sirdar (head man), Chombi, his assistant, Phuri, cook and two junior cooks, all called Lakhpa; in all five Sherpas to look after the three of us. I suppose we must admit to living in some luxury as we were given a tent each plus camp chairs and a makeshift table.

We all piled into an ancient Landrover and wondered why the driver needed a boy as an assistant who would just add to an already vastly overloaded vehicle. The need for him soon became apparent when the engine boiled every few hundred yards and needed topping up. Up to a very few years ago the route we were being driven over had to be walked by any trekkers going into the mountains this way and we heard stories of several people who could not make it to Hile from where we started our walk. The road starts at under 1,000 ft, climbs to 4,600 ft, then drops again to the Arun river at about the same altitude as at the start and then rises up to Hile at 6,300 ft, all this in extremely hot conditions. We were glad not to have to walk. Even the flora distinctly lacked interest with no virgin and even very little secondary forest remaining.

Our first night was to be spent in a 'hotel'. Our room proved to be a sort of temple and was full of pots and pans, metal trunks, a prayer wheel, and sprouting potatoes and seed, perhaps to feed the local sparrows. Numerous rats ran around the room during the night. The first day's trek was easy and short but lacking in much interest with no forest left at all in the early stages. Around our first campsite we heard the ominous sound of axes in action. In the remnants of this forest we found our first rhododendron, *dalhousiae*, always epiphytic in small trees. It was in full flower and of good colour, a combination of yellow and green but in small trusses of usually only two or three flowers. Shortly before leaving home, Peter had bought a second-hand Hasselblad in an extravagant moment and here it came into action for the first time. There had been little time for practice and this became all too obvious by the cursing and swearing that went on. The camera soon became known as 'the bloody hassle' and Peter as 'Sir Hassle'. A dog that attached itself to our party, liked to park itself in Peter's tent, so it became known as the 'hassle hound'.

While little of the forest remained, there were several trees of *Quercus lamellosa* and fine *Mahonia napaulensis*. Both were covered in epiphytes, especially the latter which was often so covered that little of the mahonia itself was visible. One oak had the curious climbing *Elaeagnus infundibularis* twisting through its branches which looked quite spooky in the mist. We passed a few remaining plants of *Rhododendron arboreum* with rather pale green leaves with plastered silver indumentum below and early growth. As we neared the end of our second day we entered solid *R. arboreum* forest. To our surprise, all these turned out to be subsp. *cinnamomeum* in the form that formerly would have been called *campbelliae*, considerably lower than we had expected at only 8,500 feet. The flowers, mostly over, varied from pale pink to reddish crimson, often with a hint of blue. Surprisingly, we could find no signs of last year's seed capsules but we did not want seed from this elevation anyway. The growth was uniformly late and the foliage was dark above and with light to medium cinnamon indumentum below. These grew into large trees, several over 50 feet high and one we measured had a girth of 11 feet, at 4 feet above the ground. Trees that had been cut down or otherwise mutilated were sprouting freely from large boles. Many plants had the occasional witches' broom young shoots. These lacked chlorophyll and were coloured pink to red and looked most peculiar. Our camp was in a delightful clearing amongst these giant rhododendrons.

Various ups and downs took us to a different aspect with a north-facing slope covered with rich vegetation. Near the ridge was found our first *R. lepidotum*, and *R. barbatum*, mostly with no bristles, long finished flowering. On the north slope were some good *R. triflorum* in

flower and Donald was good at finding the small seed capsules. Nearby were some *Cardiocrinum giganteum* in amazingly dense shade but none were of flowering size. At the top of an extremely precipitous gully we found our first primula, probably *P. gracilipes*, which had finished flowering. We were to see this or a near relation virtually every day thereafter, in full flower at high elevations with some very fine pink-flowered forms. Down in the gully we spotted what must be a large rhododendron covered with huge white flowers which could only be *griffithianum*, as far west as this species has been recorded. Sadly, this tree proved completely impossible to reach. Luckily we found this species again in two more gullies, this time much more approachable and we were able to get a little seed and one or two seedlings. The elevation was about 8,600 feet, which was about 1,400 feet higher than those we found in north-east India in 1965, so hopefully this may prove to be a little hardier. None of the remaining plants we saw were in flower. One tree was 40 to 50 feet high with a beautiful smooth trunk. We only saw this species in deep north- or east-facing gullies and it was always associated with a particularly unattractive creeping species of *Rubus*. Also here were 80-foot trees of *Magnolia campbellii*, passed flowering but sure to be white, as they nearly all are in the wild. That night we celebrated our finds by Peter and Donald opening their Glenfiddich malt whisky and I opened my Sauterne. I somehow managed to make one bottle last the entire trek!

Here we experienced our first thunder-cum-hailstorm. One thunderbolt was almost directly overhead but luckily we managed to reach our tents on this occasion before the hail started. Later we were not so lucky. Our staff rushed to dig trenches around our tents with our ice axes and we soon found out how necessary this was. It was the following day we received our first real soaking. The path became a torrent of hail soup and despite our umbrellas, we were absolutely soaked through, our most waterproof clothes not being accessible at the time. We were extremely glad to see our tents already pitched and find spare clothes that were still dry.

An isolated plant of *R. cinnabarinum* appeared at the pathside at only 9,000 feet with good orange flowers, well below the main elevation for this species. Later we saw a uniform orange population at the same altitude. Peter spotted *lindleyi*, epiphytic in a small tree. There was such a mass of epiphytes that we could not tell which branches belonged to the host tree, which we thought was *arboreum*. The *lindleyi* had occasional very long shoots protruding out of this vegetation. The flowers were very fine and large, typical of the early introductions, but only two per truss. For some unknown reason, seed from this plant did not germinate but that from another plant found a little further on, did.

We were still on the side-ridge and had good views of the approaching

Milke Danda ridge. We seemed to be approaching it about half-way between its lower end and the start of the Jaljale, still with quite a lot of snow on it. That night's camp was in a dull area amongst heavily grazed scrub but with an attractive pokhari (pond) in which were reflected a few gnarled old *R. arboreum*. The following day we passed through more *arboreum*, *barbatum* and the first few *hodgsonii*, which had finished flowering. Despite a thorough search, I could find no evidence of natural hybrids between the two former species, rather to my surprise. We finished the day at 11,000 feet and were now in yak country which were in various colours from black to grey, black and white etc. True yak have shaggy hair almost to the ground and a broad hairy tail. We also saw crosses between yak and ordinary cattle. I was rather puzzled by an isolated group of big-leaved rhododendrons with no flowers and a plastered white indumentum. This was at 10,400 feet, rather high for *grande* which has been recorded here. The leaf shape was nearer *hodgsonii*; could they have been a group of hybrids between the two? Here, *arboreum* is not far off its altitudinal limit and was becoming more stunted. The indumentum was actually paler than on the plants seen lower down and the flowers were a fairly uniform hot rose-red.

We were now on the main Milke Danda ridge and into the optimum rhododendron country in these parts. *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* became plentiful and a splendid sight it was. Nearly every colour variation occurred here and these different colours were all mixed up. Once I photographed three consecutive plants, yellow, pale orange and orange with the red Roylei a few yards away. Three other species were common here; *campanulatum*, *campylocarpum* and *hodgsonii*. The first had a uniform pale but continuous indumentum, some with well-coloured heavily spotted flowers, others a washed-out pale mauve. *Rhododendron campylocarpum* was a good uniform yellow, some with a small blotch, others with none, while several had orange buds. In contrast to the other species, *Rhododendron hodgsonii* was past its best and most of the flowers we saw had faded out and were battered by the weather. The foliage was often very large and some had flowers of a very deep colour when first opened. All these species grew to the top of the ridge and on both sides, with *campanulatum* and *hodgsonii* being the most plentiful. Large red-flowered bushes were visible in the distance and these turned out to be *R. thomsonii*, again in full flower, with red calyces. A thunderstorm raged most of the night and solid rain went on falling until midday. We made the sensible decision to stay an extra night here.

This could be called natural hybrid day with no fewer than three different combinations found. There were several plants with pink flowers which were undoubtedly *campylocarpum* \times *thomsonii*, two plants with creamy coloured flowers, *campylocarpum* \times *campanulatum* and one horrible magenta-coloured plant, *campanulatum* \times *thomsonii*. After a

short trek of many ups and downs, we reached camp as we often did by 10.30 a.m. Here our staff announced that we were to go no further and make day trips from here. As we could quite clearly see two Milke Danda peaks of about 12,000 feet still ahead of us with the Jaljale away beyond, this was entirely unsatisfactory. After a friendly but firm discussion, they agreed to move on to about the second Milke Danda peak. The only new rhododendron this day was *R. anthopogon*, with typical thin papery uniform pale yellow flowers and no variation was to be seen for the rest of the trek. Chombi, our sirdar, collected bags full of *anthopogon* foliage for incense.

For once a dry night and we got up to a beautiful morning with superb views of all the peaks. To the right was the impressive pointed Makulu and to the left the less majestic flat-topped Chamlang. In between was a lesser twin-pointed peak with an insignificant looking blacker peak behind. Tony Schilling, who knows Nepal very well, assures me that this is Mt Everest. Lots of photographs were taken from here, taking trouble to use a tripod and cable release with the zoom lens. The results were very pleasing. Just above the camp were the last plants of *arboreum* with rich crimson-red flowers. There was no sign of the high-elevation pink-and-white-flowered forms recorded elsewhere or any with a really rich-coloured indumentum. The most interesting natural hybrid that we saw on the trip was a single plant with just one truss. This was *hodgsonii* × *thomsonii* with no indumentum and reddish crimson flowers. Nearby were our first plants of *Cassiope fastigiata*, a form with narrow shoots, just coming into flower.

We reached camp earlier than we expected and the Sherpas said we could not go any further as there was no water. How they knew this is a mystery as none of them had been as far up the ridge as this before. We set off ourselves for a recce of the track to Jaljale and it took two hours to where we could see the dip marking the end of the Milke Danda ridge. At first the country was uninteresting and dull, apart from suffering an attack of vertigo from the sheer drops within a few feet of the path. We had an argument as to how many thousand feet it would be. Further on we saw two beautiful ready-made natural gardens in nicely sheltered hollows. The first contained all the usual species of rhododendron plus a few deciduous trees. The second was full of rocks and shallow soil and masses of tall forms of *R. lepidotum*. This species covers a wide altitudinal range and has a great variation in habit, leaf size and shape and flower colour. We were unfortunately too early to see many in flower but one we saw later at a lower altitude had most unusual pink and green coloured flowers. If one could put up with the monsoon rains during the main flowering season of this species, it should be possible to see and select many fine forms.

Next morning we persuaded Chombi to let us go to the Jaljale for a

night with a minimum of kit. In the end we had Phuri, the three Lakhpas and three porters and did not suffer any undue discomforts. The Milke Danda-Jaljale divide was just a drop of 1,000 feet. The first nice-looking campsite was too low and we went on with Phuri and found a little sheltered hollow at 12,400 feet. On the way up we passed through pure *thomsonii* forest with huge rounded bushes in full bloom, a really splendid sight never to be forgotten. Most had deep-coloured flowers with red calyces but there was one nice group with slightly paler flowers with cream calyces. To our great surprise, one large specimen had almost white flowers, flushed pink with dark nectar pouches. This was definitely not a hybrid and there was no *campylocarpum* here for *thomsonii* to cross with. We tried to take scions home but with no success.

Above camp we soon got above the tree line where there were numerous golden rosettes of *Meconopsis paniculata* and splendid clumps of the white-flowered *Primula obliqua* just coming out. Another primula, this time at its peak of flowering, was the pale to deep yellow *P. strumosa*. We found patches of *R. setosum* just coming out at 13,000 feet. Going back to camp we made plans to go higher the next day. We were up before 5 o'clock and made a quick climb up on the rocks above camp to look at the view. All ground below 11,500 feet was beneath a sea of cloud and every peak clear above. We watched the sun rise directly above Kanchenjunga, the sight of a lifetime. Endless photographs were taken in all directions. When it became light enough, we could easily see where our two previous camps had been on the ridge below. Lakhpa number two, known as 'Laughing' or 'Dancing Boy' on account of his ever-smiling face and lively antics, walked straight up a vertical rock and lit a juniper fire on the top.

Jaljale Himal, as it appeared from the distance, is a much wider, bigger piece of mountain with several rocky crumbling peaks and accompanying screes. At 13,500 feet there were still many patches of snow, melting to form several small pokharies. Apart from one or two primulas, nothing was in flower at this altitude or even beginning to awake from winter dormancy. It soon became apparent that we were the first humans to venture up there that spring as there was no sign of any footprints or other signs that people or their stock had passed this way. Vegetation was scattered with a few isolated clumps of *R. campanulatum*. In vain we looked for anything which could be classed as subsp. *aeruginosum*. A little lower, on exposed banks, there was an interesting plant association which consisted of a closely knit carpet of *R. anthopogon* and *setosum* and *Cassiope fastigiata*, not more than 6 inches high. We had hoped to see *R. wightii*, in the strange Nepal form with its sticky buds, and also *fulgens*, but we would apparently have needed three extra days to get near Topke Gola before we would find these species. This would have meant going on beyond the highest point of the Jaljale

at 15,600 feet and then dropping down. If we had speeded up and done two days trekking in one, we might have made it. Actually, I feel that we suffered from part of our staff being rather idle and also they probably took one look at the rather plump figures of Peter and Donald and my own over-skinny frame and decided that we were horribly unfit and they were in for a lazy time. Our reasonable agility must have surprised them!

