In preparing the second volume of the *Antique Camellias of Lake Maggiore*, we were all well aware that it would not be complete, but rather add another chapter to the first volume.

We had greater difficulty in reconstructing the nomenclature of the 170 camellias illustrated in this book than those of the first volume, as the field of enquiry was here restricted to unknown cultivars, and because the sources available for consultation were the same.

A brief reminder of the history of the Rovelli family is in order. Originally from Monza, they were the gardeners of the Borromean Islands from 1799. Their crucial contribution was the introduction of valuable, rare, conifers, camellias and rhododendrons into the parks enhancing the first villas that began to be built along the lake shore after the middle of the 19th century. The camellias planted then have today reached majestic proportions, remaining in perfect health.

The Rovelli nursery went out of business in 1919. An hotel, the Eden, was built on the site, and with its stunning situation and opulent facilities it numbered among its guests many of the aristocracy and the political elite.

The last manager of the Eden, Lidia Cattaneo, along with her husband Mario Ferrari, discovered that along the southeastern side of the grounds there were still the mother plants of the Rovelli Nursery camellias. So they began to propagate all the varieties and plant them in their garden at Pallanza.

When they retired in the 1960’s the hotel and grounds fell into disrepair, including the camellia nursery. This state of affairs continues today but the Cattaneo family saved the camellias of the last nursery of the Rovellis.

Between 1999 to 2010 we visited some great parks. We realised how difficult, if not impossible, it is to say definitely what the shape and the colour of the flowers are, considering the peculiar instability of the camellia, accentuated by its extreme sensitivity to climate, terrain, fertility and exposure. This means that there can be astonishing differences of size, shape and colour in the same cultivar over the years. The features we have photographed and described are therefore an average of the typical features of each cultivar - an inevitable compromise in any text describing camellias. With these observations we mean to defend our decisions and put camellia-lovers on their guard against being too quick to assign a name to a plant that might be any cultivar.