Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 4

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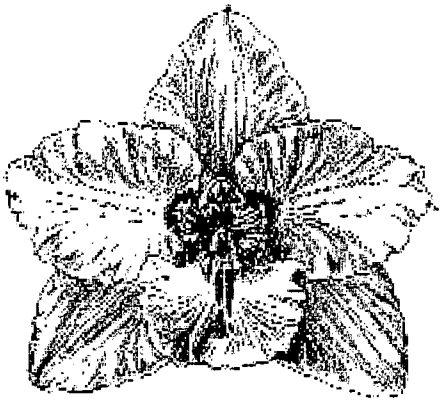

Report on Fall Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

The fall Odontoglossum Alliance meeting was held on Friday, 21 October 2005 in conjunction with the mid America Show and meeting in Mason, Ohio at the King's Island Resort and Conference Center. This is a northern suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. The show set-up was on Friday with the opening on Saturday afternoon. The local members of the Odontoglossum Alliance had a lovely display of a number of beautiful Odontoglossum alliance flowers.

The meeting was held Friday evening in the King's Island Center and was attended by 40 people. Following dinner Bob Burkey gave a very interesting talk on the early Odontoglossum hybrids illustrated by watercolor paintings of RHS awards. Nellie Roberts, who for fifty years painted the RHS awards, did most of the paintings. During the auction one of her watercolors was auctioned. Bob's talk is included in this newsletter. Bob's talk was illustrated by a number of beautiful pictures of old and new odontoglossum hybrids. With this newsletter are illustrations of 18 of the 31 flowers shown at the dinner. I appologize for not providing more of these flowers. Due to my inability to manuever between a power point presentation and the publishing program of Quark Express, I chose the easy way out. Also since color pages are printed at about $1.00/page, I did limit the amount of cost exposure.

Mario Ferrusi and Russ Vernon conducted a discussion with audience participation of experiences with alternate potting material. Both Russ and Marion had pictures of plants grown in coir, the coconut fiber husks. This material comes in several forms. There is a peat like form and a ½ inch chunk form. Both forms need to be washed to bring the salt content down to the level of micro siemens present in the local water. This is because coconuts typically are dropped into salt water and thus absorb salt. Their experiences showed good success using these forms as potting material for Odontoglossum alliance plants.

The President, Steve Beckendorf, described Orchid Conservation Association, OCA. This organization's vision is to purchase land in South America to preserve it for existing and future orchid habitat. The Odontoglossum Alliance was asked to adopt and support the goals of the organization. Funding of the organi-

zation will come from several large contributors, but it is essential to success to have the support of many orchid organizations.

The second topic was a short discussion of the future of the Odontoglossum Alliance. It was noted that for the past several years the membership has been gradually deceasing. Steve suggested one avenue for increasing interest would be to combine with the Oncidium Alliance there by achieve a wider interest group. Several members thought this should be investigated.

The evening concluded with the auction of Alliance material. Many contributed plants and other material. To mention a few were; the Alliance with contributions of copies of the Leon Duvall Book and a Nellie Roberts watercolor, flasks from Steve Beckendorf, Chris Purver (Eric Young Orchid Foundation), Bob Burkey (Kamuela Orchids), and Bob Hamilton; plant material came from many sources including Larry Sanford, Russ Vernon, Bob Burkey, Bob Hamilton, John Miller, and several others. It was a lively auction and in the end the Alliance raised $1465.00.

It was an interesting and enjoyable evening. This showed it possible to have a good Odontoglossum Alliance meeting at other than the west coast.

New Odontoglossum Hybrids: 'Hither and Yon'

By Bob Burkey
Kamuela Greenhouse/Specialty Orchids
Kamuela, Hawaii

One hundred years, a century's time span, is actually a nano-fraction of a blip in the whole scheme of things. But in human terms, a century spans multi-generations. Cataclysmic events can occur, as evidenced by the tumultuous Twentieth Century. Two world wars, a world wide depression, flu epidemic, and super powers on the brink of annihilating the planet through the use of nuclear weapons are just a few events which chronicle our recent past.

What's this have to do with orchids? An historical account of my own may help to answer this question.

