

ARNOLDIA REVIEWS

The Room of Delight. Oldrich Otypka. Cranbury, N.J.: A. S. Barnes and Co. Inc. 164 pages, illustrated. \$15.00.

A Minnesota designer of heating and air-conditioning systems and a plant lover, Mr. Otypka describes in this book the fulfillment of his long-held dream for a garden in his home. Most of the text is devoted to a description of the plants suitable for an indoor garden and the details of their culture. The author's own photographs, some more effective than others, and some in color, illustrate several of the plants. An excellent section of plants that may be wick-watered, and lists of plants that are insect-free, sources for plants and greenhouse structures and allied equipment are also included.

Regrettably, the details of the room itself and its requirements cover a scant dozen pages. Even the photographs of the author's room of delight do not give a clear idea of its extent and plan.

B. JUNE HUTCHINSON

E. I. du Pont, *Botaniste*. Norman B. Wilkinson. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia. 139 pages, illustrated. \$7.50 hardcover; \$3.95 paperback.

The du Pont family was of great horticultural significance in American gardening history and the gardens of Longwood, Winterthur and Eleutherian Mills are a testament to their interest in horticulture and garden design. This work is an historical and anecdotal biography of Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, a French ancestor of these American du Ponts and the man who laid the family's horticultural foundations.

A boyhood interest in gardening in his native France became a consuming interest throughout E. I. du Pont's adulthood in America. Strong ties with his homeland resulted in shipments of numerous seeds of American trees and shrubs to France. His strong horticultural leadership affected successive generations of the family and resulted in the establishment of the famous gardens with which many of us are familiar.

The author is Director of Research for one of the du Pont foundations and his account is interesting, albeit a bit worshipful. He has constructed his story from family memorabilia, anecdotal accounts, letters, and other documents. Parts of it are fascinating reading, as when we discover that in addition to sending seeds of such American favorites as sourwood, sweetgum, wintergreen and mayflower to France, du Pont also sent prodigious quantities of poison ivy. Du Pont is portrayed as what we might now call an "apeccatos" (operator) and his wheelings and dealings with the French upper class, and Josephine Bonaparte in particular, make enjoyable reading.

Visitors to any of the du Pont gardens will find value in this book, which is richly illustrated with fine quality photographs. This reviewer would have liked to have seen a genealogy and a brief chronological history of the family included as well as a more coherent reader orientation in the first chapter, but these are small failings in an otherwise intriguing book.

ELINORE B. TROWBRIDGE

The Complete Garden. Arnold Leggett and Pat Falge. Willits, Calif.: Oliver Press. 246 pages, illustrated. \$3.95, paperback.

This book is beyond my understanding so I quote the introduction to explain its purpose: It is "to provide sources for those seeds and tools which the homesteader may wish to use in bringing food from the earth." The book consists of two alphabetical indices. The Master Index lists the products, with the companies offering each item, and a company index supplies information about each company, including a list of available items.

The logic behind the idea is obvious, but not so obvious is the criteria used to select the companies to be listed in the book. Items such as environmental calendars and Hawaiian perfume, to name but two, do not seem relevant to bringing food from the earth. Also confusing is the fact that the Master Index lists different sources under Latin and common names of many plants. Thus, adjacent entries for *Gentian* and *Gentiana* have no common source.

Novice gardeners may find something of interest in *The Complete Garden* but those with experience will have better use for \$3.95.

SHELIA MAGULLION

Wildflowers of Hong Kong. Beryl M. Walden and Shiu Ying Hu. Hong Kong: Sino-American Publishing Co. 83 pages plus 83 plates. U.S. \$25.00. H.K. \$125.00.

Paintings for this book were done from living specimens of 255 plants of Hong Kong; a few cultivated, a few adventive weeds, but mostly the wild flowers as trees, shrubs and vines. The plants are pictured as seen and are without leaves when appropriate, some insect eaten, some in flower or in fruit. The drawings and reproductions are excellent and the volume includes many plants not commonly illustrated. The textual material comprises scientific and common names in English and Chinese, ecological notes, brief descriptions and often economic uses. Entries are arranged by the month in which the material was collected, and reference is given to the plate or plates. Some plants are shown two or three times. Each figure is numbered and a numerical list is supplied, along with a bilingual glossary, an arrangement of plants according to the Engler system, and an index by page and plate.

This is an attractive volume and one needed for the plants of Hong Kong and the New Territories. It is not a field manual, however, and one hopes for a future paperback volume of smaller size. One wishes for an easier reference to the family for unfamiliar genera, also.

The dust jacket is truly a work of art and, with several of the plates which illustrate a single plant, should be made available for framing and individual use. The publisher has offered to supply copies autographed by the artist and the author if the order is placed through the Arnold Arboretum. However, this offer must be of limited duration.

RICHARD A. HOWARD



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