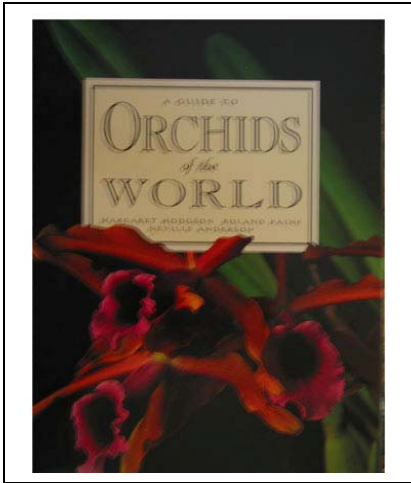


## A Guide to ORCHIDS of the WORLD

by Hodgson, Paine and Anderson

Back in May Bill and Sue donated a number of books to the ROA Library. One of these, *A Guide to ORCHIDS of the WORLD* by Hodgson, Paine and Anderson is reviewed below.



*A Guide to ORCHIDS of the WORLD* is much more than a coffee table book of orchid pictures. It is encyclopedic in its coverage of orchids – their classification, habitats, pollination and propagation. The introduction describes epiphytic, terrestrial and lithophytic life forms as well as sympodial and monopodial orchids. Next are eleven pages of drawings describing every conceivable orchid flower, stem and leaf followed by a short section on the taxonomic classification of the orchidaceae family. A short chapter on habitats contains excellent photographs of typical environments – swamp, rain forest, meadows and cloud forests, and drawings of orchids that might grow there.

A very interesting chapter on pollination describes the many ways that orchids attract specific pollinators and how they ensure cross pollination, giving strength and variety to the species. The chapter on propagation recounts the early problems germinating seed and how this was solved by Lewis Knudson who showed how seed could be germinated asymbiotically in a sterile agar solution. It also describes propagation by tissue culture or mericlone which yields many plants (clones) identical to the parent plant.

All of the foregoing is interesting, nay, fascinating. The real meat of the book is the section on orchid genera. Ninety-seven genera are described giving etymology plant description, culture, habitat and a drawings of a typical species. Each genus described includes at least one photograph and description of a species in the genus. Popular genera such as *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Paphiopedilum* include many species photographs and descriptions.

An obligatory chapter on orchid pests and diseases is a subject best covered in an AOS pamphlet on the same subject. The book closes with an extensive glossary of orchid terms. This should be helpful to all orchidists but especially to the beginner.

This is a good book, both as a reference and one to just sit down and read for pleasure. The photographs are good and the drawings are splendid.

-L.K. (Buddy) Harvie