Twenty-five years ago I accompanied Andy Easton to England on a quick business trip. "All orchids," he said, "none of this sissy sight-seeing stuff!" And so it was. Andy introduced me to Brian Rittershausen of Burnham Nursery and Keith Andrew, of Keith Andrew Orchids. Both had solid reputations, were active judges on the RHS Orchid Committee, and had achieved well-known success in hybridization.

McBean's had recently acquired the remaining Charlesworth's stock and after a visit, I was hooked. We saw absolutely stunning odontoglossum and odontioda hybrids in the most vivid colors imaginable.

Later, over an afternoon's tea at Brian's nursery, I was absolutely enthusiastic about how odontoglossums had evolved to such near perfection. Brian and Keith were more subdued in their praise. "Ah, what a pity," Brian said, "you couldn't have seen what we once had!"

Twenty-five years later and with the miracle of computer technology, I learned the meaning of Brian's admonition. The RHS's CD-ROM of the Awarded Orchid Paintings Collection reveals the quality of plants which English growers had around the turn of the 1900s. Compiled by Dr. Brent Elliott and photographed by Dr. Henry Oakeley, the solitary little disc includes a vast and rich history of the early days of odontoglossum collection and hybridization.

The wealth of material back then boggles the mind. The gene pools from which those lucky early hybridizers skinny-dipped with delight—now pretty much dried up, historical victims as were so many others.

A cursory analysis of pre-1920 odontoglossum watercolors in the RHS Collection yields some startling results. Odontoglossum crispum has a total of 279 awards listed in the Hermans Index of RHS Orchid Awards (1841-2002). The earliest award to this species was given in 1869. From this date to 1900, one hundred and three awards were granted to crispum! This amount represents 37% of the total number! Unfortunately, almost all of these flowers were not recorded with a watercolor representation. We cannot know how they compared to the successive showings. In the decade between 1900 and 1910, another one hundred Odm. crispums were recognized with awards. This represents 36% of the total awards given to 2002. From 1910 to 1920, twenty nine more crispums were acknowledged. And after 1920 to 2002, forty-seven.

Eighty-three percent of all Odm. crispum awards were granted before 1920. Yes, as it should be, you say, since those later years in the 1800s and early decades in the 1900s were filled with frenzied orchid collection. Certainly Odm. crispum ruled Britainia during this time. Commercial demand drove nurserymen to send the collectors out into the wild and strip it clean. And so they apparently did.

Viewing the available watercolors from the RHS Collection is amazing. The variety of Odm. crispums, if they were indeed taxonomically correct, included color ranges, individual markings/patterns, and sizes/shapes beyond anything we have today in cultivation. Where did they all go? Well, we must remember, even though these plants were plentiful in England less than one hundred years ago, the intermediate years between then and now, were not friendly to perishable objects.

So what did the early English hybridizers do with the vast variety of species stock from which to work?

I isolated the Odontoglossum hybrids between 1910 to 1920 and the Odontioda hybrids between 1917 and 1924. I reasoned these periods would allow sufficient one or two generations from which a judgment could be rendered about the quality of results. What did I find? Brian was right: England was indeed awash with fantastic Odont hybrids which rival anything we have today. From a commercial viewpoint, oh, what could have been!

The registry of awards indicate no one nursery or person dominated in the early 1900s. Two nurseries are mentioned most frequently: McBean's and Armstrong & Brown. Other famous names are listed: Pitt, Sander, Lee, Bolton, Mrs. Carl Holms, Holford, Fowler, Bird, and Colman, just to mention a few. What incredible fun they must have had, undoubtedly rushing 'hither and yon' to see and buy the newest seedlings. Can we imagine the delight they must have had upon the flowering of these truly NEW hybrids? And all captured by that watercolorist extroidinaire: Nellie Roberts.

Certainly odontoglossums and odontiodas remain, a hundred years later, among the most beautiful of orchids.

It is probably fair to say that the size and flower counts of modern hybrids exceed those of the past. We've had the time to try to perfect the culture. And no one would disagree that modern parents like Oda. Joe's Drumm and Oda. Saint Clement are producing offspring with sharp patterns, round shapes, and neon-like colors. And a few odonts and odontiodas still garner an award or two around the AOS judging centers.

But in comparison to the pre-1920 English days, can we truly say we have significantly improved upon those first few decades of hybridizing? Certainly we can nod 'yes' in other genera: cymbidiums, cattleyas, and phalaenopsis the differences are profound. But the yardstick is lacking with odonts.