Our path had been carefully marked with arrows the day before but these had been largely washed out by the overnight rain. Luckily, rocks had been piled on rocks to mark the way across screes and other barren parts where the path was not obvious. Sadly we had now reached the end of our road and it was all going back from now on. It proved to be quite a long way back to our previous camp and for the first time I really felt quite tired. The next day was two stages in one and we made the intermediate camp by 9 o'clock and had our earliest lunch ever! On the way we found the ground covered with fallen green leaves, mostly of *R. thomsonii*; then we saw *hodgsonii* with leaves torn to shreds, often with little left but the midrib. At first this puzzled us and we asked Chombi what he thought had caused it. His answer was monkeys! Quite soon it dawned on us that it must have been a violent hailstorm and it proved to be very local. On the way we saw the same family of Impeyan pheasants that we had seen on the way up, consisting of the parents and one chick. Unfortunately some of our staff saw them too and they obviously had evil intentions. We often saw the remains of pheasant snares on the paths, which consisted of a row of foot-long bamboo stakes with a gap in the middle in which was placed a snare. Other birds seen at this altitude were black eagles, nutcrackers (a member of the crow family also seen in Europe), and, to our great surprise, woodcock, which we saw morning and evening at two camps. At slightly lower elevations, we saw the extraordinarily long-tailed, ungainly looking yellow-billed blue magpie, a common bird.

All along we had found seed of rhododendrons rather hard to come by compared with previous spring trips. We came to the conclusion that the frequent storms, especially the hail, had knocked off most of the capsules. It was not a question of lack of flower as we could see that the plants had flowered the previous spring. We did manage to find a little seed of most of the species we saw but it all required diligent searching. We had a permit to import plants into Britain as long as they were to be kept in quarantine at Glendoick for six months. Before leaving Kathmandu, we acquired some flat woven bamboo circles and a large bamboo basket and with the aid of stakes and wire, the circles were fixed to the basket in tiers. Each circle was covered with a layer of plants which were wrapped with moss and sewn on with thread so that they would not move. An early mistake was made when a porter covered the basket with polythene and a few plants got scorched when the sun came out.

Polythene was banned thereafter. Basically, it proved to be a good system and we did not lose much which was surprising considering what traumas they had to put up with. More of that later.

Our last day on the heights proved to be the wettest and also a very long walk for once and a great drop in altitude. We started at 11,500 feet and soon turned on to a side-ridge and new ground. Here were many large rosettes of *Meconopsis napaulensis*, probably the pale blue form that unfortunately seems to have disappeared from cultivation. It was annoying that the weather was so bad and we had to trek so far, as the flora was the richest we had seen with many plants we had not seen before. These included *R. ciliatum*, long past flowering and the rare white form of *glaucophyllum*. We saw many plants of the latter in full flower and they proved to be very uniform. This form was first introduced by Beer, Lancaster and Morris in 1971. This occurred between 9,000 and 10,000 feet. It has pretty flowers but we rarely see them at Glendoick as it has turned out to be very bud tender, much more so than typical *glaucophyllum*. Another species that we saw, just one plant, was *camelliiflorum*. I reckoned that Roy Lancaster's description in *Plant Hunting in Nepal* of this side-ridge which he did in reverse, did not do justice to the great variety of plants we saw here. Two of interest were the glaucous-leaved *Populus jacquemontiana* var. *glaucia* and *Corylus ferox* with long pointed leaves. There was abundant moss in the trees and a great many epiphytes including pleiones and vacciniums. The wet path was treacherous but luckily there were no cliffs here to fall over. This proved to be the only day we suffered from leeches and we were all attacked. Eventually we reached some terraced fields and a campsite was selected but the owner said that the land was too good to camp on. At first we refused to move but when the porters walked past, a *walk-on* strike, we were forced to go on. This was because we were within half an hour of Sita Pokhari where beer (chang), cigarettes and more food were available. Another downpour resulted in us sitting in our mess tent in an inch of water. Luckily this drove away our village audience. Up to now we had been quite happy with the few locals that came around our tents but from now on they proved to be rather over-persistent. Usually small boys were the worst offenders but at our last camp of all, we had to ask our staff to get rid of two women who were determined to go into our tents!

The following day we dropped down into the Arun valley. We had been warned that this would be hot and so it proved. Returning by the valley was a great mistake, probably our fault as we said we would like to return by a different route. It all rather lacked interest except for a wedding party which for some reason had to cross the river, a bathe in a tributary of the Arun and our meeting with 600 police. These had been sent to oversee the forthcoming local elections which can apparently

cause quite a stir, being liable to end with several deaths. These police looked extremely fierce. They did stop and question us and it was quite a relief to see the last of them. The bathe, our first for two-and-a-half weeks, proved most enjoyable in very pleasantly warm water. In contrast, the Arun was freezing, no doubt due to its snow water content. Once more it rained in torrents and we suffered another soaking, this time a hot, sticky one but there were also some dry sunny spells. The poor plants suffered considerably and many had wilted by the time we got back up to Hile. This entailed a climb of over 5,000 feet, luckily over two days. On the first climb we stopped and sampled the chang which is made out of fermenting millet and rice. Alas, the water used was not boiled or sterilized and I had too much of it; I cannot think why as it was rather nasty and seemed to contain very little alcohol. The result was I was violently sick in the night, a night already interrupted by the incessant barking of dogs.

Up to now we had all kept very healthy, largely due to the extreme care our staff took over preparing our food and drink. We really ate quite well though the food was rather monotonous. Our supply of food had to be carried for most of the trek as there was nothing available after Hile. Cauliflower was one of the staple ingredients of our meals and it was amazing how many different ways Lakhpa One managed to cook it for us. I felt ghastly most of the next day and dragged myself up that path feeling like death. This time we insisted in camping at Hile. Amazingly, they told us that there had been no rain here all the time we had been trekking. After farewells to porters and Sherpas we were off, this time in a Willys jeep. Somehow everything was packed in, the plants getting preference. Again there was a boy to top up the radiator who somehow managed to hang on to the outside.

Just after we had settled into our seats in the plane which was to take us from Biratnagar to Kathmandu, there was a commotion at the door and a sick young man was clumsily man-handled on to the seats opposite us on a makeshift stretcher. We soon realized that he was extremely ill and he proceeded to die in front of our eyes. The moans of the grief-stricken wife added to the pleasures of the journey!

After this drama, all went well until we met up with a brute of an Indian British Airways official at Delhi airport. He was determined that our plants could not go on the plane and made every excuse he could think of such as lack of space. Some pilots had a word with him and we thought all was well but to our horror no plants appeared with our luggage in London. The officials there were very helpful and even allowed us out to look at the containers that had come off the plane. Not only had there been a half-load of passengers but several of the containers were empty. So much for no room. Delhi was telexed. I just went home as there was nothing more I could do and Peter very kindly said he would

go back to the airport the following day as he was staying south for a birthday party anyway. The plants did actually turn up, looking more shaken than ever. However, with a little T.L.C. (tender loving care) it was amazing how many recovered.

John Slocock

The wholesale nursery world and the rhododendron world in particular suffered a very great loss when John Slocock died on 20 July, 1986.

As a director, together with his father, uncle and later his cousin Martin, of the renowned nursery company, W. C. Slocock Ltd of Goldsworth, Woking, he gained a very great knowledge of the commercial horticultural world.

It was in the early 1960s that the company purchased a parcel of Bagshot sand at Tilford with a view to making a rhododendron nursery which would help to relieve the tired land at Goldsworth. The company had been in existence for 200 years and many tons of soil had been despatched on the root balls of the thousands of rhododendrons which were produced during that period.

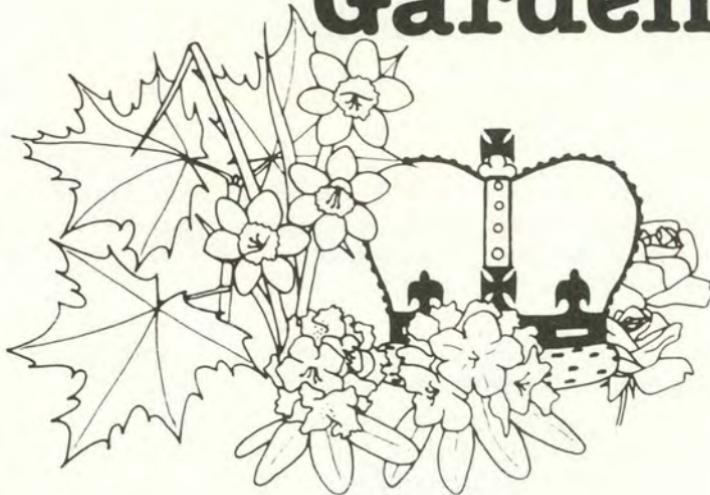
When the Goldsworth Nursery was sold for development some years later, the two cousins, who were now in control, went their separate ways. Martin stayed on Slocock land in the Woking area and later acquired the famous home of rhododendrons, Knap Hill Nursery, and John moved to the Charles Hill Nursery at Tilford.

It was at Charles Hill that John showed his true colours — to refer to him as a perfectionist is a gross understatement — for his standards were extremely high. No plant was sold if it was less than a 100 per cent in appearance. No rhododendron was added to his list without a rigorous and critical trial and his outstanding catalogue contained a great range of typical Slocock hardy hybrids, many of the best modern hybrids from the great British gardens and a few of the newer American hybrids. Rhododendron species, many not offered in recent times, also featured in his list together with a good range of azaleas and camellias. I was also always impressed by the way that John rested his land and by the tons of bracken peat which he incorporated after each crop.

John will be sadly missed; he was a grower of the old school who was very much at home in today's world.

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Gillian Carlyon 1924-1987

Olga Gillian Gwavaas Carlyon, who died peacefully at her home at Tregrehan in Cornwall on Friday, 6 February 1987, was born at Gwavaas, Hawke's Bay, in New Zealand, and came to Tregrehan at the age of 11, when her father, Captain E. T. R. Carlyon, took over the family property.

Tregrehan has been in the ownership of the Carlyon family for the last 400 years, and in 1884 the property passed to a junior branch of the family who had settled in New Zealand, but they did not return to Cornwall until 1935. Miss Carlyon's father, who had served with the Sherwood Foresters in the Great War 1914-18, died on active service in 1942.

Miss Carlyon was in the Women's Royal Naval Service, which she left in 1945, to take over Tregrehan. Her only brother, Tristrem, was a white hunter in Tanganyika, and was killed in a motor accident in 1961. The scene at Tregrehan after the war was one of total neglect, and over the next 40 years, she carried out an ambitious restoration programme, radically reducing the house in size and building up a garden nursery business, which was selling some 100,000 cuttings a year by the time of her death.



Fig. 13 Miss Gillian Carlyon and Rosie at Tregrehan

The Tregrehan gardens were chiefly laid out and planted by Major General Edward Carlyon and his elder brother William, a Senior Wrangler at Cambridge, between 1830 and 1854, and Miss Carlyon took over an almost unique collection of conifers and southern hemisphere trees, including some vast hybrid rhododendrons and japonica camellias. Some of the latter are over 20 feet high and probably 100 years old.

Encouraged by Professor E. G. Waterhouse, Miss Carlyon embarked on an ambitious programme of hybridizing, such as has not been undertaken by anyone else in this country. A number of her hybrids have received awards from The Royal Horticultural Society, and these and others have been recommended for inclusion in the hybrid camellia trials at Wisley. There is a set of her best hybrids in the National Camellia Reference Collection at Mount Edgcumbe, and a number are in The Queen Mother's garden at Royal Lodge, in Windsor Great Park, including 'Duchess of Cornwall', AM.

Miss Carlyon's distinguished contribution to horticulture was recognized by the RHS in 1984, when she was awarded the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup for her hybrid 'Jenefer Carlyon'.

At the end of the 1970s Miss Carlyon, hitherto an energetic sportswoman and games player, was severely incapacitated by a stroke, but undaunted by this, she had in recent years carried out a major restoration of the garden, rebuilding the glasshouses which now contain a fine collection of the tender Vireya rhododendrons, as well as collections of lapagerias and clivias. The arboretum has been cleared and is being replanted and extended, and the trees have been measured by Alan Mitchell, and have been tagged, listed and mapped by David Hunt: a number are the largest of their kind in Britain.

WALTER MAGOR

'Salutation' seedlings and 'Gwava' from Tregrehan

CHRISTIAN LAMB

Gillian Carlyon chose *Camellia 'Salutation'* as a parent for her hybrids because of its controversial background; the resulting three camellias which grew from the cross are both interesting and unusual. I have described 'Tristrem Carlyon' before: Miss Carlyon considered it her most successful hybrid. It has a beautiful flower and vigorous growth, is long-flowering, floriferous, neatly drops withered blooms, comes into early bud and roots easily from cuttings — what more could one ask?

