



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



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Economic botanists will find chapters 7 and 8 on native uses of plants and species cultivated by Transamazonian settlers to be of special interest.

My only apprehension and suspicion concerns Moran's extensive reliance in good faith on official Brazilian government statistics, which frequently have been the subject of question as to accuracy and completeness. As a scientist with many years of botanical and ethnobotanical field work in the northwest Amazon—an area not yet subjected to any appreciable extent to deliberate and poorly planned "development"—I must, however, congratulate Moran for his attempts to present all sides of most complex problems often made delicate by rampant nationalistic feelings.

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**Tulips. Taxonomy, Morphology, Cytology, Phytogeography and Physiology.** Z. P. Botschantzeva; translated and edited by H. Q. Varekamp. 230 pp. illus. A. A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 1982. \$70.00.

Translated from Russian by H. Z. Varekamp, this welcome monograph was presented by Botschantzeva as her doctoral thesis in 1960. It summarizes nearly 50 years of her research on the genus *Tulipa* conducted at the botanical garden in Tashkent. She was fortunate to have been able in the course of her work to make field observations on, and collections of, most of the species of *Tulipa* from Middle Asia.

Due to their brilliant flowers and use in mass plantings, tulips have an immense popularity in cool climates and are of great economic importance in horticulture.

The monograph provides a taxonomic treatment, geographical distributions, descriptions, and illustrations. Of special interest are 42 plates of watercolor reproductions of the native tulips of Middle Asia originally painted by George Semenov. Over 400 references are cited, the latest published in 1959.

This translation of Botschantzeva's *magnum opus* provides both botanists and horticulturists with the opportunity to become familiar with the wild species of *Tulipa* from Middle Asia. Her cytological and morphological information on wild species should be useful to growers and breeders of tulips. Further, it shares with the western world information that largely before was unavailable on this group of well-loved ornamentals. It should be on the bookshelf of all serious fanciers of tulips.

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**Opium and the People. Opium Use in 19th Century England.** Virginia Berridge and Edward Griffith. 370 pp. illus. Allen Lane/St. Martin's Press, London, 1981. \$25.00.

A thorough documentary on the extent of the use of opiates in England during the last century, this volume fills a niche that has long awaited satisfying. Much of the detailed information set forth is original, hitherto unavailable to all but the most specialized researchers—and even then a good amount here is published for the first time. It is therefore a most worthy historical document in addition to being a readable, meticulously presented, and even in some respects challenging book.

A glance at the bibliography will convince anyone of the depth of research underlying the work. Some 49 newspapers, journals, and annual reports have been consulted. There is an extraordinary bibliography of 180 references to contemporary books, articles, pamphlets, etc.; this is followed by a listing of 157 "secondary sources."

The high quality and complete presentation of a topic so often fraught with prejudice on one side or the other set this book sharply apart from many that have been recently offered on similar topics. It would be advisable if it could be made required reading for

all medical, legal, and social authorities in the United States and Europe charged with research on the contemporary drug problem.

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**Tropical Plants of Taiwan in Color. III.** Feng-Chi Ho. 358 pp. illus. Hengchun Tropical Botanical Garden, Pingtung, Taiwan, 1982. \$40.00 (+ \$1.09 mailing).

Here is another vividly color-illustrated volume in this welcome series. This book, embracing 48 families from Euphorbiaceae to Bignoniaceae, completes the dicotyledons. Volumes 4 and 5 will present monocotyledons and ferns, respectively. As in volumes I and II, the mostly half-page plates are followed by common-name captions in English, botanical names and synonyms, source references, and descriptive text in Chinese. There are more than 530 color pictures (including 58 cultivars of *Codiaeum variegatum*) and also four full-page and ten half-page line drawings. These will speak eloquently to all, and those who need portions of the text translated can surely find someone nearby who will be pleased to render this aid.

The author spent summer 1980 in southeastern Asia photographing and collecting plants and information. He is to be complimented on his coverage and his dedication to this series. Bright-blue clothbound and with pictorial jacket, the book matches the previous volumes. Any botanist or horticulturist will find it a delight to open and hard to close.

I am sorry to point out a few errors in nomenclature. *Ricinus viridis* [*viridis*] (p. 76) should not be treated as a distinct species. It is a cultivar shown by *Hortus III* as *R. zanzibarensis viridis*. *Hortus III* and *RHS Dictionary of Gardening*, together, cite a dozen cultivars varying in leaf/petiole/vein coloration from green or green-and-white to bronze, purple, or scarlet. We see such variation in the naturalized "weed" here in Florida, the immature fruits being green, light-blue, or red and the seeds also differing in hue and size.

The Indian Jujube (p. 182) is *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. It is not the *Z. rotundifolia* Lamk. (*Z. mauritiana* auct. non Lamk.) described in Backer, *Flora of Java*, Vol. 2, p. 82, which Backer, on p. 653, says is correctly *Z. nummularia* (Burm. f.) W. & A. Burm.

The currently approved binomial for the Mabelo or Velvet Apple (p. 196), shown here as Philipoine [Philippine] ebony, is *Diospyros Blancoi* (*D. discolor* Willd. nom. illeg.; *D. philippensis* Gürke), not *D. philippinensis* A.DC.

The common wax-plant [misprinted wox-peant] (p. 283) is certainly *Hoya carnosa* R. Br. (pinkish-white, as in Fig. 3). Figure 2 may be *H. bella* Hook., which is "white with a rose-crimson or violet centre" (*RHS Dictionary*). *Hoya pottsii* Traill is not illustrated; *RHS* describes its flowers as "pale yellow, slightly downy; corona white with yellow center."

Some plants are bereft of common names, which could have been easily added, for example, painted-leaf or wild poinsettia for *Poinsettia cyathophora* (p. 30); blinding tree or blind-your-eyes for *Excoercaria agallocha* (p. 43); red spurge for *Euphorbia cotinifolia* [misprinted *continifolia*] (p. 29); and yellow elder for *Tecoma stans* (p. 322).

Proof-reading was sadly overlooked. There are far too many typographical errors, which should have been corrected in manuscript rather than on the printed page. I shall be glad to send a list of these to anyone requesting it.

In the United States the book is available from Horticultural Books, P.O. Box 107, Stuart, FL 33494.

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