We are certainly dealing with a limited gene pool when we consider simply Odm. crispum and/or nobile lines. But the variations which once existed in these two species, as evident in the early RHS Watercolors, could have afforded hybridizers with more thematic material from which to work. Miltoniopsis, for example, is certainly limited in species input, but many variations exist with that 'theme'.

Some could say that existing crispum lines are too homogeneous. The Kew scientists have exclaimed that soon the genus of Odontoglossum will be no more. Their DNA research will probably put the final nail into the coffin and then all hell will break loose. Can you imagine a world without "odonts?"

Today, when hybridizers speak about making new odont hybrids, they probably are referring to intergenerics. Most hybridizers have a commercial vein to mine and although variations on the same theme still result in the creation of beautiful flowers, many customers just can't grow crispum hybrids on. So we throw this and that into the mix to try to make odonts more customer-friendly. Thirty years ago it was odontocidiums. Then wilsonaras. Then vuylstekearas. Then beallaras and colmanaras. And now hamiltonaras!! Where will it stop?

Where do we go from here? Other genera push the envelope, why not odont breeding? Spotted cyms, candy-striped dendrobiums, Harlequin phals, outrageous waterfalls on miltoniopsis, and novelty tri-colored markings in cattleyas. What can we do in odonts? Maybe dark maroon red segments on large full shaped flowers with a solid crystalline white lip. Or how about clear and solid contrasting colors on the petals and the sepals. Or how about breeding peloria into seedling populations to accentuate the clown-like patterns evident in other genera?

There is still room for imagination in odont breeding lines. With the wealth of related species and their resulting intergeneric hybrids, the sky really is the limit. But we had better do it fast. The GMO Revolution lurks in our immediate future. Gene splicing will put whatever the customer wants: dark blue branching five inch odonts with fragrance, for example. When that time comes, I hope someone will remain to think about those early days around 1910 England.

Life Time Achievement Awarded to Keith Andrew

The Odontoglossum Alliance Life time Achievement award was presented to Keith Andrew on 16 September 2005 at the London Orchid show opening and preview. Chris Purver, Director of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation made the presentation. Keith responded with a short acceptance speech emphasizing his appreciation for the award and his dedication to continuing creating new Odontoglossum alliance hybrids. In the color pages are pictures of the award ceremony and some of those present. In the color page are pictures of Keith Andrew, Dr. Henry Oakeley (Chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee), Chris Purver (Curator of the EYOF and RHS Committee member, Mr. Brian Rittershausen (Burnham Nurseries and RHS Orchid Committee member).

Pictures on page 10.

Upper left	Left to right: Chris Purver EYOF, Keith Andrew Award Receipent
Upper right	Keith Andrew
Center left	Keith Andrew
Center right	Keith Andrew
Lower left	Left to right: Dr. Henry Oakeley (Chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee), Keith, Chris Purver (Curator EYOF and RHS Committee member)
Lower right	Brian Rittershausen (Burnham Nurseries and RHS Committee member), Keith and Chris Purver

Request for Help with the Newsletter

I can use some help with the Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter.
If you have any suggestions for material. Please send them to me. This could include comments for improvements in what we are currently doing. I would like your article and if you send it in, I will print it.
I urge each member to try and write some material for inclusion in the newsletter. This can be most anything having to do with the Alliance.
I will provide a list of possible suppliers or nurseries that sell Odontoglossum alliance plants. At the same time if you are in this category, please let me know and give me a few lines on the material you offer for sale.
We would like to increase membership in the alliance. If you have ideas for doing so or ideas on how to retain members please send those in as well.
Tell me what you would like to have as the annual meeting . Where would you like it to be held? What kind of a program do you find interesting and informative. Should we have a dinner as part of the program? Is the auction an interesting and fun event? If so what would you like to have in the auction? I am here in Westport, Massachusetts about 60 miles south of Boston. There are few orchid growers in town and even fewer growers of Odontoglossum Alliance plants. I think there may be one other person in town. It's orchid lonely down here. While I enjoy growing and producing the newsletter, I can use some help. I hope you as a member will feel the obligation to once a year contribute something to the newsletter or to the organization. So please send it in to me:

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Or
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Robert Hamilton's Conversation with Delfina de Araujo at the Dijon, France WOC

Robert Hamilton is a lifelong resident of Berkeley, California. He is presently the Equipment and Facilities Manager of the University of California, Berkeley Micro fabrication Laboratory. He currently breeds, flasks and grows Odontoglossum hybrids and species with an eye to preserving and improving. He began to specialize in the genus in 1980.