'Nijinski' was the second notable result of a seedling from 'Salutation'; it was called after the Russian dancer because of its elegant habit. The flower is a semi-double brilliant pink which forms massed buds jostling for space all up the slender branches; the leaf is a paler green than 'Tristrem Carlyon' but more leathery and its new growth is very similar to *C. reticulata* 'Captain Rawes'. The first time it went up to Vincent Square it was spurned, apparently considered to have been named after an unsuitable racehorse. The next time it went up simply as a 'Salutation' seedling, was considered just worthy of note and given a Preliminary Commendation.

'Hooker', named after the great man, was a hybrid between 'Salutation' and *C. japonica* 'Juno'. It resembles a dog rose more than a camellia; it is a slow growing, round bush with pretty pale round leaves, its baby pink single flowers open wide and flat and have a boss of little stamens. It is a most unusual camellia perhaps most suited to collectors.

'Gwavas' is a cross between 'J. C. Williams' and 'The Mikado'. Gillian Carlyon often used 'J. C. Williams' as a seed parent for its readiness to set seed and its hardiness. 'The Mikado' is a very old *japonica* which was included in the royal collection belonging to King Leopold II, who used one of his greenhouses at the Palace of Laeken, near Brussels, exclusively for camellias. 'The Mikado' has been grown at Tregrehan since 1894 when G. R. G. Carlyon, known as Jovey, bought it among 12 other varieties of camellia from a nurseryman called B. S. Williams in Victoria, London. He paid 60s for the dozen plants which were introduced into Britain from Japan by a Mr Gerald Waller. It is a very early flowering formal double, pink, edged with white. This combination produced the handsome, very late flowering semi-double to formal double, dusty pink camellia, 'Gwavas'. It was named and registered in 1972 after the place in New Zealand where Miss Carlyon was born and lived until she was 11. Originally, the name Gwavas was from a village in Cornwall but when one of G. C.'s ancestors emigrated to New Zealand in the 1850s, he called his homestead Gwavas and it has been a family name ever since.

Chinese Rhododendron Society Show

E. G. MILLAIS

On Sunday 19 April 1987, my wife and I attended the Chinese Rhododendron Society's first Rhododendron Show at Wuxi, which is about two hours by train from Shanghai. Wuxi is situated beside the huge lake, Taihu, and is the lucky possessor of several well-kept parks, and is altogether a very attractive place to visit.

The Rhododendron Show was ceremonially opened after short speeches by Professor Feng of Kunming (Chairman of the Chinese Rhododendron Society), the Town Deputy Mayor, and the Director of the local Parks Department. The Chinese have a great sense of occasion, and no sooner had the broad red ribbon been cut simultaneously in three places by these gentlemen than the Wuxi town brass band started playing, firecrackers were thrown from the tops of all the surrounding houses, and 200 pigeons were released from the centre of the square where we were standing. (Vincent Square please note!)

The Show itself was of a very high standard, mostly azaleas, as Wuxi and the eastern provinces of China, are well-suited to these. Some were similar clones to those forced here for Christmas, but many others were hybrids unfamiliar over here, and very beautiful.

The courtyards and pavilions of an old monastery made an ideal setting for the Show, each province having about half of one courtyard to itself. Quite a number of rhododendrons were well shown, including *R. anhweicense* from Anhwei Province, and the fabulous *R. excellens* from Yunnan, and also *R. simiarum*.

After the opening ceremony, we were able to hand over to Professor Feng a message of congratulation and good wishes from our Chairman, and in the evening we were invited to a banquet in celebration of the opening of the exhibition. There were many speeches, and we got the impression that there will be great competition to host the next venue in two or three years' time.

This first Show by the Chinese Rhododendron Society must be considered a great success by any standards. At the end of the Show it had been seen by 300,000 people, the numbers no doubt swollen by special trains daily from Shanghai.

Later on, when we were at Kunming, and just before leaving for Cangshan and Lijiang, Professor Feng treated us to a slide show which included many of the newer rhododendron discoveries which he has made. They may have botanical affiliations to well-known species, but to my eye they looked very different, and most exciting.

The Cornwall Garden Society's 75th County Spring Flower Show

BARRY STARLING

After a winter which left its mark to a greater or lesser degree on all Cornish gardens, the Cornwall Garden Society set out in indomitable mood to stage its 75th County Spring Flower Show on 25 and 26 April, this year. Though the compass of the show was wide-ranging, inevitably it was camellias and rhododendrons which shared prima donna roles. Apart from the competitive exhibits, the legendary gardens of Burncoose, Lamellen, Penjerrick, Tregrehan, Tremeer, Tremough, Trengwainton, Trewidden and Trewithen staged large group exhibits, with Caerhays pre-eminent among them. The theme of these exhibits was the contribution made by Cornishmen, whether as collectors, breeders or introducers of plants, to British gardens. The Show itself took place in a huge marquee adjacent to the famous Treliwick Gardens, affording visitors the opportunity to combine in one day, two outstanding spectacles.

Of the trio of genera covered in the *Year Book*, magnolias appeared first in the show schedule with Class 15 asking for three different species, hybrids or cultivars. First prize here went to Mrs Galsworthy showing *M. denudata*, *M. × soulangiana* and an excellent *M. sprengeri*. Class 16 saw a first awarded to Mrs Galsworthy's hybrid between *M. campbellii* and *M. soulangiana*, while Class 17 gave the same exhibitor a 'hat trick' with a magnificent single bloom of *M. sprengeri* — an immaculate bowl of broad, curvaceous petals, pink-backed and porcelain-textured, with a suffusion of pink showing through to the upper surface. Mrs Galsworthy justly deserved the George Johnstone Memorial Trophy for the most points in the Magnolia Section.

Also of note in this section were Mr N. T. Holman's single bloom of *M. dawsoniana* from Chyverton and the infrequently seen *M. salicifolia* shown by Mr P. Bickford-Smith. In Class 18, Mr Holman scored a first with a collection of four different magnolias which included a handsome, pink *M. robusta* in which the base of each petal was stained a deeper lilac-pink.

Like the dog rose, single, unsophisticated blooms of camellias sporting a fuzz of yellow stamens at their centres are special favourites of mine. Classes 19 and 20 for three single cultivars and one single cultivar of *C. japonica* were both won by Lt-Col. W. G. Petherick with a trio

comprised of 'Jupiter', the low spreading 'Shino-Akebono' and the large pink 'Hatsu-Zakura' and then 'Shino-Akebono' again as the single specimen. Not content with excelling in the magnolia classes, Mrs Galsworthy won the next two Classes, 21 and 22, with old favourites, 'Drama Girl', 'Grand Prix' and 'R. L. Wheeler', the latter appeared in both Classes. In Classes 23 and 24, Mr J. W. M. Graham triumphed with exhibits featuring the delicately formed, powder-pink 'Tiffany', but Class 25 for rose-formed or formal doubles failed to attract any entries.

Back came Lt-Col. Petherick to take the honours in the next two classes with the formal double, mid-pink, red-veined 'Hana-Tachi Bawa' and a six-vase group of *japonicas* which included 'Mars'; 'Augusto L. Gouveia Pinto' — rose-pink suffused mauve and of water-lily form; 'Dear Jenny'; a vibrant 'Drama Girl'; the dusky-red 'Grand Sultan', with tapered petals, and 'Carter's Sunburst'. As no single or semi-double cultivars of *C. reticulata* were in evidence we skip those classes to move on to Class 30 for one bloom of a peony-, or anemone-formed, or double *C. reticulata*. Here the top award was to 'William Hertrich' shown by Mr Graham. The frilled pink, *reticulata* hybrid 'Leonard Messel' was first in Class 31, while second prize went to a flamboyant candy-rock-pink, unnamed *reticulata* × 'Inspiration' hybrid from Tremeer.

The next eight classes were for *C. × williamsii* hybrids. Mr Hawkridge won the single-flowered class with 'Rose Court' which also figured in his winning three, together with 'Ella May' and the broad-petaled 'Charles Michael', white with a pink blush. The three semi-double blooms which won Class 34 were 'Elegant Beauty', 'Brigadoon' and 'Bowen Bryant', all in shades of pink. 'Brigadoon' also won the next class. In Class 36, 'Bowen Bryant' and 'Elegant Beauty' again featured, this time with 'Joan Trehane' making up the winning entry. Misfortune struck Mrs W. D. Martin's 'Waterlily' when, after impressing the judges to win its class, the bloom shattered within an hour of the show opening.

For one bloom of any enemone- or peony-flowered cultivar, Lt-Col. Petherick chose correctly in exhibiting the crimson 'Anticipation' which was also included in Mrs Martin's winning six (Class 39) together with 'Water Lily', 'Brigadoon', 'Joan Trehane', 'Elsie Jury' and 'Debbie'. In Class 40, Lt-Col. Petherick staged twelve fine blooms of which the glowing red, 6-inch diameter 'Royalty' must have weighted the judges' decision in favour of a first.

The remaining classes were for sprays of bloom, the first of these featuring an impressive winning six which secured the Lady Boyd Cup for Lt-Col. Petherick. They were the white, semi-double 'Haku-Rakuten', darkest red 'Nigra', 'Flame', 'Primavera', 'Donation' and 'Mars'. In Class 44, 'Jupiter' won the day with sparkling yellow stamens exploding forth against a clear, coral-red background of large, rounded petals. 'Flame' was the winning entry in Class 45 with 'Rubescens Major'

taking Class 46. Classes 47 and 48 were not supported. The refreshing simplicity of 'Mary Christian' brought a first for Mrs G. B. Browne in Class 49 and Mr Graham's glowing 'Anticipation' took Class 50.

In the classes for species other than *japonica* or *reticulata*, the dainty sprays of the small-flowered, white *C. cuspidata* gained a prize for Lamellen with Mrs Galsworthy's *C. saluenensis* taking second place. Class 52 for hybrids other than *C. × williamsii* gave Lt-Col. Petherick yet another first in the form of 'Leonard Messel', with Lamellen's large-petaled, single pink 'Barbara Hillier' in second place.

A spell of fine weather for two weeks before the show had coaxed an abundance of rhododendrons into flower so that classes for that genus were well-supported with quality blooms. As several of the competitors had also staged large display exhibits, the effort that went into their entries was deserving of a good deal of praise. Sadly space does not allow a description of all the entries.

Class 54 called for six species, one truss of each. Mr Gilbert responded with *arboreum* var. *roseum*; *crinitigerum*, with blood-red throat and rose backing to the corolla lobes; a dusky-red *thomsonii*; *johnstoneanum*; *irroratum* 'Polka Dot', typically blush with red dots and flares, and tears at the base of the corolla — possibly for the neighbouring *macabeanum*, which was not one of the best representatives of its species.

'Three species' were represented by Mr Holman with a very good *falconeri*, lavender *wallichii* and fiery *neriiflorum*. These gained a first but it is worth mentioning Tremeer's smokey *R. niveum* in this class. Nobody had a truss of sub-section Fortunea to enter but Nigel Holman again triumphed in the Falconeri or Grande class with *R. falconeri*, beating Lamellen's *R. rex* into second place; Tremeer taking third with the seldom seen *R. semnoides*, white, suffused rose-pink, with crimson blotch.

In Class 58, Arborea or Argyrophylla, the prize went to Mrs Galsworthy's *R. niveum*, though Tremeer's specimen of this rhododendron, which was not so tightly pudding-shaped a truss and of softer, misty colouring, was my personal favourite. Mrs N. Colville won Class 59 with an opulent *R. thomsonii*, but in Class 60, Edgeworthia or Maddenia, the effects of the previous winter were apparent and no prize was awarded. The next class included good trusses of *R. neriiflorum* and *R. glischroides* but it was the loose truss of seven 3-inch-wide corollas of *R. wallichii*, white overlaid lavender and frilled at the edge, that took the honours.

Then followed the spray classes, the first class (Class 62) being for three vases of different species. In this Nigel Holman's cream *R. falconeri*; black-teared, blood-red *thomsonii* and scarlet *neriiflorum* took first place. Class 63 was won by Lady Falmouth with a bough of seven luxurious trusses of *R. arizelum*, blush-pink, red-throated at the base.

Flowers were framed by handsome leaves displaying their tawny indumentum as one looked up to the arching branch.

Class 64 for the Heliolepidia or Triflora subsections was won by Mrs Galsworthy's bright pink *R. davidsonianum*, each flower enhanced by long, sweeping eyelash stamens and light red dashes on the upper lobes. Second was *R. augustinii*, a species which has flowered abundantly this year from buds unaffected by the extreme winter cold.

Next came the dwarfs of subsection Lapponica with Mrs Colville's *R. flavidum* var. *album* placed first, followed by the rarely seen, rich violet *R. compactum* from Lamellen, with *R. stictophyllum* taking third place. Glorious *R. schlippenbachii*, a deeper pink than usual, took the Azalea class, a *R. albrechtii* of vibrant colour taking second place. Winner in Class 68 was Lamellen's *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* 'Daffodilly', a concoction of lime-green buds opening pale cream and maturing to the rich colour of Cornish cream. *Rhododendron tsariense* and *R. fulvum* scored in Class 69.

