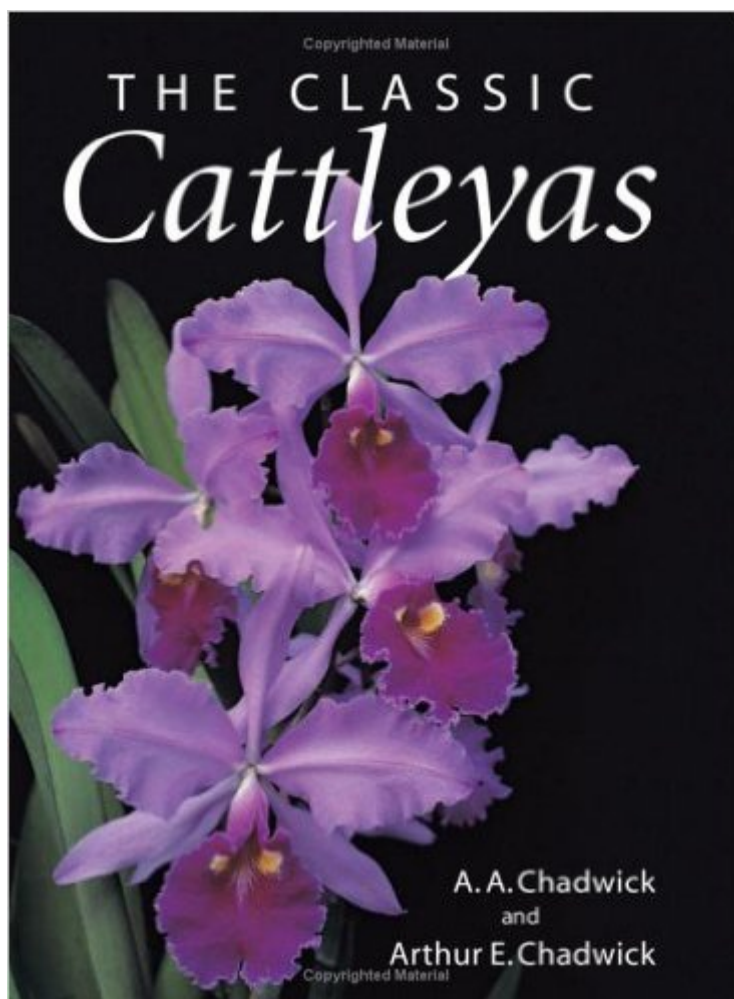


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The Classic Cattleyas



Synopsis

In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the color of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilizing, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a commercial grower and as a collector, I eagerly awaited the publication of this book. The book does not contain passages on every *Cattleya* out there, but for the species selected as "Classic" it is an invaluable resource. I also appreciated that Chadwick did not bow down to what I consider to be the over burdensome and ill conceived new classification system. Chadwick articles are frequently featured in the *American Orchid Society* magazine and I would consider him one of the foremost authorities on the subject. This book is very readable for the everyday collector and does not get overly involved in hyper-technical scientific jargon. Plus, the photography is beautiful. Anyone who enjoys orchids, or is interested in their history, would love this book.

This is an outstanding book on the *Cattleya*'s, but who would expect any less from the Chadwick family, orchid growers par excellent. Beautiful color photos on nearly every page, and a good

section on culture as well. One of my favorite orchid books. 5 stars!!!!

I always wondered about the origins of this popular group of orchids, and I always wanted to see a collection of photos that would chronologically represent which species came first and which ones followed. This book fulfills my expectations about this history.

Very excellent treatment given to the history of the classic cattleyas as they were found in South America and brought into Europe and were classified. Gives thorough information on each as to culture, growing and blooming seasons. Also provides detail information on funguses and pests. Also highlights the key man-made hybrids. A one-stop shop for just about anything you could want to know.

This is a fine book for lovers of orchids. It is, first and foremost, a history, even though there are rudimentary chapters on botany and culture. Cattleyas began the orchid-mania that swept Europe and this book charts that passion and the subsequent struggles to cultivate, propagate and hybridize. The classic cattleyas are described in great detail -- including brief cultural advice for the grower.

Actually, this is the first book I bought from .com. Before I read this book, the only I learnt about Cattleyas was an old Chinese book called "Exotic Orchids" since my childhood. The authors introduced 17 so called "unifoliate" or "large-flowered" Cattleyas and 6 Brazilian Lealias but they insisted on "Cattleyas" through a chronicle in discovery. Each species has its unique distributing habitat, growing characteristic, and flowering season, so the Chadwicks instructed different culture techniques for each Cattleya. From the description of story-telling, I could almost see the imagery of Victorian Era that orchid hunters were searching orchids in cloudy forests of Andes ridges or in smog jungles of basin; the rich Esquires were eager for a precious orchid from auction in London. Many astonishing orchids were showing off in hundreds of "stove houses", but even more precious orchids were dying in shipments across the Atlantic Ocean! I think that we shall protect these beautiful species from destroying rain forests and not buying them from wild. Like the authors said about *L. tenebrosa*: Today, it is like the elusive "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow-- it is there, but it is not there. Of the sibling cross still being made, there is always hope that some of the old genes may be present and re-appear to unlock grandeur of the past. Keep them in their own habitats, someday we will discover this great gene without taking it back!

For those who enjoy the beautiful of the Royal Flower of the Imperial Europe, this is the book. For those who look for beautiful photos with true colors of the Cattleyas, this is the book. For those who love the history of how the Cattleya became the Star of the Orchids, this is the book. For those who want to study and make success in growing the large-flowered Cattleyas, this is the book. For those who accept that Brazilian Laelias are now living in the Botanical Orphanage of the Cattleya genus (and admit that "eight polinias in this large Brazilian species are just a trivial difference"), this is the book. And for those who try to find in this book the bifoliate, multi-flowered Cattleyas, well, try to consider another book. This book lacks of them. Alejandro E. Taborda

Just what I wanted! "The Classic Cattleyas" by the father and son team of Arthur A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick, gives the reader the historic past of each orchid's discovery, as well as, its natural origins and habitat. Observing where each plant grows in nature and recording the cultural history, Arthur A. Chadwick with his sixty year growing experience gives the reader information on how to grow each species. Easy reading with excellent illustrations, photographs and classic botanical prints show the characteristics and beauty of the classic orchids. The book obviously shows a lifetime of studying these plants.

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