ON: In your lecture, you said that the gene pool of the premier plants of the last century's species would be lost. Why and how can it be avoided?

RH: The cause of the loss of this extraordinary gene pool is simply lack of interest in growing hybrids orchids. When a plant is dead, it is dead and so is its genome! Today, orchid species dominate hobbyists' interests. There are several reasons for this. One is the rapid devastation of our rain forests and tropics. It is likely hobby growers can do little to save the biodiversity of these regions but they will try. It is natural to be heroic. I do not think most hobby growers spend much time thinking about the origins of hybrid orchids or that they contain the genes of extraordinary species found in the early days of collecting. This gene pool is no longer available from the wild.

Also, I have noticed thee are fewer and ewer young people interested in hobbies. In most parts of industrial societies where thee is the kind of wealth needed to support a hobby, land is expensive, zoning ordinances are becoming more prohibitive and there is less leisure time. The climates at northern latitudes require greenhouse conditions and greenhouses are an expensive proposition. I think most younger people are mostly interested in "bought stuff". i.e. consumer goods. As noted, orchid collections cannot survive the loss of interest by one generation. Botanic gardens are, for the most part preoccupied with preserving and cataloguing dead stuff. There are no extraordinary Odontoglossum collections in public gardens. I understand the Heidelberg Botanic gardens held a good collection of Odontoglosssum that included Leonore Bockmuhl's (author of the excellent "Odontoglossums – A Monograph and Iconograph") plants. The collection has not faired well. I hear most of the collection has gone to orchid heaven – in less than one generation of "culture"! I have seen the "Living Herbarium" at Kew Gardens. I do not think this is an appropriate name without adding the adverb "barely"! Make no mistake, Kew is a great orchid resource; however like most botanic gardens are not good orchid growers. Meistem culture has also made a great number of great orchids available en mass. Thus, to many people orchid hybrids are pedestrian. Meristems have greatly increased, the numbers of orchids but lessened the attraction for hybrid orchids. Finally, a lot of tropical orchids can find homes in gardens that have conducive climates, such as Vandas in Florid. They will grow in that climate with little care. This is not true for odontoglossums. There are few areas of the world that are suitable for hosting Odontoglossums without a greenhouse.

ON: Which species are you talking about?

RH: There are only a hand full of species that have been used to produce the bulk of today's Odontoglossum.

These include crispum, nobile, harryanum, luteo-purpureum, spectassimum, and hallii. If one includes the artificial genus Odontioda then we need only add Cochlioda noezliana with its intense red color.

ON: Which are the desirable characteristics to be transmitted to the progeny?

RH: The obvious characteristics are size, color, and pattern. The not so obvious ones are vigor, disease resistance and cultural latitude. Finally, fertility is needed for future progeny so "ploidy" or chromosome numbers are important.

ON: Odontoglossum crispum has more than 6600 hybrids in 8 generation. Odontoglossum harryanum, almost 6000 also in 8 generations. Odontoglossum lueo-purpureum more than 2000 in 11 generations. Are they the species most used in hybridizing?

RH: There are several paths for hybridizing. E can try and maintain and improve the type of Odontoglossums we have in cultivation. This is one path. Another is to develop new combinations and looks. Growers of older plants often find many clones are difficult to maintain in cultivation. I do not know if this is the result of disease such as viruses or genetics – perhaps both! Many great first bloom plants never go on to be great plants. This is true for all orchid hybrids, not just odonts. In English we have an idiom, "a one trick pony". (This may or may not translate well). Believe we must identify great plants and maintain a "core" collection of these plants. We call plants that breed true, "lines" so we need to preserve the great lines for whites, whites with spots, patterns, yellows, albas, branching, etc. In addition, there are large numbers of species never used before in hybridization. Many growers like to try new combinations. I do my share of these. This is gambling with lots of failures but also some outstanding successes. Anyone who pursues new breeding paths for money is a fool. The legitimate reasons for making such crosses is for beauty, love and adventure! It helps to be a bit crazy, too.