The six hybrids shown by Lamellen in Class 70 represented the sole entry in this class. Their presence on the bench aroused new interest from flagging spirits in a hot marquee. Here were hybrids rarely seen such as 'Thomdeton', a rich rose, which accompanied pillar-box red 'Zyxya' together with the large-leaved, cream 'Merope'; 'Lacs', white with purple-red inside; 'Clio', a 3-inch diameter glowing crimson corolla and, appropriately, 'Lamellen', white with just a hint of pink. In Class 71 Tremeer's winning three featured two *R. lacteum* hybrids, one, a clean, yellow truss of 'Beatrice Keir' (*Damaris* × *lacteum*); 'Lionel's Triumph' (*lacteum* × 'Naomi'), an 8-inch by 8-inch glorious confection of cream blushed apricot with cherry-red flare; and the third, 'Fulbrook', a Grande hybrid which is pink heavily spotted on the lower throat with black-red. Tremeer also scooped the single truss of any hybrid class with 'Robert Keir' though Penheale's *R. macabeanum* × *arizelum* must have run it a close second. In the class for three hybrids of the exhibitor's own raising Major Magor showed 'Clio', 'Damaris' and 'Lacs' to win, while the best single hybrid raised by the exhibitor was Major Bolitho's bright red 'Morvah' — obviously a military coup in the field of rhododendron breeding!

No award was made in Class 75, but Tremeer took the prize in 76 for the *arboreum* hybrid, 'Werei', while perhaps the best known small red hybrid, 'Elizabeth', gained a prize for Mr Raybould in Class 79.

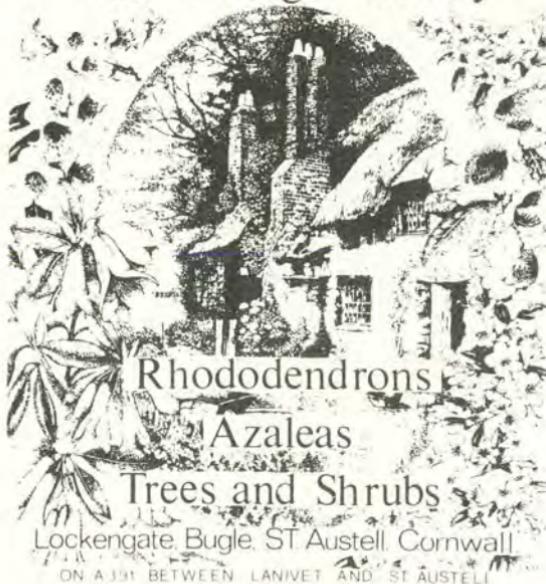
Class 81 heralded the first of the spray classes with three vases from Nigel Holman gaining victory over Lamellen and Tremeer. Notable in the prize winning exhibits were a pink-frilled *houlstonii* × *fortunei*; a neat white *morii* × *aberconwayii*; 'Penjerrick', which seldom fails to please; purest white 'Caroline de Zöete' and a very good yellow 'Beatrice Keir'. A single vase of 'Jack Skelton' shown by Mrs Galsworthy, took the next

class. This hybrid has full, cream trusses with slight red spotting which disappears as the corollas age. Second was Mrs Colville's speciality of the house, 'Penheale Blue', one of the most richly coloured of this hue. By contrast, Class 83 was won by Lamellen's thunder-cloud-blue 'Saint Beward'.

The evergreen azalea classes were won by Major Bolitho and Mr P. Bickford-Smith but, sadly, no award was given in Class 84 to the ubiquitous *cinnabarinum* hybrid 'Alison Johnstone', which seemed difficult to fault. In the final five miscellaneous classes only Class 85, for novice exhibitors, attracted enough entries to judge. Sir Arscott Molesworth-St Aubyn took first and third prizes with the prestigious 'General Eric Harrison' and 'Nobleanum' respectively, with Nicola Pearce securing second prize with an unusually fine 'Yellow Hammer'.

The show was honoured by the presence of Mr Robin Herbert, President of The Royal Horticultural Society, who also judged the trees, shrubs and magnolias with Mr J. D. Bond, Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park. Camellias were judged by Sir Giles Loder and Dr J. A. Smart, while Mr C. D. Brickell, Director General of the RHS and Mr Edmund de Rothschild judged the rhododendrons.

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The RHS Main Rhododendron Competition, 28 and 29 April, 1987

SECTION 1 SPECIES by MAJOR E. W. M. MAGOR

The first Rhododendron Show in The Royal Horticultural Society's Halls was held on the last Tuesday in April, 1926, under the management of The Rhododendron Society with a committee consisting of the Hon. H. D. McLaren (later 2nd Lord Aberconway and President of the RHS), Lionel de Rothschild, J. B. Stevenson (Tower Court), E. H. Wilding (Wexham Place) and P. D. Williams (Lanarth). There were 48 classes, including classes for 12 trusses each of species and of hybrids.

This year the Rhododendron Show, normally held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday in May, or the last Tuesday and Wednesday in April, was re-named 'The Main Rhododendron Competition'. As has been customary for a number of years, the classes were numbered up to 105. Classes 1 to 49 were for species (two more than in 1986), and classes 61 to 97 were for hybrids (one more than in 1986), and there were two classes for novices and six miscellaneous, a total of 83.

Because a Special Meeting was being held in the Old Hall on the Tuesday afternoon (to consider a new set of Bye-laws for the Society), the Daffodil Show was also held in the New Hall, which meant the rhododendron classes were rather squeezed up into one corner of the hall, and exhibitors were warned that late entries would not be accepted, and that the space for individual classes might be rather restricted.

In the event, after a late spring, the warm spell over Easter had brought things on all at once, so the show was a bit late for daffodils, and some of their classes looked rather thin, while the rhododendron classes for the most part were well-filled, and in a number of classes there were actually more exhibits than had originally been entered. It was the other way with the judges, daffodil judges and stewards almost out-numbered the exhibits, while there was a shortage of rhododendron judges and stewards.

Stewards have an important role before the judging in advising exhibitors on the appropriate class for any exhibit. Mr Davidian, when he used to come down from Edinburgh to steward the species classes, would stay in the hall until after 9 p.m. on the Monday, making sure that exhibits were in the right classes. On the Tuesday morning, he would be there again early and continue until judging started at 10.15 a.m.

The stewards' task is more difficult in the morning, for not only do some of the best exhibits travel down by 'The Night Scot' and do not reach the hall much before 10 o'clock, but several gardens in the 'stockbroker belt' do not pick until the Tuesday morning, which ensures the freshness of their exhibits. The result is that all too often exhibits appear in a class a few minutes before judging begins, and after the steward thinks that he has done his last check.

Some judges assume that all the exhibits in any class that they may be judging have been passed for eligibility by the stewards, and that their task is just to select the best exhibit, irrespective of whether it is eligible for the class. The result, all too often, is that the public or other exhibitors complain that the judges have given prizes to exhibits which should have been marked 'Not According to Schedule', such as hybrids in species classes; the *Thomsonia* class being a particular source of complaint.

The *RHS Horticultural Show Handbook* lays down that the judges are responsible for the rejection from consideration of any exhibit which does not conform to the requirements of the schedule, and it is a safeguard therefore if an experienced steward is on hand who can be called in for consultation if they are doubtful of the eligibility of an exhibit. There is nothing in the *Handbook* to say that the judges may not consult a steward, and this is quite usual practice. In less frequent cases, one of the judges from another class may be asked for an opinion on the eligibility of an entry.

The show was well-attended, and some distinguished gardeners were present, notably the President Emeritus Lord Aberconway, Dr Homer Salley, the author of *Rhododendron Hybrids*, with Mrs Salley, Mr Ralph Sangster from Melbourne, the apostle of the International Rhododendron Union; The Lady Anne Palmer, VMH, Chairman of the International Dendrology Society, whose generous gift to the RHS of Rosemoor, her fine garden in North Devon, had just been announced. Also, keeping a low profile, a distinguished dendrologist from Belgium whose husband is a Vice President of the RHS, Madame de Belder, the spectacular success of the sale of whose library of antique botanical books at Sotheby's that evening, one read about in the newspaper the next morning.

The major rhododendron gardens in south and south-east England as usual were mostly well-represented. After the Cornwall Spring Flower Show and Gardens Festival only a few days before, Cornish gardens could hardly be expected to compete, though Richard Gilbert brought up some nice exhibits from Lancarffe near Bodmin.

From Wales, a number of nice exhibits from the fine garden at Clyne Castle made by Admiral Walker-Heneage-Vivian, sent up by the Swansea Corporation, made up for the disappointment of not seeing the

'hot reds', Cornish hybrids, and other treasures from Bodnant, including the one and only FCC form of 'Elizabeth', and the true *williamsianum*, AM form.

From Scotland, Mr Basford had brought down some nice exhibits from Brodick, including their good *R. delavayi* and Michael Ingall had some nice things from Corsock, including their fine *lacteum*. Outstanding however were the Blackhills exhibits which John Christie had brought from Morayshire. It would have been nice to have seen Crarae and Glenarn exhibiting again and we missed Glendoick, but hope that Peter Cox will bring back some more good stuff from China.

With all these fine exhibits from afar, there were some notable exhibitors from much nearer London, notably Lady Adam Gordon from Hethersett, John Fox from Crowborough, Mrs Potter from Wentworth assisted by Mr Winter, as well as Mrs Eunson from Chorleywood in Hertfordshire.

Winning Flowers

Class 1: The Lionel de Rothschild Challenge Cup: eight species, one truss of each. This class attracted only four entries this year, and was won by John Christie of Blackhills in Morayshire, showing their famous unblotched *lacteum*, *basilicum*, *rex* subsp. *fictolacteum*, a beautiful pink *hodgsonii*, their good *sphaeroblastum*, a beautiful truss of *roxieanum*, a nice yellow *wasonii*, and a rather long-leaved *thomsonii*; an exhibit of which his father could have been proud. Second prize went to Robert Stephenson Clarke of Borde Hill, who showed *rex* subsp. *rex*, *arboreum* subsp. *cinnamomeum* var. *roseum*, *mori*, a typically one-sided truss of *wightii*, *niveum*, *crinigerum* var. *euadenum*, *coriaceum* and *japonicum* var. *japonicum* (*metternichii*). Third was Edmund de Rothschild with an exhibit from Exbury consisting of *macabeanum*, *semnoides*, *rex*, *arboreum* 'Rubaiyat', *irroratum* 'Polka Dot', *glischrum*, *niveum* and an unlabelled *thomsonii*. A welcome new entry was an exhibit from the garden made by Admiral Walker-Heneage-Vivian at Clyne Castle staged by I. T. Stokes on behalf of the Swansea Corporation. This included *coryanum*, *venator*, and a nice *vernicosum* with its typically red-glanded styles.

Class 2: three species, one truss of each had nine entries, first prize went to Mrs Potter from Wentworth with the not commonly seen *adenogynum*, *campanulatum* and *rex* subsp. *rex*. Second was J. A. Fox from Crowborough with *japonicum* var. *pentamerum* (*degronianum*), *galactinum* and *wightii*. Third was Alan Hardy from Sandling Park with *galactinum*, *rex* aff. and *rufum*. Mr Michael Ingall from Corsock was fourth with the blotched *lacteum*, *niveum* and a very good *sutchuenense* with a big blotch, which some would now call var. *geraldii*; this had been his father's first ever exhibit at a Scottish Rhododendron Show in Glasgow years ago. Other entries included

crinigerum and *irroratum* 'Polka Dot' from Richard Gilbert of Lancarffe, a *dasycladum* from Nymans, a *wightii* and a *hyperythrum*.

Class 3: The McLaren Challenge Cup: any species, one truss. This class attracted 22 entries, which occupied a long bench. The judges had apparently moved the exhibits they preferred up to one end of it to compare, omitting to put them back after making their selections. This caused at least one distinguished visitor to wonder whether the judges had even seen half the exhibits. First prize went to a very nice clean truss of *campanulatum*, exhibited by Alan Hardy from Sandling Park. Second and third were *rex* subsp. *rex* shown respectively by the National Trust for Scotland from Brodick Castle, and by Mrs Potter. Fourth was *adenogynum* from Corsock and the Blackhills *lacteum* was Highly Commended. Among others unplaced towards the other end of the bench, were a beautiful truss of the Corsock *lacteum* (thought by some to be the best truss in the class), a beautiful *prattii* from Sandling Park, good trusses of *crinigerum* from Exbury and Lancarffe, *niveum* from Clyne Castle, *semnoides* from Blackhills, and *campanulatum* from Mrs Potter.

Class 4: The Roza Stevenson Challenge Cup for the best exhibit of a spray of any species of Rhododendron had nine entries, three of them were from Borde Hill. The winner was a fine pink spray of *davidsonianum* from Borde Hill, an American clone raised by Barto, called 'Ruth Lyons', not the same clone W4239 which had won this class for Borde Hill in 1984. Spectacular as it was, this exhibit was not perhaps quite as good as the *davidsonianum* spray which won the E. J. P. Magor Memorial Cup for Trewithen at the Cornwall Spring Flower Show four days earlier, for the best exhibit in the rhododendron classes there. Second in Class 4 was 'Ho Emma' FCC, the *japonicum* var. *japonicum* (*metternichii*) clone, also from Borde Hill, which won this class in 1982, and had never before been beaten. Only cut at 6 am that morning, this too was a superb spray, if not perhaps quite such an eye-catcher as 'Ruth Lyons'. Third was a green-eyed *augustinii* shown by Anne, Countess of Rosse and the National Trust from Nymans. Other attractive exhibits included *johnstoneanum* KW 7732 from Clyne Castle, *arizelum* from Exbury and a beautiful yellow *mekongense* var. *mekongense* 'Yellow Fellow', Borde Hill's third entry.

