

News and Comment

Michael Cheney 1956-2007

Mike Cheney of Masset, British Columbia, born 4 December 1956, died suddenly of a stroke 2 November 2007. His last published contribution "Cowbane. *Oxypolis occidentalis*, a new native vascular plant species recorded for Canada on the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia" was co-authored with Kendrick L. Mar and appeared in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 121(4): 421-422 after his death. This find reflected a continuing interest in the biota of the Queen Charlotte Islands and the likely survival of some species there in unglaciated portions during the Pleistocene. He was senior author with Patrick Bartier and Barb Johnson of "The vascular plants of Haida Gwaii" published in 2007 by Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, Skidegate, British Columbia, 23 pages. He was involved with the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia and produced a DVD documenting his efforts to control some of the large invasive "Knotweed" species by spraying them with seawater. Mike donated collections of both native and introduced species that were first records for the Queen Charlotte Islands to the herbarium of the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria,

British Columbia. He also collected specimens or tissues for DNA analysis, most recently to be used in a phylogenetic study of *Calamagrostis* in North America by Jeff Saarela at Canadian Museum of Nature, who is collaborating with Paul Peterson at the Smithsonian Institution.

Largely self-taught in botany; Dr. Cheney's passion for natural history was only one dimension of the man. He was also an Old Testament scholar, on the faculty of Athabasca University, and had received a Ph.D. in Old Testament Exegesis and authored "Dust, Wind, and Agony: Character, Speech and Genre in Job: An exploration of the Book of Job and its relationship to Egyptian and Mesopotamian literature" published by Almqvist and Wiksell in 1994. He is survived by his wife and two sons. See the personal tribute by Ken Marr, John Pinder-Moss and Richard Hebda (2008): "Fond memories of Mike Cheney..." BEN (Botanical Electronic News) # 389 [<http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/ben/ben389.html>] summarized here with additional information provided by Ken Marr, Curator of Botany, Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria. British Columbia.

Marine Turtle Newsletter (119)

January 2008. 28 pages: ARTICLES: Directional Location in a Turtle Barnacle, *Chelonibia testudinaria*, on Green Turtles (J. Moriarty, J. A. Sachs & K. Jones) — Sea Turtle Bycatch by *Cerco-fixo* in Cananea Lagoon Estuarine Complex, Sao Paulo, Brazil (S. M. Nagaoka, A. C. V. Bondioli, & E. L. de A. Monteiro-Filho) — Marine Turtle Nest Translocation Due to Hurricane Threat on Reunion Island (S. Ciccone, M. Laurent-Steppler, & J. Bourjea) — Loggerheads off Ecuador: Occurrence, Distribution and Bycatch from the Eastern Pacific Ocean (J. J. Alava) — NOTES: A Stranded Leatherback Sea Turtle in the Northeastern Mediterranean, Hatay, Turkey (B. Sonmez, D. Sammy, S. Yalcin-Ozdilek, O. A. Gonenler, U. Acikbas, Y. Ergun, & Y. Kaska) — Preliminary Study on Sea Turtles in Bintan Island, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia (C. Winata, A. Nadina, & M. Rofik) — Green Turtle Tag Recovery Further Links Northern Brazil to the Caribbean Region (E. H. S. M. Lima, M. T. D. Melo, M. M. Severo, & p. C. R.

Barata — IUCN-MTSG QUARTERLY REPORT — MEETING REPORT — NEWS & LEGAL BRIEFS — RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

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The Library of the Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium Jany Renz

The **Renz library** is one of the finest and most complete orchid libraries, and is a cultural asset, now with a worldwide accessibility. The Renz library is a comprehensive reference collection of orchid literature, which serves as excellent basis for research, conservation and horticulture. The collection contains over 3000 volumes, including an irreplaceable collection of rare and antique folio volumes, which are considered to be among the best preserved copies in the world.

A complete reference of modern literature is a precious resource for the study of orchids, the largest family of flowering plants. The collection of separatas contains of around 5000 scientific articles from many sources and represents an

extraordinary comprehensive and versatile collection of literature on orchids. The complete library was incorporated into the online catalogue of the University Library of Basel, Switzerland, and is now available at <http://aleph.unibas.ch>

Some 90 select illustrated orchid books, containing over 7000 hand-coloured drawings, have been digitized during the last five years and may be accessed online on the website of the Swiss Orchid Foundation <http://www.orchid.unibas.ch> (see 'orchid books'). The rarity, originality and quality of these hand-coloured drawings is an invaluable source of information and proves that scientific precision and artistic efforts are not mutually exclusive. Scientific illustration is irreplaceable for

exact documentation, as neither computer science nor photography is able to present such a large amount of accurate and aesthetic information on a single sheet of paper. A large number of the hand-coloured drawings were used for first descriptions and are thus important for the interpretation of the scientific names of orchids.

In addition to the illustrations, over 52000 photographs of orchids from around the world have been scanned and their identity and names checked: they are available through the website of the Swiss Orchid Foundation. Herbarium specimens, drawings or photographs of all orchids from Europe, Asia Minor, North Africa and North America are available online. Images of many other Asian, Australasian, African, Madagascar and tropical American orchids are also available. This **World Orchid Iconography** an important tool to obtain identifications and nomenclatorial information on orchids.