ON: There are some species that have just a few old hybrids such Odontoglossum blandum (Odontoglossum Cookeanum – 1856, Odontoglossum Blando-nobile, 1910 and Odontoglossum Tacki, by 1917. Odontoglossum gloriosum (25 hybrids) Why? The results we not so good as expected?

RH: Perhaps the goal of breeding at that time was different than today? Size was a huge issue in the early days of breeding. Much breeding was pursued for the purpose of awards. As you imply, we should revisit many species including blandum. I believe blandum was lost from collections for some time. It has only become available with its discovery in Ecuador. Blandum is in a group Bockmuhl lumps as the "erectolobata". This group also includes cirhossum and praestans, both of which have gone on to produce some terrific, novel hybrids. Keith Andrew of England explored many orchid "underdogs" such as cirhossum with great results such as Oda Startrek! The world needs more hybridizers with Keith's vision. Almost 15 years ago I remade a cirhossum cross, cirhossum x nobile. I gifted the bottles to Sequoia Orchids. They grew hundreds of the cross, Odm Venillia. This is a commercial nursery. When Venillia first began flowering I got a call. "Why did you make this cross? It is too small to attract attention". Six months later I got a call. "Will you remake the cross? It is really popular! Venillia has gone on to make some wonderful plants such as Odm Roy Wittwer.

ON: There are some other species that have an interesting characteristic such as Odontoglossum crinitum (a fimbriatum white and red lip) however, there is just one hybrid registered. What is he reason, is due to the number of the flowers, from thee to five?

RH: I can only guess. Low flower count is not an advantage. There are also only handfuls of Odontoglossum breeders and there are not that many crosses being made at present. Propagating Odontoglossums require flasking and this can be a substantial bottleneck because only a few labs really do a good job at raising Odontoglossum bottles. Also, the aggregate market for new seedlings is really very small. Growers don't want to take the risk of raising a crop to see what happens. Crinitum is a beautiful flower. I say, let's give it a go!

ON: It is said that this genus has almost 180 species coming from the mountains of South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru). Which country is richest in species?

RH: Colombia has the best of the odonts with Ecuador next.

ON: Which are the conditions of the habitat?

RH: Cool, temperate conditions with even rainfall and narrow temperature fluctuations.

ON: The species grow at high elevation (more than 1500 m altitude until 3500 m altitude) however there are some intergeneric hybrids that grow reasonable well in little warm conditions. Do you think is possible to have intergeneric hybrids with have a wonderful blooming under hot or warm conditions keeping the wonderful characteristic shape of the flower?

RH: The pursuit warmth-tolerant odont has been going one for more than 100 years. Most of the good growing intergenerics are fairly close to the species, i.e. 3-4 generations at most. When one crosses plants from warmer locations one is combining plants which have very distant genetic relationships. Progeny from this type of breeding often does not go on to breed well. When one looks at the huge number of crosses breeders like George Black of England, W.W.Moir of Hawaii and Bob Dugger in Southern California made it is really astonishing. Yet, few of these that have gone on to success. Growers such as Dr. Howard Liebman, Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchid and Milton Carpenter of Everglades Orchids have done some excellent work. I believe we will do more excellent work and tools such as colchicines, an alkaloid used to double chromosome numbers will be useful at restoring fertility to some of the odd, disparent crosses we make. A plant really intrigues me is Miltonia spectabilis. I have been knocked over by some of the intergenerics it has made. I visited Gerald McCraith in Melbourne, Australia. He had a hybrid named for his wife, Vuyl Ellen McCraith (spectabilis var. bicolor x Oda Echanson). It is outstanding with branching spikes and high flower count. Gerald passed on some advice. Most of us have used the color form moreliana (now elevated to species rank). Perlite and I have both used the 4n version. The problem with moreliana is low flower count and the flowers bloom at the end of the stems. McCraith notes the normal spectabilis 2n does not have the same issues. When one combines it with a modern polyploid Odontoglossum or odontiodas the spectabilis influence is lessened and the problem of low flower count overcome.

ON: Do you think that the analyses by DNA will provoke important changes in the classification of this genus?

RH: Probably but a no-care for me. "A rose by another name is still as rose".

ON: What can you say to help people to cultivate this genus?