The following classes were for single trusses, unless otherwise stated.

Class 5: *arboreum*, or its variants. There were eight entries. This was won by the very good subsp. *delavayi* from Brodick. Second and third went to different forms of *roseum*, respectively from Clyne Castle and Lancarffe. Also in this class was a nice deep red truss from Blackhills, showing signs of hybridity.

Class 6: any species of subsection *Arborea* or subsection *Argyrophylla* other than *arboreum* or its variants had five entries, and was won by a nice

niveum from Exbury. Second was *coryanum* from Clyne Castle. There was also a truss of *argyrophyllum* var. *cupulare* from Borde Hill.

Class 7: any species of subsections Barbata, Glischra or Maculifera had eight entries, and was won by *crinigerum* var. *crinigerum*, with a Rock number and very good foliage, from Nymans. Second was *morii* from Borde Hill, and third another *crinigerum* from Lancarffe. Other exhibits in this class included *smithii* and *monosematum* from Blackhills, *glischrum* from Exbury, and *pseudochrysanthum* from Borde Hill.

Class 8: any species of subsections Campanulata, Fulgensia, or Lanata had six entries, and was won by a very good *campanulatum* belonging to Mrs Potter. Exbury were second. Third prize went to the very blue clone from Sandling Park which had won the McLaren Cup, and Blackhills showed a beautiful white clone. Subsection Fulgensia and Lanata were not represented.

Class 9: any species of subsection Grandia had only three entries. It was won by a very good *sinogrande* from Brodick. Second and third prizes went to *macabeanum*, respectively from Exbury and Blackhills.

Class 10: for falconeri or its variants. This class also had only three entries, but only two prizes were awarded, first to Exbury and second Blackhills. The third entry, a nice yellow form from Hethersett, was only just starting to open, and the judges did not even Highly Commend it, as they had done two years ago. This show is usually too early for *falconeri*; for another year, Lady Adam Gordon should try opening it under glass.

Class 11: for rex and its variants had 11 entries. The winner was subsp. *rex* from Mrs Potter. Second was subsp. *arizelum* Blackhills; third and fourth, subsp. *rex*, respectively from Exbury and Hethersett.

Class 12: for any species of subsection Falconera, other than falconeri or rex had 10 entries, and was won by the very pink *hodgsonii* which Blackhills had included in their winning entry in Class 1. Second and third were *basilicum* from Exbury and Blackhills respectively. There was also a very good *coriaceum* from Blackhills in this class.

Class 13: for any species of subsection Fortunea had seven entries, and was won by a very white *praevernatum* from Corsock. Second and third were *vernicosum*, respectively from Blackhills and Borde Hill. Also in this class was a very large-flowered *oreodoxa* var. *fargesii* from Borde Hill and an *orbiculare* in bud from Exbury.

Class 14: for any species of subsection Fulva had only one entry, *uvatiifolium*, which won first prize for Exbury.

Class 15: for any species of subsections Irrorata, Parishia or Venatoria had three entries. A good *anthosphaerum* from Blackhills was given first prize; *irroratum* 'Polka Dot' from Exbury was second, and a good *venator* from Borde Hill third.

Class 16: for any species of subsection Taliensis attracted 15 entries.

Blackhills were first and second respectively with *sphaeroblastum* and *roxieanum*. Corsock was third and fourth with *adenogynum* and *lacteum*. Other exhibits in this class included the Blackhills *lacteum*, the very good *wightii* from Hethersett (probably an original Mangles plant from Hooker seed), and *microgynum* from Sandling Park (possibly *Gymnocarpum* Group, as the type is listed as 'Q'); this must have been a late arrival and eluded the stewards, as it should have been in the next class if the exhibitor accepts the Edinburgh revision.

Class 17: for any species of subsection Neriiflora, a 12-inch spray, had 11 entries and was won by Mrs Potter's *haematodes*. Second was *sperabile* var. *weihsense* from Nymans, and third subsp. *neriiflorum* Euchaetes Group from Exbury. Also in this class were sprays of *beanianum*, *piercei* and *sanguineum* subsp. *haemaleum*, all three from Nymans, which it was interesting to compare.

Class 18: for any species of subsection Pontica had seven entries, not all of them variants of *R. japonicum* (no longer an azalea). First was *japonicum* var. *japonicum* (*metternichii*) from Blackhills; second a beautiful white *hyperythrum* from Mrs Eunson of Chorleywood; third 'Ho Emma' FCC from Borde Hill and fourth J. A. Fox's *japonicum* var. *pentamerum* (*degronianum*) from Crowborough. Too early for *yakushimanum* and its kith.

Class 19: for a spray of campylocarpum not exceeding 24 inches had only three entries. Mrs Potter's exhibit was placed first, Exbury's second, and Borde Hill's third.

Class 20: for an 18-inch spray of any species of subsection Campylocarpa other than campylocarpum. This also had three entries. Borde Hill were first with *caloxanthum*; Nymans were second with *telopeum* and also showed *caloxanthum*. On a strict interpretation of the schedule, these three entries should all have been in the previous class, but the steward (who had himself carried out the Edinburgh revision of *Hymenanthes*) was evidently in a charitable mood. Possibles for this class are *callimorphum*, *wardii* and *souliei*.

Class 21: for an 18-inch spray of any species of subsection Selensis had two entries, both from Nymans; *selense* var. *dasycladum* was given first prize, and *hirtipes* KW 6223 third.

Class 22: for an 18-inch spray of williamsianum had two entries. The Borde Hill exhibit was placed first, and Exbury's second.

Class 23: for a truss of any species of subsection Edgeworthia had only one entry, *edgeworthii*, from Sandling Park, and this was given first prize.

Class 24: for a 12-inch spray of any species of subsection Edgeworthia: this was a new class, but there were no entries.

Class 25: for a truss of a species of one of the old Megacalyx subseries attracted three entries, all grown under glass, of *lindleyi*. Borde Hill

was first; Richard Gilbert of Lancarffe second, and Lady Adam Gordon of Hethersett third.

Class 26: for a truss of any other species of subsection Maddenia than those covered by Class 25 had five entries. First prize went to Borde Hill for *johnstoneanum* Parryae Group; second was Sandling Park with *pachypodium* and third Borde Hill with *horlickianum* KW 9403. There was also a nice spray of *johnstoneanum* from Nymans which should have been in the next class.

Class 27: for a 12-inch spray of any species of subsection Maddenia other than those covered by Class 25. This also was a new class, and it had four entries. It was won by a nice spray of *johnstoneanum* KW 7732 from Clyne Castle; *horlickianum* KW 9403 from Borde Hill was second, and a *johnstoneanum* from Exbury third. These species are not dwarfs, and somewhat larger sprays could well have been asked for.

Class 28: for a truss of any species of subsection Thomsonia produced seven trusses of *thomsonii*, with varying sizes and shapes of leaf, and one other species. Mrs Potter's *thomsonii* was first, and a nice *hookeri* from Blackhills second (hooks and all). Exbury's *thomsonii* was third.

Class 29: for a 24-inch spray of schlippenbachii produced only two entries; the Exbury exhibit was given first prize, and that from Borde Hill second.

Class 30: for a 24-inch spray of any other deciduous species of Azalea had four entries: *R. reticulatum* received first and second prizes, respectively for Mrs Potter and for Exbury. There was also a spray of *albrechtii* from Borde Hill.

Class 31: for 24-inch sprays of three deciduous species of Azalea yielded only one entry, Exbury being awarded first prize for an exhibit consisting of *albrechtii*, *reticulatum* and *schlippenbachii*.

Class 32: for a 12-inch spray of any species of section Pogonanthum had two entries. First prize went to Borde Hill for *primuliflorum* Hu 15629; Nymans were second with *anthopogon* subsp. *hypenanthum*.

Class 33: for a 12-inch spray of subsection Boothia or subsection Tephropepla had two entries: *tephropeplum* from Clyne Castle came first and *sulfureum* from Borde Hill second.

Class 34: for a 12-inch spray of campylocarpum had three entries, Exbury coming first, Nymans second, and The High Beeches third.

Class 35: for a 24-inch spray of any species of subsection Cinnabarinia had three entries: subsp. *xanthocodon* Concatenans Group from Nymans was first, Exbury was second and Borde Hill third.

Class 36: for an 18-inch spray of any species of subsections Genestierana or Glauca had five entries: *luteiflorum* received first and second prizes, respectively for Exbury and The High Beeches; *pruniflorum* (formerly *tsangpoense* var. *pruniflorum*), from Nymans was third. Also in this class were sprays of *charitopes* from Borde Hill and Lancarffe.

Class 37: for a 24-inch spray of any species of subsection Heliolepidia had three entries. Borde Hill were first with *rubiginosum* Desquamatum Group, F24535. Exbury were second and Clyne Castle third.

Class 38: for a 12-inch spray of any species of subsection Lapponica had seven entries. First prize went to *hippophaeoides* shown by J. A. Fox from Crowborough; second and third to Borde Hill respectively for *cuneatum* R11392 and *polycladum* Scintillans Group; fourth to *russatum* from The High Beeches.

Class 39: for a 12-inch spray of any species of subsections Baileya, Lepidota or Uniflora had only one entry, *baileyi* shown by Richard Gilbert from Lancarffe, although it only received second prize. The judges did not perhaps realize what a difficult plant this is to grow.

Class 40: for a 12-inch spray of any species of subsection Saluenensis had two entries and was won by *calostrotum* subsp. *riparioides* from Borde Hill. Subspecies *calostrotum* from Nymans was second.

Class 41: for an 18-inch spray of racemosum had four entries. Mr Fox's exhibit received first prize, Exbury second and Borde Hill third.

Class 42: for an 18-inch spray of any other species of subsection Scabrifolia had three entries. The Exbury *spinuliferum* with somewhat weathered foliage but unblemished flowers, presumably opened under glass, was first. *Rhododendron hemitrichotum* from Clyne Castle was second, and a rather weathered *hemitrichotum* from Borde Hill received fourth prize.

Class 43: for an 18-inch spray of any species of subsection Trichoclada had only one entry, the beautiful deciduous yellow *mekongense* var. *mekongense* 'Yellow Fellow' AM, which also ran in Class 4, was given first prize for Borde Hill.

Class 44: for a 30-inch spray of R. augustinii had five entries, and was won by a very blue form from Hethersett; Mrs Potter's exhibit was second and Clyne Castle's third.

Class 45: for a 30-inch spray of any species of subsection Triflora other than the Yunnanense aggregate had only two entries. *Rhododendron lutescens* from Exbury was given second prize, and a spray of *triflorum* was dead, possibly no water in the vase. A nice spray of *R. ambiguum* from Hethersett had somehow got into Class 46 among the Yunnanense aggregate, and would probably have won this class if the stewards had removed it to the class where it should have been.

Class 46: for a 30-inch spray of any species of Yunnanense aggregate of subsection Triflora. There were three entries in this class. Mrs Eunson won with a nice spray of the Caerhays form of *davidsonianum*; Exbury were second, and Borde Hill third.

There were no entries in Class 47, one truss of a species of subsection Vireya, or for Class 48, a species grown under glass other than section Vireya or subsection Edgeworthia and Maddenia (Ovatum or Stamineum series, perhaps).

Class 49: for a truss or spray of any species not included in any subgenus, section or subsection mentioned in the previous classes attracted one entry, a nice spray of *paradoxum*, which won first prize for Richard Gilbert of Lancarffe. Originally treated as a species of subsection *Taliensia*, but ruled out from Class 16 by the entry in the RHS *Alphabetical Checklist of Rhododendron Species 1981* as a hybrid of *R. wiltonii*, it was included in Class 49 by virtue of being a species described in *The Rhododendron Handbook 1980, Rhododendron Species in Cultivation*, and the stewards and judges allowed (or did not notice) this. This is only the second time that there has been an entry in this relatively new class for unplaced and excluded species; in 1985 Peter Cox showed and won with *spilotum* (I must see whether *R. magorianum* can be resurrected).

SECTION 2 HYBRIDS by K. & S. M. BLUNDELL

A very good show of hybrids although the overall effect was marred by pushing the classes together and by a late spring which suddenly turned into a hot spell. However this did result in the inclusion of some plants normally found in the Early Competition. It was nice to see the return of some familiar names after several lean years and evergreen azaleas once more in the hall.

Winning Flowers

Class 61: eight hybrids, one truss of each. 1. Mrs Kleinwort, Heaselands, Sussex — Avalanche, Adelaide, Yvonne, Queen of Hearts, White Glory, Queen Wilhelmina, Lionel's Triumph, Matador; 2. Mrs Hooton, Loxwood, Sussex — *fictolacteum* × *campanulatum*, Boddeartianum, Penjerrick, Rothenburg, Matador, Carita Inchmery, Queen of Hearts, Lionel's Triumph; 3. J. Fox, Crowborough, Sussex — Avalanche, Gaul, Logan Damaris, Lionel's Triumph, Rothenburg, Babylon, Calfort, Tregedna. It was nice to see four very good entries after several bad years and especially the Lionel's Triumph from John Fox.

