

Once in a great while an important (and in this case incredible) book arrives about the orchid world that makes fascinating reading. Such a book is Rudolf Jenny's "...OF MEN AND ORCHIDS..."

Most of us who are interested in orchids know of Lindley and some of the other better-known taxonomists; this book introduces many, many orchid taxonomists and their varied work; over well more than a century; that have contributed meaningfully to our knowledge of orchids. Jenny's cogent text compliments the myriad excellent illustrations that fill the book which include images both of the taxonomists and the orchids they described along with photographs, drawings, paintings, type specimens and engravings, all with accurate color reproduction in a beautifully designed and printed volume of just over 300 pages.

It is both a superb history book and one that will open eyes and elicit compliments when placed on the coffee table. This first volume will be followed in the coming years by three more. Because the edition is quite limited, hesitation can lead to sadness—so do order Part 1 now.

Harry Zelenko