



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Springer

---

Review: [untitled]

Author(s): Richard Evans Schultes

Source: *Economic Botany*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1965), pp. 431-432

Published by: Springer on behalf of New York Botanical Garden Press

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4252676>

Accessed: 13/08/2010 09:45

---

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Please contact the publisher regarding any further use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublisher?publisherCode=nybg>.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).



New York Botanical Garden Press and Springer are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Economic Botany*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

markable accomplishments. The organization has published a number of beautiful books as part of its non-profit effort as a public trust. This volume, dedicated to the preservation of the redwood forests, represents, without any question, one of its most splendid publications and hopefully will do much towards increasing our understanding and defense of these endemic treasures. For the redwoods, "belonging to all the world and which the public has thought were saved, are in their last years unless the public learns of the peril to them."

The book is a photographic work of art, the very best that the camera can do. Most of the photographs—and, I believe, the most striking—are black-and-white; yet there are half a dozen or so coloured ones, grouped together in the middle of the book, that give the reader an eerie unreal thrill and, consequently, add substantially to the whole effect. There are nine sources of the photographs, the main one being Philip Hyde himself, an accomplished and experienced conservation photographer. I can say, with all truth, that I have never seen and read a photographic book with illustrations so meaningful, so moving, so marvelous.

Francois Leydet, a newswriter turned author on natural history and conservation, has contributed a most stirring commentary to accompany the photographic record. No review of this writing can do it justice—only a leisurely and studious losing of oneself in the flowing words can bring out the musical beauty of Leydet's message. Sadly enough, it is an urgent and dire message, for "we have caused many of these great trees," which we had thought were preserved forever, "to be lost for all time." His plea—for the whole book is a plea—is divided into nine sections: "Life of an immortal"; "Redwoods through the ages"; "Titans of the coast"; "The hand of man"; "Conservation or preservation?"; "Saving' the redwoods"; "How safe are the saved?"; "Project for the nation"; and "Epilogue—or Epitaph?"

The book and its message lack the exaggerated spirit of so many modern peddlers of fear. Yet not for one instant does the reader lose the feeling of urgency to pitch in and help if he could. Restrained but sincere to the end, Leydet's final words are a true prayer: "We are grateful for the pres-

ervation that was achieved, even though it did not quite come up to the dream. We ourselves may yet earn the gratitude of those to come, if we become aroused at the desecration of the world's finest forest, *if* we bring the weight of our collective indignation—our own and that of the government that serves us—to bear, *if* we insist that the ever-living Sequoias shall indeed live on."

Every American should be exposed to this book. School libraries should display it conspicuously. It should be discussed and reviewed across the nation by radio and television. Perhaps it might form the basis of a motion picture of truly devotional moment. The Sierra Club has given the nation and the world a superb contribution. My one hope is that, in addition to the artistry and love that shine through the reading and photographs of *The Last Redwood*, forceful practical results will come from its efforts and that, in the words of Stewart L. Udall's foreword, a Redwoods National Park may be established "if the eloquent words and pictures of this book arouse enough lovers of the land before it is too late."

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES  
*Botanical Museum  
 Harvard University  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts*

**An Account of the Botanic Garden in the Island of St. Vincent from its Establishment to the Present Time.** Lansdown Guilding. 47 pp. illus. Reprinted in photo-offset, from the 1825 Glasgow edition, for the Arnold Arboretum by the Murray Printing Company, Forge Valley, Massachusetts, 1964. \$5.00.

The reprinting of this delightful report, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the oldest botanical garden in the West Indies, will interest economic botanists in a vital way. This garden was intimately associated with the introduction into the West Indies, sometimes even to the New World tropics, of some of the most important economic plants, especially spices. Nutmeg, black pepper, cloves, cinnamon, turmeric, and cocoa were all grown here for the first time in the British West Indies, and it was to St. Vincent that Captain William Bligh (of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame) first took the breadfruit brought

back from the Pacific. This report discusses at length a number of these useful plants and others and their introductions. A catalogue of plants growing in the garden in 1806 lists 1377 items under the following categories: "Commercial and Medicinal," "Esculents," "Medicinals," "In Economy," "Valuable Woods," and "Exotics, Curious or Ornamentals."

The Arnold Arboretum has indeed done economic botany and the history of neotropical botany and horticulture a true service in making available this account that has so long been a collectors' item. It will be a useful and valuable adornment to many a botanical library.

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES  
*Botanical Museum  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

**How to Know the Cacti.** E. Yale Dawson. 158 pp. illus. W. C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa, 1963. \$2.25 spiral, \$2.75 cloth.

This book represents another in the excellent series of "How to Know" books. In it the author succeeds quite well in his attempt to make possible the identification of the more common species of cacti of the United States and the Caribbean Islands. The approach to the identification is through a single dichotomous key and pictures, supplemented by distributional data. The key is well arranged and should present no difficulty to anyone having some understanding of botany.

The introduction discusses the geographical distribution of cacti and the method used in preparing herbarium specimens. A section describing the morphology of cacti is well done, although the author uses the terms "retuse" for "retorse" and "inserted" for "included."

As part of the "Pictured-Key Nature Series" this book is amply illustrated. The author acknowledges that many of the pictures are photo-reproductions of those in the Britton and Rose publication, *The Cactaceae*, or are taken from the works of George Engelmann. Although the original prints are clear, many of the reproductions tend to be dark with a considerable loss of detail.

In the author's words the nomenclature follows quite closely that used by Britton and Rose. In one case the parallelism is too close for Dr. Dawson has continued to use the tautonym *Pereskia pereskia*, which is not admissible according to the International Rules of Nomenclature.

Although the book is well written and will be useful to the cactus enthusiast, I feel that, in a publication where illustrations are so important, the pictures do not uphold the standards set in previous works of this series.

CHARLES T. MASON, JR.  
*University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona*

**Cacti and Succulents.** Walter Haage; translated and revised by E. E. Kemp. 264 pp. illus. E. P. Dutton, New York, 1963. \$10.00.

This book has been prepared for the succulent fancier by a commercial grower of cacti who has had long experience with indoor culture. Consequently the chapters on cultivation of cacti and succulents are all concerned with pot and greenhouse culture and nothing is said of the outdoor use or landscape value of these plants. Even so, the succulent fancier fortunate enough to live in a part of the world where he may indulge in outdoor growing will find the listing and description of many succulents a useful reference. The book is copiously illustrated not only with line drawings but a number of excellent color reproductions of photographs which, with the descriptions, will facilitate identification of many of the more commonly cultivated succulents. The reader will find throughout the book interesting bits of information concerning the origins of the plant names, native uses, notes of distribution and native habitats, and cultural notes.

MILDRED E. MATHIAS  
*University of California  
Los Angeles, California*

**Grasses of the Texas Coastal Bend.** Frank W. Gould and Thadis W. Box. 189 pp. illus. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1965. \$3.25.

This book, "made possible through the support and cooperation of the Rob and