Class 62: three hybrids, one truss of each. 1. Mrs P. Eunson, Chorley Wood, Herts. - Caroline de Zöete, Roza Stevenson, Red Glow; 2. G. A. Hardy, Sandling Park, Kent — Matador, Lionel's Triumph, Queen of Hearts; 3. Mrs Kleinwort — Unknown Warrior, Carita, Laura Aberconway. Good sets in all four entries, particularly Lionel's Triumph.

Class 63: three hybrids, one spray of each. 1. E. de Rothschild — Grafton, Blue Diamond, Nerihaem (three very good sprays); 2. R. N. Stephenson Clarke, Borde Hill, Sussex — Sussex Bonfire, Luscombei, Yukondus (the last a very unusual peach-pink colour); 3. Mrs A.

Dayton, West Humble, Surrey – Dauricum, Moonshine Supreme, unknown.

Class 64: The Loder Challenge Cup: any hybrid, one truss. 1. Mrs P. Eunson – Roza Stevenson; 2. Sheffield Park Gardens, Uckfield, Sussex – Lionel's Triumph; 3. Mrs A. H. Potter, Wentworth, Surrey – Chinese Falcon. A pleasing entry of 25 trusses, all well shown, with the first and second being very close and a nice Costa del Sol from G. A. Hardy unplaced.

Class 65: any hybrid, one spray. 1. R. N. Stephenson Clarke – Logan Damaris; 2. E. de Rothschild – Matador; 3. Mrs Dayton – Electra. A close competition for first and second place.

Class 66: The Crosfield Challenge Cup: six hybrids raised by or in the garden of the exhibitor, one truss of each. 1. E. de Rothschild – Fortune, Kiev, Quaker Girl, Mariloo, Naomi, Queen of Hearts; 2. City of Swansea – niveum × grande, niveum × hodgsonii (three forms), niveum × eximum.

Class 67: three hybrids raised by or in the garden of the exhibitor, one spray of each. 1. E. de Rothschild – Eleanore, Ayesha, Victoria de Rothschild. Three good sprays well shown.

Class 68: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsections Arborea or Argyrophylla, one truss. 1. Mrs A. Hooton – Boddeartianum; 2. E. de Rothschild – Colonel Rogers; 3. Sheffield Park Gardens – Boddeartianum.

Class 70: any hybrid of which one parent is griffithianum and the other any species except fortunei or campylocarpum, one truss. A class dominated by Cornish Cross which were all well shown with a worthy first for Mrs Potter; 2. Mrs Kleinwort; 3. R. N. Stephenson Clarke.

Class 71: any hybrid of which one parent is griffithianum and the other a hybrid, one truss. 1. Mrs Kleinwort – Yvonne; 2. E. de Rothschild – Cupid.

Class 72: any hybrid of which one parent is williamsianum, one spray. 1. Mrs Potter – Hummingbird; 2. E. de Rothschild – Moonstone (a good spray which was not quite open); 3. Hon. H. E. Boscawen, High Beeches, Sussex – Hummingbird.

Class 73: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsection Fortunea not provided for in Classes 70 and 71, one truss. 1. Mrs Kleinwort – Avalanche; 2. J. Fox – Calfort; 3. E. de Rothschild – Naomi Stella Maris. A very good entry with little to choose between first and second.

Class 74: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsection Campylocarpa, one truss. 1. Mrs Eunson – Penjerrick; 2. G. A. Hardy – Hawk; 3. Mrs Hooton – Penjerrick. The warm weather seemed to suit the yellows and all were well shown.

Class 75: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsection Neriiflora, one truss. 1. E. de Rothschild – Aries; 2. R. N. Stephenson Clarke – Sussex Bonfire.

Class 76: any hybrid of which one parent is thomsonii, one truss. 1. G. A. Hardy – Luscombei; 2. R. J. Gilbert, Lancarffe, Cornwall – Aurora; 3. Mrs Kleinwort – Adelaide.

Class 77: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsection Thomsonia other than thomsonii, one truss. 1. Mrs Hooton – Queen of Hearts; 2. E. de Rothschild – Carita Inchmery; 3. Mrs Kleinwort – Queen of Hearts.

Class 78: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsections Grandia or Falconera, one truss. 1. E. de Rothschild – Fortune; 2. Mrs Potter – Chinese Falcon; 3. Lady Adam Gordon, Hethersett, Seale, Surrey – Fulbrook. It was nice to see a good display of top quality entries after such a hard winter.

Class 79: any hybrid, other than Elizabeth, of which one parent is griersonianum and the other a species, one truss. A class dominated by Matador: 1. E. de Rothschild; 2. Mrs Hooton (a good truss); 3. Mrs Kleinwort.

Class 80: any hybrid of which one parent is griersonianum and the other a hybrid, one truss. 1. Mrs Kleinwort – Laura Aberconway; 2. E. de Rothschild – Karkov. Two very good entries, both worthy of first prize.

Class 81: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsection Taliensia, one truss. Lionel's Triumph dominated this class: 1. E. de Rothschild; 2. Mrs Hooton (a good clear yellow form); 3. Mrs Kleinwort.

Class 82: Elizabeth, one spray. 1. R. N. Stephenson Clarke (a good spray); 2. E. de Rothschild.

Class 83: any hybrid, other than Elizabeth, of which one parent is forrestii Repens Group or aperantum, one spray. 1. E. de Rothschild – Ostfriesland.

Class 85: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsection Cinnabrina, one spray. 1. E. de Rothschild – Alison Johnstone.

Class 86: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsections Maddenia or Edgeworthii, one truss. 1. G. A. Hardy – Jane Hardy; 2. Mrs Dayton – Fragrantissimum.

Class 87: any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsections Maddenia or Edgeworthii, one spray. 1. G. A. Hardy – Harry Tagg; 2. E. de Rothschild – Dora Amateis; 3. R. N. Stephenson Clarke – ciliicalyx × unknown.

Class 88: any hybrid between a species of subsection Triflora and a species of subsection Lapponica, one spray. 1. Mrs Eunson – Saint Breward; 2. E. de Rothschild – Saint Tudy; 3. R. N. Stephenson Clarke – Saint Tudy. Three very good entries, all gaining colour from the earlier cool weather.

Class 89: any hybrid between a species of subsection Triflora and a species of any other section or subsection (including Triflora) other than subsection Lapponica, one spray. 1. E. de Rothschild – Eleanore.

Class 90: any lepidote hybrid of which one parent belongs to section Pogonanthum, subsection Baileya, subsection Campylogyna, subsection Lepidota, subsection Saluenensis or subsection Uniflora, one spray. 1. E. de Rothschild - Phalarope; 2. R. N. Stephenson Clarke - Avril. Two very nice, although similar, entries but one would expect this class to be better supported.

Class 91: Yellowhammer, one spray. 1. E. de Rothschild; 2. Anne, Countess of Rosse and the National Trust, Nymans, Sussex.

Class 92: any hybrid between two species other than those provided for in the foregoing classes, one truss or spray. 1. E. de Rothschild - P. J. Mezzitt.

Class 93: any hybrid between a species and a hybrid other than those provided for in the foregoing classes, one truss. Both entries were not according to schedule.

Class 94: any hybrid between a species and a hybrid other than those provided for in the foregoing classes, one spray. 1. Lady Adam Gordon - Blue Chip; 2. E. de Rothschild - Rivulet.

Class 95: any hybrid between two hybrids, one truss. 1. G. A. Hardy - Janet; 2. Mrs Eunson - Caroline de Zöete; 3. Mrs Kleinwort - J. G. Millais. Three well shown trusses.

Class 96: any hybrid between two hybrids, one spray. 1. E. de Rothschild - Edgar Stead.

Class 97: any hybrid grown under glass excluding those eligible for Classes 86 and 87. 1. Mrs Dayton: Logan Damaris.

AUSTRALIAN
RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

*Sponsors of the fourth International Rhododendron
Conference to be held at Wollongong, New South Wales,
Australia, October 1 to 5, 1988.*

* * * * *

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The RHS Early and Main Camellia Competitions, 17 and 18 March and 7 and 8 April, 1987

PATRICK HAWORTH

A hard winter's influence was apparent in both Camellia Competitions, in brown leaf tips, brown spotted flowers, and in buds which had only just begun to show colour. In the Main Competition, nearly all of the entries grown in the open had flowers which were smaller than usual. The Early Competition was almost entirely an even contest between D. and R. Strauss and the Duke of Devonshire. Some fine individuals in this Competition were the soft pink single japonica, 'Furo-An' in Class 18, the generous red 'Apollo' and the mottled 'Donckelarii' in Class 20. In Class 32, a lovely 'Ballet Dancer' was best of the six entries.

Both principal exhibitors ran very closely in Class 42, each offering the same three cultivars and both having outstanding examples of 'Debbie'; even these were excelled by 'Debbie' in Class 35 in a trio which won second prize for Messrs Strauss. The most imposing *reticulatas* were a vast and somewhat floppy 'Arch of Triumph' in Class 40, and the perennially welcome 'Forty Niner' in Class 41. The star of the Early Competition was an effulgent 'Kramer's Supreme' in Class 24.

Exhibits grown in the open in the Main Competition seemed less good than those in the early one, but few observers would have disagreed that Class 36 contained two radiant exceptions in Mrs Heywood's lush 'Elegans' and Mr Graham's 'Blackburniana'. Class 1, for six entries, always has impact and serves as a fine introduction to the Main Competition. One wishes that there were more classes for compound entries. The standard of entries grown under glass was evenly high and Messrs Strauss also exhibited an ample selection of cultivars grown under glass which was not part of the Competition. The principal exhibitors' head gardeners can rest comfortably on their camellia leaves for ushering in the first few bright spots at the end of a mean grey winter.

Winning Flowers

Early Camellia Competition, 17 and 18 March, 1987

DIVISION 1: SPRAYS

Class 1: Camellia japonica, any three cultivars, one spray of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss, Stonehurst, Ardingly - Adelina Patti, Rogetsu, Wildfire; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Furo-An, Gus Menard, Masquerade.

Class 2: japonica, any semi-double, one spray. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Wildfire; 2. R. Strauss - Wildfire.

Class 3: japonica, any anemone- or peony-formed, one spray. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Ballet Dancer; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Gus Menard.

Class 6: reticulata and its hybrids, any three, one spray of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Arch of Triumph, China Lady, Forty Niner.

Class 7: reticulata or its hybrids, one spray. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Arch of Triumph; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Forty Niner.

Class 10: any three hybrids, one spray of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Daintiness, Debbie, Salutation.

Class 12: × williamsii, any single-flowered, one spray. 3. G. Mount, Preston House, East Preston, Sussex - Mary Christian.

Class 13: × williamsii, any semi-double, one spray. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Daintiness.

DIVISION 2: BLOOMS

Class 16: japonica, any three single-flowered cultivars, one bloom of each. 1. The Duke of Devonshire, Chatsworth, Derbyshire - pink unknown, Rogetsu, Sieboldii; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Adelina Patti, Alba Simplex, Mattie Cole; 3. D. & R. Strauss - Evelyn, Hasaku, Rogetsu.

Class 17: japonica, any single-flowered white, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Rogetsu; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Alba Simplex; 3. The Duke of Devonshire - Charlotte Rothschild.

Class 18: japonica, any single-flowered self-coloured other than white, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Furo-An; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Jupiter; 3. The Duke of Devonshire - unknown pink.

Class 19: japonica, any single-flowered variegated, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Clarissa; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Sieboldii.

Class 20: japonica, any three semi-double, one bloom of each. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Lotus (as Sode Gakushi), Mrs D. W. Davis, Giulio Nuccio var.; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Apollo, Donckelarii, Giulio Nuccio; 3. D. & R. Strauss - Lady Clare, Robert Strauss, Wildfire.

Class 21: japonica, any semi-double white, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Lotus.

Class 22: japonica, any semi-double self-coloured other than white, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Mrs D. W. Davis; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Giulio Nuccio.

Class 23: japonica, any semi-double variegated, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Giulio Nuccio var.; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Tricolor; 3. The Duke of Devonshire - Tricolor.

Class 24: japonica, any three anemone- and/or peony-formed, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Kramer's Supreme.

Class 25: japonica, any anemone- or peony-formed white, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Gus Menard.

Class 26: japonica, any anemone- or peony-formed self-coloured other than white, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - R. L. Wheeler; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Masquerade; 3. D. & R. Strauss - Kramer's Supreme.

Class 27: japonica, any anemone- or peony-formed variegated, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - unknown pink, with median white stripe.

Class 28: japonica, any three rose-formed and/or formal doubles, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Berenice Perfection, Cardinal Variegated, Masterpiece; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Alba Plena, Grand Sultan, Mathotiana.

Class 29: japonica, any rose-formed or formal double, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Alba Plena; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Masterpiece; 3. The Duke of Devonshire - Imbricata Alba.

Class 30: japonica, any rose-formed or formal double self-coloured other than white, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Grand Sultan; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Mathotiana Rubra; 3. D. & R. Strauss - Pope Pius IX.

Class 31: japonica, any rose-formed or formal double variegated, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Augusto Pinto; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Cardinal Variegated.

Class 32: japonica, any six, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Ballet Dancer, Clarissa, Faith, Mathotiana Supreme, Shiro Chan, Wildfire; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Augusto Pinto, Grand Sultan, Jupiter, Mathotiana Rubra, Mrs D. W. Davis, R. L. Wheeler.

Class 34: any cultivar, restricted entry. 2. Mrs A. Dayton, Westhumble, Dorking, Surrey - unknown form of japonica.

