

Rare Book
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THE
ORCHID ALBUM,
COMPRISING
COLOURED FIGURES AND DESCRIPTIONS
OF
NEW, RARE, AND BEAUTIFUL
ORCHIDACEOUS PLANTS,

CONDUCTED BY
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THE COLOURED FIGURES BY JOHN NUGENT FITCH, F.L.S.

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CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE MOOREANUM

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[PLATE 445.]

Native of India.

Epiphytal. *Leaves* distichous, linear-ligulate, acute, channelled above, keeled beneath, sheathing at the base, coriaceous in texture, plane, green on both sides, saving a few purplish black blotches on the under side near the base. *Scape* erect, usually one-flowered. *Bract* boat-shaped, slightly compressed, as long as the ovary. *Flowers* large, measuring upwards of five inches across, beautifully showy; *dorsal sepal* broadly ovate, slightly waved at the margin, the apex fimbriate, the central area pale green, heavily spotted with pale purple, leaving a broad marginal border of the purest white; *lower sepal* remarkable for its great size, oblong-ovate, acute, cream colour, with a few small spots mostly on the veins; *petals* spreading at right angles, linear-obovate, the margins being creamy white and undulated, the central portion greenish yellow veined and netted with reddish brown, and having a few scattered spots of the same colour towards the base; the saccate *lip* with spreading mouth, rosy brown in front, paler beneath. *Staminode* obcordate, pubescent, yellow, having a central deep orange-coloured point.

CYPRIPEDIUM INSIGNE MOOREANUM, *Williams' New Plant Catalogue*, 1887, p. 22.

The typical *Cypripedium insigne* was the second species of the coriaceous-leaved section of the genus discovered by Wallich in Sylhet, and introduced to cultivation slightly over seventy years ago. We have been greatly pleased with the numerous beautiful forms of this plant which have appeared from recent importations. In the early days of Orchid culture, varieties were not so much noted, but since the love for Cypripediums has become world-wide, the plant has been imported from many localities, and new varieties have appeared in abundance, *C. insigne Sanderæ* being perhaps the most chaste and valuable form which has yet appeared. *C. insigne aureum*, *C. albo-marginatum*, and of the older forms, *C. punctatum violaceum* and *C. Maulei*, are all magnificent examples of the beauties which are to be found in the old *C. insigne*. Among the many varieties which have received notice, the subject of our present illustration stands out prominently conspicuous for the brilliancy of its dorsal sepal, as well as for the size of the lower sepal. This variety originated in our establishment, and it was named by the late Mr. B. S. Williams in honour of Thomas Moore, then the able Curator of the Apothecaries' Garden at Chelsea. The plate was taken from the original plant, and it is a true and faithful copy, and we have a great deal of pleasure in laying it before our subscribers.

Cypripedium insigne Mooreanum does not differ in the slightest degree from the robust habit of the typical plant, except that the flower spikes are longer than in the type, growing well and flowering under most different treatment, and in soils of the most opposite nature; thus, we recently saw a fine plant of *C. insigne*, bearing between twenty to thirty flowers, growing as a window plant at the residence of an enthusiastic amateur, some few miles distant from London. It was potted in peat, good garden mould of a somewhat leafy nature, sand, and a small portion of bone dust added to the whole. The plant was in excellent health, and had occupied the position about three years, this being the second year of its flowering. In the same neighbourhood, we saw a plant in a similar condition growing in a gentleman's stove house, and which was also blooming in great profusion, bearing some thirty-three flowers. This plant was potted in fibrous peat and light turfy loam and sphagnum moss, some small-sized nodules of charcoal being inserted at the time of potting. These plants, treated in quite a different manner, were equally beautiful, and gave their possessors equal pleasure; in both cases, however, the drainage was perfect, and the plants were kept scrupulously clean.

AWARDS MADE BY THE ORCHID COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
FOR THE THIRD QUARTER IN THE YEAR, 1891.

JULY 21st. *First Class Certificate* to Hamar Bass, Esq., Byrkley, for *Cattleya Hardyana*, Bass's var. The flower was very large, sepals and petals broad, and deep rosy lilac, the lip deep purple, having the throat orange-yellow, streaked with deep rich purple.

Botanical Certificate to Messrs. B. S. Williams and Son for *Cochlioda Noetzliana*, flowers deep orange-vermilion coloured.

AUGUST 11th. *First Class Certificate* to Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Chelsea, for *Cypripedium macrochilum*, a cross between *C. longifolium* and *Uropedium Lindenii*, a curious hybrid, having the general appearance of *C. Wallisii*, but with a very much larger lip.

First Class Certificate to Messrs. Veitch and Sons for *Cypripedium Corningianum*, a hybrid between *C. superbiens* and *C. philippinense*, having somewhat the appearance of *C. Morganiae*, but smaller, the petals much spotted.

Award of Merit to Thomas Statter, Esq., Rawtenstall, for *Dendrobium Statterianum*, a supposed hybrid between *D. crystallinum* and *D. Bensoniae*; and the same award to Messrs. Seeger and Tropp, Dulwich, for *Cattleya Gaskelliana speciosa*, sepals and petals pure white, lip white, having a bright crimson blotch on the front lobe, which is bordered with white, throat rich yellow.

Botanical Certificate to Messrs. Charlesworth, Shuttleworth and Co., Bradford and Clapham, for *Odontoglossum Hinnisii*, a very pretty species with yellow and brown flowers.

(Continued under Plate 446.)