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## THE AMOS PICKARD HYBRIDS COLLECTION

### HELD AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

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In 2016 the **RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group** celebrated its Centenary, and during that year launched the Centenary Appeal Fund which would be used to finance the conservation of threatened species and hybrids.

Amos Pickard (1913–1994), together with his wife, Lieselotte, produced many important magnolia hybrids at his nursery in Stodmarsh Road, Canterbury. He moved there in 1966, and in 1967 took delivery of a large consignment of magnolias from the Koichiro Wada Nursery in Japan, including two plants which he planted in the Deanery Garden in that same year. One of these was a hybrid named 'Picture', the variety which Amos used as a parent for many of his hybrids.

With the kind agreement of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral, the RCMG has permission to plant a complete collection of the Pickard hybrids around the Precincts, and in years to come it is anticipated that a 'Pickard Trail' will be set up to enable the many visitors to the Cathedral to be able to enjoy the blooms at magnolia time.



Of the 23 registered hybrids, eleven are now on site, a further six have been traced at other gardens and are currently being propagated – and the search continues for the rest, with gardens and nurseries across Europe giving assistance.

*'Pickard's Schmetterling'*

The official planting of the first magnolia in the collection – **‘Pickard’s Schmetterling’** – took place on April 28 2018, in the Garden of Remembrance and was performed by The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, and Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, Jim Gardiner.

Amos named this magnolia ‘Schmetterling’ (meaning ‘butterfly’ in German) as this was his pet name for his wife. It was therefore an appropriate choice for this special planting to commemorate them both and in recognition of their world-famous magnolia legacy.

*‘Pickard’s Coral’*



The **RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group** is honoured that the Cathedral has chosen one of our magnolias – **‘Pickard’s Coral’** – to plant in a prominent position in the Precinct as their contribution to the **Queen’s Green Canopy** for the Platinum Jubilee project.

This cultivar is described in the Magnolia Society International register as:  
*‘Flowers white spotted pink, giving a pink effect. Tulip-shaped. Fragrant’*

We hope that it thrives and brings much pleasure to visitors to the Cathedral in years to come.

Sally Hayward, RHS Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group  
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