RH: Have a good income and avoid the orchid judging systems. My profession is as an engineer and I manage

a semiconductor research laboratory for the university of California at Berkeley. Orchids are my hobby. Like most plant breeders luck is an important component in making good crosses. It pays to start with great plants and I have those as a collector. All plant breeders make mistakes so it is good to have a garbage can in the greenhouse. One gets better credit it you throw away the bad plants before anyone else sees them. It is fatal to try and sell them; your reputation will be lost. The most important trait in plants is vigor. Cull the poor growes in the beginning. You will save bench space and never miss them. Purchase plants from reputable growers and be wary of "specials". In the end most great breeders have no special insight. They just work hard workers, make lots of crosses and know what to throw away.

ON: Thank you very much, Robert Hamilton.

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Orchid Conservation Alliance

by Steve Beckendorf

I've been interested in and concerned about orchid conservation for a number of years. I worry that despite the enormous increase in orchids grown for both commecial interests and individual pleasure (obsession?), there has been little done to conserve orchids or their habitat in the wild. As a small step, I proposed at our recent meeting in Cincinnati that the Odontoglossum Alliance endorse the efforts of an organization called the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). the primary objective of the OCA is to promote the conservation of wild orchid species in their native habitats. To do this the OCA hopes to pool resources from orchid societies, individual growers, and others with a desire to help preserve orchid habitat. Because orchids are most efficiently conserved in situ, the OCA plans to use its funds to directly purchase prime orchid habitat.

Before starting a fund raising campaign, the OCA directors (I'm one of them) decided to seek the endorsement of orchid societies and organizations that agree with our goals. We thought this would give the fund-raising letters more credibility and legitmacy. When I mentioned this proposal at the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting, there was some discussion and then unanimous agreement that the OA would endorse the OCA. Several other groups have now made the same endorsement. These include the Orchid Digest Corporation, the Mid Americas Orchid Congress, the Newport Harbor Orchid Society, and several orchid growers in the San Diego area. I'm very pleased that others, particulary the Odontoglossum Alliance members present at Cincinnati, agree with me about the urgency of opposing the devastating orchid habitat destruction curently underway around the globe. Thank you very much for this endorsement. You will probably hear more about the OCA as the fund raising begins.
Steve Beckendorf. Prseident Odontoglossum Alliance

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

The Board of Directors and its Chairperson have an advisory function in the sense that they do advise the membership and its elected officers such as the president if and when troubling issues surface. In my opinion the time has come to address such a problem.

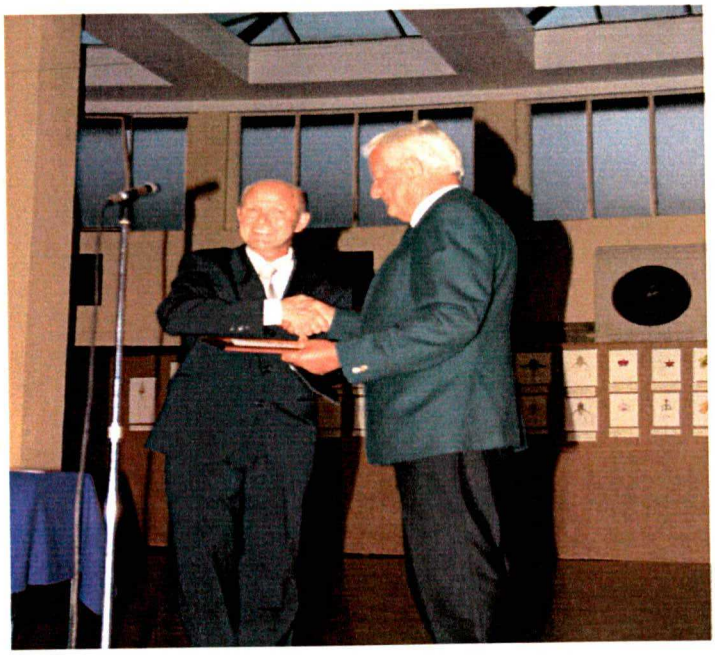
During the early years the OA was a lively group of odont fanciers. I recall with fondness the meeting we had in Vancouver (a long time ago) that featured several talks including one by Don Wimber. The OA Newsletter presented a number of interesting articles that were later published by John Miller as a Compendium. I enjoyed reading papers by Howard Liebman on cyrtochilums and by Bob Hamilton on endangered hybrids. The discovery of *Odm. povedanum* and articles by Sig Dalstrom made quite a splash.

