

...Of men and orchids... Part 2
Rudolf Jenny 2017

This is the second volume in Rudolf Jenny's series '... of men and orchids ...' (perhaps we should anticipate a future volume '... of women and orchids' ...!). The book covers another arbitrary selection of orchid genera and species named for, named by or associated with various men. The chapters are vaguely alphabetical according to the orchid featured but this is where all order ends; there is no clear line of time, place or context. In many ways this is the charm of the book where the reader can dip into snippets of orchid science and history. Each chapter is lavishly illustrated with numerous reproductions and modern photographs of living plants. There follows biographical information and portraits of the linked person(s) and a list of literature cited has its own box at the end of each section.

Many of the connections are obvious with, for example, *Chilochista segawai* and Sokichi Segawa, others are more tenuous such as *Coelogyne pandurata* and H. G. Reichenbach f. Several of the people easily deserve an entire tome in their own right and Jenny's book will hopefully inspire such work.

In the preface of Part 1, Jenny admits that the criteria for inclusion were based on the material he had available. Part 2 is built on the same concept, it similarly spans individuals from the last four centuries; one of the earliest is Michel Adanson and *Polystachya adansoniae* and more recent is Clarence Horich and *Teuscheria horichiana*.

The illustrations are an important part of the work and include some rare historical material; it is sometimes difficult to get a sense of scale, especially when small botanical drawings are greatly enlarged but combined with the modern photographs the reader is presented with a good overview.

The text is tightly packed with fascinating information and references; some may find the use of block capitals for surnames puzzling, a few typographical and syntactical errors can be overlooked in a work of this magnitude. Jenny is to be commended on the large amount of information he has assembled, sometimes on some obscure personalities and species. This book is highly recommended for those interested in discovering the intriguing relationships between orchids, science, history and men...

Clare & Johan Hermans

Published by the Author, obtainable from rjorchid@gmx.ch for 100 euros