Furthermore, the Foundation's website provides free access to *BibliOrchidea*, a comprehensive literature database with more than 140 000 entries, covering over 80% of the orchid literature available worldwide. The database is continually expanded and kept up-to-date by the eminent orchid specialist Dr. Rudolph Jenny. Scientists, horticulturists and conservationists, both professional and amateur, can find publications easily, either by searching for a specific title, author or year of publication or by browsing through a comprehensive list of keywords. First descriptions may be found by specifying the taxon (genus, species, subspecies, and variety). All results are accompanied by appropriate images from the Swiss Orchid Foundation database.

Sources of the digitized hand-colored drawings

- A Century of Orchidaceous Plants Vol. 1 (William Jackson Hooker)
- A Second Century of Orchidaceous Plants (James Bateman)
- Album des Orchidées d'Europe Deuxième Edition (Henry Correvon)
- Australian Orchids Vol. 1 & 2 (R. D. Fitzgerald)
- Bluetenanalysen neuer Orchideen, III. Afrikanische und madegassische Orchideen 3 (R. Schlechter)
- Collectanea Botanica (John Lindley)
- Dictionnaire Iconographique des Orchidees (Alfred Cogniaux; Alphonse Goossens)
- Die Orchidaceen Deutschlands, Deutsch-Oesterreichs und der Schweiz (Max Schulze)
- Die Orchidee, Vol. 56(6), 2005 (Otto Möller)
- Die Orchideen Deutschlands und der angrenzenden Gebiete (Erich Nelson)
- Die Orchideen Europas (Helmut Baumann; S. Kuenkele; R.Lorenz)
- Die Orchideen von Java (& Figuren-atlas Vol. 1) (Johann Jacob Smith)
- A Century of Indian Orchids (J. D. Hooker)
- Die Orchideen von Rhodos und Karpathos (C. A. J. Kreutz)
- Die Orchideengattungen Anacamptis, Orchis, Neotinea (H. Kretzschmar; W. Eccarius; H. Dietrich)
- Flore de Madagaskar, Plantes Vasculaires, 49 Famille - Orchidees Vol. 1 & 2 (Joseph Marie Alfred Henri Perrier de la Bâthie,)
- Flore Illustrée de Nice et des Alpes-Maritimes, Iconographie des Orchidees (Jean-Baptiste Barla)
- Forest Orchids of West Africa (C.W. Chew)
- Genera and Species of Orchidaceous Plants Part IV (John Lindley)
- Genera et species orchidearum et asclepiadearum quas in itinere per insulam Java vol. 1-3 (Heinrich Kuhl; Johan Coenraad van Hasselt; Jacob Gijsbertus Samuël van Breda)
- Icones Orchidearum Austro-Africanarum Volume 1 " 2 (Harry Bolus)
- Icones Plantarum Helvetiae (Albertus von Haller)
- Icones Plantarum Japonicarum (Carolus Petrus Thunberg)
- Iconografia delle Orchidee d'Italia (Text: Walter Rossi /Plates: Anne Elderedge Maury)
- Iconographie des Orchidees du Brésil (João Barbosa Rodrigues)
- Illustrations of Orchidaceous Plants (Thomas Moore)
- Lindenia Iconographie des Orchidées (All Volumes) (Lucien Linden & Emile Rodigas)
- Monographie des Orchidées des Iles de France et de Bourbon Vol. 1 (Achille Richard)
- Orchidées du Département de la Marne (Ch. Richon)
- Orchideen Deutschland (Walter Müller; F. Kränzlin)
- Orchidees de Madagascar, Orchidaceae Perrierianae Madagascariensis (Friedrich Richard Rudolf Schlechter)
- Orchidées des Iles Australes d'Afrique Vol. 1 (Louis Marie Aubert du Petit-Thouars)
- Orchids and how to grow them Vol. 1 (Samuel Jennings)
- Orchids of Africa, A Select Review (Text by J. Stewart ; Ill. by E.F. Hennessy)
- Orchids of Australia Vol. 1 (W.H. Nicholls)
- Orchids of South-Africa, Icones Orchidearum Austro-Africanarum, Vol.III (Harry Bolus)
- Paxton's Flower Garden, Vol. 1 - 3 (John Lindley; Joseph Paxton)
- Poeppig et Endlicher, Nova Genera Plantarum Vol. 1 & 2 (Eduardus Poeppig & Stephano Endlicher)
- Reichenbachia. Orchids illustrated and described (Frederick Sander)
- Rumphia Band 4 (Carl Ludwig Blume)
- Select Orchidaceous Plants First - Third Series (Robert Warner)
- Sertum Orchidaceum (John Lindley)
- Southern African epiphytic orchids (John S.Ball)
- The Genus Masdevallia (Florence Woolward)
- The native Orchids of Florida (Carlyle A.Luer)
- The native Orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida (Carlyle A.Luer)
- The Orchid Album Vol. 1 - 11 (Robert Warner; Benjamin Samuel Williams; T.Moore)
- The Orchidaceae of Mexico & Guatemala (James Bateman)
- The Orchids of the Cape Peninsula 2 (Harry Bolus)
- The Orchids of the Sikkim-Himalaya Vol. 1 - 3 (G. King and R. Pantling)
- The Slipper Orchids: Selenipedium, Phragmipedium, Criosanthes, Cyripedium, Paphiopedilum (Esmé Franklin Hennessy)
- Xenia Orchidacea (H.G. Reichenbach, F. Kraenzlin)