Class 35: any three hybrids, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Anticipation, Debbie, Francie L; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Daintiness, Debbie, George Blandford; 3. The Duke of Devonshire - Hiraethlyn, Mary Christian, Saint Ewe.

Class 36: reticulata, any three, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Arch of Triumph, Forty Niner, Salutation; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Captain Rawes, Francie L, Leonard Messel.

Class 38: any reticulata hybrid with × williamsii or saluenensis parentage, one bloom. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - Francie L; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Salutation.

Class 39: any single-flowered reticulata. 1. The Duke of Devonshire - reticulata (wild type).

Class 40: any semi-double reticulata, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Arch of Triumph; 2. R. S. Hood, Lymington, Hants. - Crimson Robe; 3. R. S. Hood - China Lady.

Class 41: any reticulata not eligible for Classes 38 to 40, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Forty Niner.

Class 42: any three × williamsii, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Debbie, Donation, Francis Hanger; 2. The Duke of Devonshire -

Debbie, Donation, Francis Hanger; 3. G. Mount, East Preston - Mary Christian, November Pink, Saint Ewe.

Class 43: any semi-double × williamsii, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss — George Blandford; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Donation.

Class 44: any peony- or anemone-formed × williamsii, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Debbie; 2. The Duke of Devonshire - Debbie.

Main Camellia Competition, 7 and 8 April, 1987

Class 1: any six, one spray of each. 1. F. E. Smith, London W5 - Conspicua, Donckelarii, Lady Clare, Nobilissima, Rubescens Major, Saint Ewe.

Class 2: any three, one spray of each. 2. Mrs B. Griffiths, Thames Ditton - J. C. Williams, Thelma Dale, Tricolor.

Class 5: japonica, any semi-double, one spray. 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - Berenice Boddy.

Class 8: japonica, a small-flowered cultivar. 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - Magnoliiflora.

Class 9: any reticulata, one spray. 1. J. W. Graham, Par - William Hertrich.

Class 10: saluenensis, one spray. 1. F. E. Smith - saluenensis.

Class 25: any twelve, one bloom of each. 1. J. W. Graham - Anticipation, Blackburniana, Bowen Bryant, Charlotte Rothschild, Debbie, Giulio Nuccio, Jupiter, Lady Clare, Rubescens Major, Sabrina, William Hertrich, Will's Path; 2. Mrs M. Assinder, London SW15 - Adolphe Audusson, Alba Simplex, Anticipation, Beni Daikagura, Colonial Lady, Contessa Lavinia Maggi, Cornish Snow, Cornish Spring, Debutante, R. L. Wheeler, Tricolor, Virginia Carlyon.

Class 26: japonica, any three single-flowered, one bloom of each. 1. J. W. Graham - Charlotte Rothschild, Jupiter, Will's Path.

Class 28: any single-flowered, self-coloured japonica, other than white, one bloom. 1. J. W. Graham - Jupiter.

Class 30: japonica, any three semi-double, one bloom of each. 1. J. W. Graham - Giulio Nuccio, Lady Clare, Sabina.

Class 32: japonica, any semi-double, self-coloured, other than white, one bloom. 1. Mrs M. Assinder - Adolphe Audusson; 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - Berenice Boddy; 3. J. W. Graham - Giulio Nuccio.

Class 33: japonica, any semi-double variegated, one bloom. 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - name unknown.

Class 36: japonica, any anemone- or peony-formed self-coloured, other than white, one bloom. 1. Mrs R. Heywood, London SW3 - Elegans; 2. J. W. Graham - Blackburniana; 3. Mrs B. Griffiths - Thelma Dale.

Class 40: japonica, any rose-formed or formal double self-coloured other than white, one bloom. 1. J. W. Graham - Rubescens Major; 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - Contessa Lavinia Maggi sport.

Class 41: japonica, any rose-formed or formal double variegated, one bloom.

1. Mrs B. Griffiths - Contessa Lavinia Maggi.

Class 42: japonica, any six, one bloom of each. 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - Berenice Boddy, Contessa Lavinia Maggi, Magnoliiflora, Mathotiana Alba, Thelma Dale, Tricolor.

Class 48: reticulata, any semi-double, one bloom. 1. Mrs A. M. Hooton, Loxwood, W. Sussex - unnamed; 2. J. W. Graham - William Hertrich; 3. Mrs B. Griffiths - Dr Clifford Parks.

Class 49: reticulata, any anemone- or peony-formed, one bloom. 1. J. W. Graham - William Hertrich.

Class 55: × williamsii, any single-flowered, one bloom. 2. Mrs B. Griffiths - J. C. Williams.

Class 57: × williamsii, any semi-double other than 'Donation', one bloom. 2. J. W. Graham - Bowen Bryant.

Class 58: × williamsii, any anemone- or peony-formed, one bloom. 1. J. W. Graham - Debbie.

Class 63: japonica, any three single-flowered grown under glass, one bloom of each. D. & R. Strauss - Clarissa, Evelyn, Rogetsu.

Class 64: japonica, any three semi-double, grown under glass, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Bob Hope, Drama Girl, White Nun; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Coral Queen, Lady Clare, Mrs D. W. Davis.

Class 65: japonica, any three anemone- or peony-formed, grown under glass, one bloom of each. 2. D. & R. Strauss - Ballet Dancer, Elegans, Spring Fever.

Class 66: japonica, any three rose-formed or formal double, grown under glass, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Berenice Perfection, Cardinal Variegated, Mathotiana Alba.

Class 67: japonica, any single-flowered, grown under glass, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Adelina Patti; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Clarissa.

Class 68: japonica, any semi-double, grown under glass, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Bob Hope; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Lady Clare.

Class 69: japonica, any anemone- or peony-formed, grown under glass, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Kramer's Supreme; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Touchdown.

Class 70: japonica, any rose-formed or formal double, grown under glass, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Betty Ridley; 2. D. & R. Strauss - Mathotiana Alba.

Class 71: reticulata, any three, grown under glass, one bloom of each. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Interval, Lasca Beauty, Nuccio's Beauty.

Class 72: reticulata, any cultivar, grown under glass, one bloom. 1. D. & R. Strauss - Arch of Triumph.

Awards at Vincent Square, 1987

RHODODENDRONS

sutchuenense 'Seventh Heaven' (W 1232). FCC 7 April, 1987, as a hardy flowering plant. Collected by E. H. Wilson, raised by Col. S. R. Clarke and exhibited by R. N. Stephenson Clarke, Borde Hill, Haywards Heath, Sussex. Trusses 14 to 16-flowered, up to 18 cm across. Corolla widely bell-shaped, 8 cm long and 8 cm across, white in throat, suffused Red-Purple Group 69A with numerous small spots of Red-Purple Group 61B in upper throat. Base of outer corolla creamy white. Stamens 16, irregular, brown-anthered, held within. Style of equal length. Calyx five joined segments, up to 4 mm in length, pale green, each segment tip flushed red-purple. Pedicels strongly flushed red-purple. Leaves oblong-ob lanceolate, up to 23 cm long and 7.5 cm across, dark green above, paler beneath.

'Wishmoor' (*yakushimanum* × *litiense*). FCC 18 May, 1987, as a hardy flowering plant. Crossed, raised and exhibited by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks. Truss tight, rounded, 12- to 14-flowered; corolla seven-lobed, 4.7 cm long and 8.6 cm across; flowers campanulate, orange-red in bud, opening to Yellow Group 4D, the upper throat deepening to Yellow Group 4C; calyx rudimentary, red; pedicel 3.8 cm long, green. Leaves narrowly obovate, up to 10 cm long and 4.4 cm broad, under surface lightly covered with indumentum; petioles up to 1.9 cm long.

'Irene Stead' (*fortunei* × *griffithianum*). AM 18 May, 1987, as a hardy flowering plant. Crossed and raised by E. Stead (N.Z.) and exhibited by the Crown Estate Commissioners. Trusses 12 to 14-flowered. Corolla seven-lobed, broadly funnel-shaped, up to 7 cm long and 23 cm across, pink (Red-Purple Group 65D) with darker colouring (Red-Purple Group 66D) on lips and reverse. Stamens 14 to 18, held within: filaments white, anthers light brown, style of equal length or held free. Calyx rudimentary, reddish to 3 mm. Leaves oblong-ob lanceolate, up to 18 cm long and 6 cm across, dull matt green above, light green beneath, free from indumentum.

'Jane Hardy' (*nuttallii* LSE 12117 × *lindleyi* LS 2744). AM 28 April, 1987, as a flowering plant for the cool greenhouse. Crossed, raised and exhibited by G. A. Hardy, Hillhurst Farm, Hythe, Kent. Flowers in trusses of three to six. Corolla tubular-campanulate up to 10 cm long and 13 cm across. Colour Yellow-Orange Group 16A in throat, fading to creamy white towards corolla rim, the latter being flushed shades of Red Group 70D. Calyx six deeply divided, rounded, reflexed, hair-fringed lobes, up to 3 cm long, greenish yellow, flushed red. Leaves ovate-elliptic, up to 9 cm long and 4.2 cm across, dark green, veined above, sparsely scaly beneath.

'Lem's Cameo' ('Dido' × 'Anna'). AM 18 May, 1987, as a hardy flowering plant. Crossed and raised by Halfdan Lem (USA) and exhibited by Edmund

de Rothschild, Exbury Gardens, Exbury, nr Southampton, Hants. Trusses full, rounded, 16 to 18-flowered. Corolla seven-lobed, funnel-shaped, up to 6 cm long and 9 cm across, inner corolla creamy white deepening to Yellow Group 4D in throat, flushed and spotted in throat with Greyed-Purple Group 185A. Outer corolla cream, each lobe heavily stained Red Group 54B, giving a hint of colouring to the inner corolla. Stamens 14, held within: filaments white, anthers dark brown, style held within. Calyx seven-lobed, deeply divided, irregular, up to 3 cm, creamy white but edged and heavily marked and flushed Greyed-Purple Group 185A. Leaves ovate-elliptic, up to 16 cm long and 6.5 cm across, dull matt green above, paler below, free from indumentum.

'Nimrod' (*irroratum* 'Polka Dot' × *calophytum*). **AM** 7 April, 1987, as a hardy flowering plant. Raised and exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild. Trusses full, rounded, 20 to 22-flowered, up to 18 cm across. Corolla five-lobed, campanulate, up to 6 cm long and 7.5 cm across. White, flushed shades of Red-Purple Group 64, inner corolla heavily spotted, and with blotch of Red Group 60B in upper throat. Stamens 12, held free within, filaments white, anthers dark brown; style held within. Calyx rudimentary, reddish. Leaves ovate, up to 20 cm long and 7.5 cm across, dark green above, paler beneath: free of indumentum.

'Rothenburg' ('Diane' × *williamsianum*). **AM** 28 April, 1987, as a hardy flowering plant. Crossed and raised by Victor von Martin and exhibited by Edmund de Rothschild. Trusses loose, rounded, 12 to 14-flowered, up to 16 cm across. Corolla five-lobed, campanulate, up to 4.5 cm long and 8 cm across, colour pale creamy yellow (Yellow Group 4D) with slightly deeper reverse and faint reddish spotting in upper throat. Stamens 10 to 11, held within or of equal length; filaments cream; anthers light brown; style yellowish, held free. Calyx rudimentary, to 3 mm, yellowish green, fringed with red glandular hairs. Leaves ovate, up to 12 cm long and 7 cm across, dark, glossy green above, reverse lighter green, free of indumentum.

Awards after trial at Wisley, 1987

On the recommendation of the Rhododendron and Camellia Committee, Council has made the following awards to cultivars suitable for garden decoration of camellias and rhododendrons after trial at Wisley.

The number given in brackets after the description of the plant was that under which it was grown in the trial.