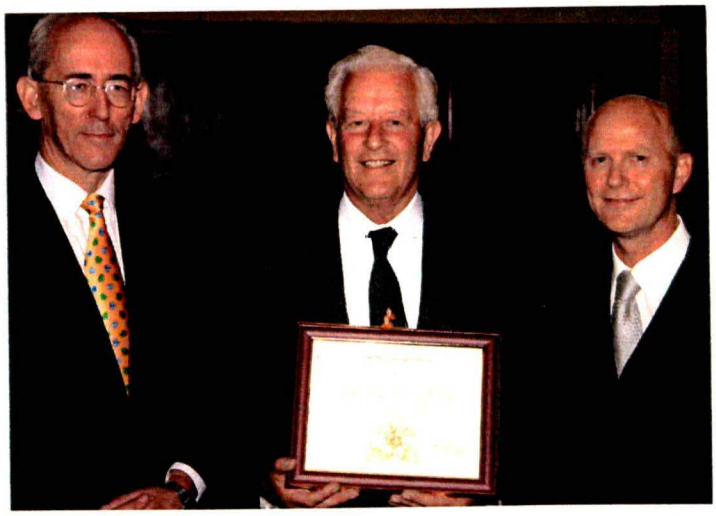
Over the last few years I notice with dismay the diminishing of these activities. It seems to me that an alliance such as the OA is alive and well only as long as these activities flourish. As examples of such flourishing alliances I quote among others the Cymbidium Society of America, the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, the Pleurothallid Alliance and the Slipper Orchid Alliance. They all have frequent and regular meetings and a well-written, interesting newsletter. By comparison the OA is plainly a dead organization. This is mostly due to the lack of and disinterest in shared activities by the OA's leadership as well as its general membership.

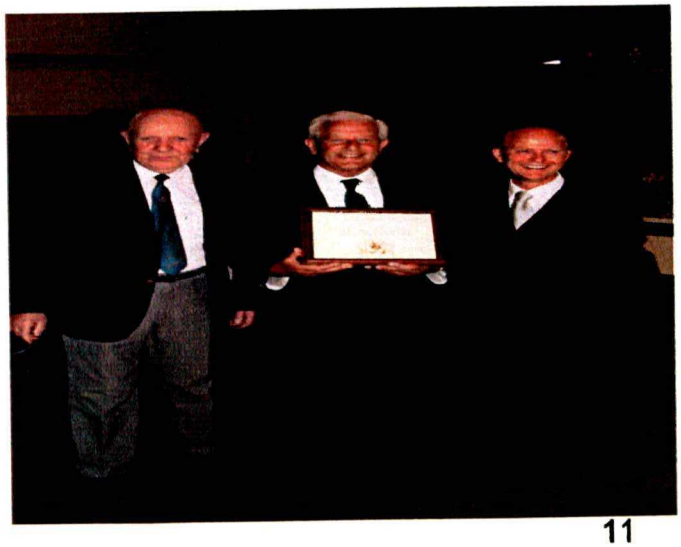
Will the OA reverse its current lack of activities and again become a viable organization? Well, that is up to all of us, in particular the leadership. If the OA remains in its current state of deep sleep the issue of dissolving the alliance arises. In this case the OA members may wish to find a new and more attractive home elsewhere. Most of us are members of the AOS and we could contribute to Orchids by writing about our experiences with and enjoyment of odonts. The Cymbidium Society (with a membership of about 1 000) is dedicated to the appreciation and culture of all outdoor growing orchids and may be a happy new home. The International Oncidiinae Alliance is a one-man operation and you may want to look at its newsletter before joining.

These are my personal thoughts and may not be shared by other member of the OA and its Board of Directors.

Helmut Rohrl

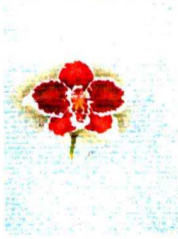




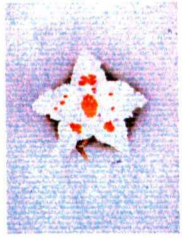


Some early Odm. crispum varieties no longer in cultivation?

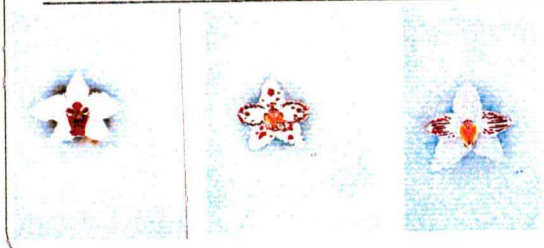
Odm. crispums: circ. 1910



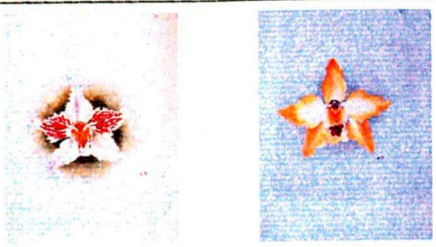
Different early crispums



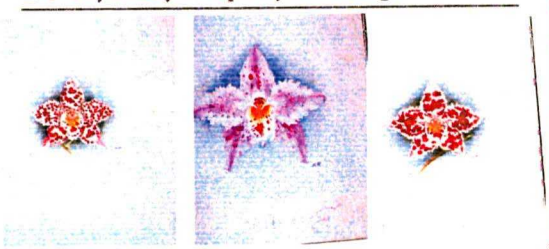
Early crispum types



More crispums from early 1900s

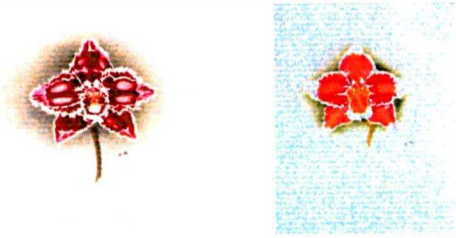


Color, size, shapes, shadings



(Left) Odm. White Admiral ('25)
(Right) Odm. Syrinx 'Helius' ('24)

(Left) Odm. Red Admiral ('20)
(Right) Odm. Phillipsianum ('21)



(Left) Odm. Eldorado ('20)
(Right) Odm. Miguelito 'Fasey' ('20)

(Left) Odm. Xanthinum ('24)
(Right) Odm. Radiant ('19)


(Left) Oda. Pittiae 'Empress' ('27)
(Right) Oda. Orestes 'Majestica' ('25)


(Left) Oda. Nubia ('26)
(Right) Oda. Joiceyi 'Splendens' ('21)


(Left) Oda. Gatton Glory ('20)
(Right) Oda. Madeline 'McBean's' ('21)


Golden Harry



Vuyls. Cambria 'Plush' (C. '31)


AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

Providing Global Leadership in Orchids For 80 Years

16700 AOS Lane
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Tel: 561-404-2000 ~ Fax: 561-404-2100
Email: The AOS@aos.org
Web: orchidweb.org

September 9, 2005

Mr. John E. Miller
The Odontoglossum Alliance
P.O. Box 38
Westport Point, MA 02791

Dear John,

On behalf of the AOS's Trustees, Officers and members, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for your extremely generous donation of $500.00. Per your direction, your gift will be utilized to support the prestigious Robert Dugger Award. A copy of this acknowledgement will be sent to Mr. William A. Baker, whose support and generosity made this contribution possible.

Such support means <u>everything</u> to our nonprofit organization. Without it, our endeavors to reach the high standard of service demanded by our members and the greater orchid community would be for naught. The end result of such generosity is, of course, an increased capability of exceeding your expectations of enhanced programs and services from the AOS. And that, I assure you, is our ever-present goal.

The entire amount of the Odontoglossum Alliance's gift will be held in accounts tied to your specific designation, with none of these funds, nor goods or services, enuring back to you in whole or in part for the above-noted donation. Your contribution will, of course, be acknowledged in a future issue of *Orchids*, our award-winning monthly magazine.

We're honored that the Odontoglossum Alliance's members have put such faith in the AOS, and the Society's volunteer leadership pledges to justify your tremendous support. If there is anything whatsoever — goodwill or service — that the AOS can provide, please don't hesitate to contact me personally.

On behalf of present and future generations of orchid growers and orchid lovers, all of whom will benefit by your generosity, I again extend our most heartfelt appreciation for your support.

Sincerely,

Lee S. Cooke
Executive Director
American Orchid Society

PS ... The grounds and greenhouses of the AOS Visitors Center and Botanical Garden are flourishing! I invite and encourage your members to visit whenever possible ...

Cc: William A. Baker