Camellia × williamsii and other hybrid camellias

'Cherub' **AM** 9 April, 1987. Raised, introduced and sent by Sir Giles Loder, Ockenden House, Ockenden Lane, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. Plant 3.5 m high, 3.7 m spread, vigorous, erect, slightly spreading habit; very free-flowering. Leaves 6 cm long, 3.2 cm wide, fairly dark green. Flowers 7.5 cm diameter, single, with two rows of petals, between Red-Purple

Group 62A and Red-Purple Group 62B, very delicately veined with deeper than Red-Purple Group 62A. Flowering from 30 March, 1987. (60)

'Coppelia' **AM** 9 April, 1987. Raised by the late F. Hanger and sent by Hillier Nurseries (Winchester) Ltd, Ampfield House, Ampfield, Romsey, Hants. Plant 2.5 m high, 2.3 m spread, vigorous, compact and erect habit; free-flowering. Leaves 7.5 cm long, 5 cm wide, fairly dark slightly glossy green. Flowers 8.5 cm diameter, single, Red-Purple Group 62C very lightly flushed and veined with between Red-Purple Group 62A and Red-Purple Group 62B. Flowering from 6 April, 1986. (HC 1984) (17)

'Golden Spangles' **AM** 9 April, 1987. Sent by The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey. Plant 3.5 m high, 3 m spread, vigorous, erect, slightly spreading habit; free-flowering. Leaves 8 cm long, 4 cm wide, medium green, area at midrib blotched light green. Flowers 9 cm diameter, single, with two rows of petals, Red-Purple Group 62A delicately veined with nearest Red-Purple Group 58C. Flowering from 3 April, 1987. (59)

'Saint Michael' **AM** 21 April, 1987. Introduced by F. J. Williams and raised and sent by J. C. Williams, Caerhays Castle, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall. Plant 3.5 m high, 3.7 m spread, vigorous, erect, slightly spreading habit; free-flowering. Leaves 7.5 cm long, 4 cm wide, fairly dark green. Flowers 6.6 cm diameter, single, with two rows of petals, Red-Purple Group 66D veined with Red-Purple 57D. Flowering from 8 April, 1987. (29)

'Charles Michael' **HC** 21 April, 1987. Sent by Hillier Nurseries (Winchester) Ltd. Plant 2.38 m high, 3.3 m spread, vigorous, fairly erect, spreading habit; free-flowering. Leaves 8.2 cm long, 3.5 cm wide, medium slightly glossy green. Flowers 8 cm diameter, single, with two rows of petals, inner petals very pale pink, outer petals very pale pink lightly flushed with Red Group 56A. Flowering from 14 April, 1987. (49)

Awards made to camellias other than those growing in the trial

'Gay Time' **AM** 21 April, 1987. Raised by L. E. Jury and sent by James Trehane & Sons Ltd, Staplehill Road, Hampreston, Wimborne, Dorset. Plant 2.6 m high, 1.7 m spread, fairly vigorous, erect habit; free-flowering. Leaves 9.5 cm long, 4.5 cm wide, fairly light glossy green. Flowers 11 cm diameter, double, with nine rows of petals, between Red-Purple Group 62A and Red-Purple Group 62B, lower half of midrib fading to white. Flowering from 18 April, 1987.

'Phyl Doak' **HC** 21 April, 1987. Raised by Dr B. V. Doak and sent by James Trehane & Sons Ltd. Plant 1.66 m high, 1.88 m spread, vigorous, spreading habit; free-flowering. Leaves 8 cm long, 3.5 cm wide, fairly dark glossy green. Flowers 9.5 cm diameter, semi-double, with five rows of petals, Red-Purple Group 62B veined and flushed with Red-Purple Group 62A. Flowering from 20 April, 1987.

'Water Lily' **HC** 21 April, 1987. Raised by F. Jury and sent by James Trehane & Sons Ltd. Plant 2.3 m high, 1.8 m spread, fairly vigorous, spreading habit; free-flowering. Leaves 8 cm long, 4 cm wide, medium slightly glossy green. Flowers 10.5 cm diameter, double, with six rows of petals, Red-Purple Group 62B flushed and veined with Red-Purple Group 62A. Flowering from 12 April, 1987.

Hardy hybrid rhododendrons

'Goldsworth Pink' (*griffithianum* hybrid) FCC 6 May, 1987. Raised, introduced and sent by Walter C. Slocock Ltd, now trading as Knap Hill Nursery Ltd and Slocock Nurseries, Barrs Lane, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey. Plant 1.21 m high, 1.56 m spread, vigorous, upright habit; very free-flowering; leaves 16.5 cm long, 6 cm wide, medium slightly glossy green. Flower truss 13 cm diameter, 15 cm deep, fairly dome-shaped, crowded, nine flowers per truss; corolla 9 cm diameter, 6 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, Red-Purple Group 65A variously flushed over very pale pink, base of upper segment speckled with cream. Very little scent. Flowering from 4 May, 1987. (AM 1958) (19)

'Hydon Dawn' (*yakushimanum* × 'Springbok') FCC 13 May, 1987. Raised by A. F. George and introduced and sent by Hydon Nurseries Ltd, Hydon Heath, Godalming, Surrey. Plant 1.06 m high, 1.58 m spread, vigorous, upright habit; very free-flowering; leaves 8.2 cm long, 3 cm wide, dark green. Flower truss 1.45 cm diameter, 1.55 cm deep, globular-shaped, compact, 14 flowers per truss; corolla 5.5 cm diameter, 4 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, Red-Purple Group 62D, centre of segment into throat flushed with between Red-Purple Group 62A and Red-Purple 62B, lower half of upper segment finely dotted with Red Group 46B. No scent. Flowering from 11 May, 1987. (AM 1986) (179)

'Jalisco Elect' ('Dido' × 'Lady Bessborough'). FCC 28 May, 1987. Raised by the late Lionel de Rothschild; introduced and sent by the Crown Estate Commissioners, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks. Plant 1.95 m high, 1.58 m spread, vigorous, upright habit; free-flowering; leaves 11 cm long, 4.5 cm wide, medium dull green. Flower truss 17 cm diameter, 10 cm deep, slightly dome-shaped, fairly lax, seven flowers per truss; corolla 6 cm diameter, 5.3 cm long, ventricose-campanulate, margins waved, Yellow Group 8D, centre of segment flushed with Yellow Group 8C towards base, lower half of upper segment heavily speckled with Red Group 46A. Little scent. Flowering from 23 May, 1987. (AM 1948) (129)

'Anna Baldsiefen' ('Pioneer' selfed). AM 21 April, 1987. Raised and introduced by W. Baldsiefen and sent by P. A. Cox, Glendoick Gardens Ltd, Perth. Plant 1.17 m high, 80 cm spread, vigorous, upright, slightly spreading habit; very free-flowering; leaves 2.5 cm long, 2 cm wide, light dull green. Flower truss 5 cm diameter, 3.5 cm deep, dome-shaped, crowded, five flowers per truss; corolla 2.9 cm diameter, 2 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, between Red-Purple Group 64C and Red-Purple Group 64D flushed over white, base white. No scent. Flowering from 14 April, 1987. (HC 1979) (193)

'Anna Rose Whitney' (*griersonianum* × 'Countess of Derby'). AM 28 May, 1987. Raised and sent by P. A. Cox. Plant 1.3 m high, 1.86 m spread, vigorous, upright, fairly spreading habit; free-flowering; leaves 11.3 cm long, 5.6 cm wide, fairly dark dull green. Flower truss 15 cm diameter, 16 cm deep, globular shaped, compact, nine flower per truss; corolla 9 cm diameter, 6.3 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins slightly waved, Red-Purple Group 57D, lower half of upper segments ticked with Greyed-Purple Group 187B. No scent. Flowering from 25 May, 1987. (88)

'Egret' (*racemosum* 'White Lace' × *campylogynum* (white)). **AM** 6 May, 1987.

Raised and sent by P. A. Cox. Plant 2.2 m high, 3.6 m spread, vigorous, upright, compact habit; free-flowering; leaves 2.3 cm long, 1.1 cm wide, medium glossy green. Flower truss 7 cm diameter, 4 cm deep, lax, six flowers per truss; corolla 1.8 cm diameter, 1.5 cm long, widely funnel-shaped, margins entire, white slightly tinged pale green towards calyx. Flowering from 3 May, 1987. (HC 1983) (44)

'Pink Ghost' (*yakushimanum* × 'Pauline'). **AM** 6 May, 1987. Raised, introduced and sent by The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey. Plant 74 cm high, 1.16 m spread, vigorous, upright, compact habit; free-flowering; leaves 7.8 cm long, 2.8 cm wide, fairly dark slightly glossy green. Flower truss 12 cm diameter, 10.5 cm deep, globular-shaped, compact, 12 flowers per truss; corolla 6.3 cm diameter, 4.8 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins very waved, white lightly flushed with Red-Purple Group 62D. No scent. Flowering from 1 May, 1987. (HC 1972) (7)

'Riplet' (*forrestii* Repens Group × 'Letty Edwards'). **AM** 21 April, 1987. Raised and introduced by H. Lem and sent by P. A. Cox. Plant 43 cm high, 53 cm spread, fairly vigorous, upright habit; free-flowering; leaves 7 cm long, 3.5 cm wide, fairly dark very dull green. Flower truss 13 cm diameter, 8 cm deep, slightly globular-shaped, lax, four flowers per truss; corolla 8 cm diameter, 6 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, a glistening waxy colour between Red Group 45B and Red Group 45C flushed over cream, throat cream. Scented. Flowering from 14 April, 1987. (HC 1986) (173)

'Widgeon' (*minus* *Carolinianum* Group × *calostrotum* 'Gigha'). **AM** 6 May, 1987. Raised, introduced and sent by P. A. Cox. Plant 33 cm high, 49 cm spread, vigorous, upright, fairly compact habit; free-flowering; leaves 4.5 cm long, 2 cm wide, fairly dark dull green. Flower truss 7 cm diameter, 5 cm deep, fairly dome-shaped, lax, five flowers per truss; corolla 4 cm diameter, 2.6 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, between Purple Group 75A and Purple Group 75B slightly tinged rose, lower half of upper segment heavily dotted with Red-Purple Group 60A. No scent. Flowering from 3 May, 1987. (228)

'Rothenburg' ('Diane' × *williamsianum*). **HC** 21 April, 1987. Raised by V. von Martin and sent by J. A. Fox, Holmwood House, Glenmore Road, Crowborough, Sussex. Plant 59 cm high, 78 cm spread, vigorous, upright, slightly spreading habit; free-flowering; leaves 7.3 cm long, 4.5 cm wide, dark slightly glossy green. Flower truss 16.5 cm diameter, 15.5 cm deep, globular-shaped, compact, eight flowers per truss; corolla 11 cm diameter, 6.5 cm long, fairly openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, creamy white, lower half of upper segments tinged with yellow, lightly speckled with dull red. No scent. Flowering from 19 April, 1987. (215)

'Volker' (*wardii* × *yakushimanum*). **HC** 28 May, 1987. Raised by D. G. Hobbie and introduced and sent by J. A. Slocock, Charles Hill Nursery, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey. Plant 57 cm high, 70 cm spread, vigorous, upright, compact habit; free-flowering; leaves 7.5 cm long, 4 cm wide, dark slightly glossy green. Flower truss 14 cm diameter, 9 cm deep, fairly dome-shaped, fairly lax, 11 flowers per truss; corolla 6 cm diameter, 4 cm long, openly campanulate-shaped, margins slightly waved, paler than Yellow Group 2D flushed with between Yellow Group 2c and Yellow Group 2D on lower half of

segments, base of upper segment flushed with Red Group 53B. Scent very little. Flowering from 10 May, 1987. (286)

Evergreen azaleas

'Autumn Glow' ((*'Vuyk's Scarlet'* × *'Tanager'*) × *'John Cairns'*). **AM** 13 May, 1987. Raised and sent by the late W. G. Hyde. Plant 44 cm high, 1.11 m spread, vigorous, spreading habit; very free-flowering; leaves 4 cm long, 2 cm wide, fairly dark slightly glossy green. Flower truss 8 cm diameter, 5 cm deep, lax, two flowers per truss; corolla 5.4 cm diameter, 3.6 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins very slightly waved, slightly glossy Red Group 53D, base of upper segments speckled with Red Group 46A. No scent. Flowering from 8 May, 1987. (140)

'Chalk Hill' (*'Mucronatum'* × *Wadai* grex). **AM** 28 May, 1987. Raised, introduced and sent by the Crown Estate Commissioners. Plant 64 cm high, 1.5 m spread, vigorous, upright, spreading habit; free-flowering; leaves 3.5 cm long, 1.8 cm wide, medium green. Flower truss 8 cm diameter, 90 cm deep, lax, three flowers per truss; corolla 7.2 cm diameter, 4.5 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins slightly waved, white. No scent. Flowering from 25 May, 1987. (HC 1986) (116)

'Margaret George' (*'Eira'* × *kaempferi*). **AM** 6 May, 1987. Raised by A. F. George and introduced and sent by Hydon Nurseries Ltd. Plant 55 cm high, 83 cm spread, vigorous, spreading habit; very free-flowering; leaves 3.5 cm long, 1.7 cm wide, dark glossy green. Flower truss 5 cm diameter, 4.5 cm deep, lax, three flowers per truss; corolla 6 cm diameter, 3.5 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins slightly waved, Red-Purple Group 66c, lightly flushed over Red-Purple Group 66b, lightly dotted towards base of upper segment with Red Group 53A. No scent. Flowering from 2 May, 1987. (66)

'Mary Helen' ((*'Mucronatum'* × *'Vittata Fortunei'*) × *'Kagetsu'*). **HC** 28 May, 1987. Raised by B. Y. Morrison and sent by the Crown Estate Commissioners. Plant 50 cm high, 98 cm spread, vigorous, spreading habit; free-flowering; leaves 4.6 cm long, 2 cm wide, medium slightly glossy green. Flower truss 9 cm diameter, 5 cm deep, lax, two flowers per truss; corolla 7.5 cm diameter, 4.5 cm long, openly funnel-shaped, margins waved, white, lower half of upper segment speckled with Yellow Group 5D. Little scent. Flowering from 28 May, 1987. (130)

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Erratum

Rhododendrons 1986-7

Fig. 5 *Rhododendron lochae* 'Thornton Peak'

Thornton Peak is the locality in Queensland, Australia, in which the specimen of the Vireya rhododendron, *R. lochae*, portrayed in Fig. 5, was collected. Thornton Peak has not been registered as a cultivar name. Furthermore, although the species is familiarly known as *R. lochae*, *R. lochiae* is orthographically correct.

The caption to Fig. 5, therefore, should read:

A specimen of Rhododendron lochiae collected on Thornton Peak, Australia.

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