

## Specimen Plants

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One of the great joys found in judging orchids occurs when a plant appears on the judging table deserving of a Certificate of Cultural Merit – the coveted C.C.M. The unique satisfaction in granting this award occurs not only in recognizing a superbly grown orchid, but, in a more personal sense, in recognizing the exhibitor and his or her superior cultural techniques. For the Certificate of Cultural Merit is the one AOS award which is granted, not to the plant in question, but to the exhibitor of that plant. Hence, divisions of a plant whose exhibitor was granted a C.C.M. for a specific flowering of that plant never bear the designation CCM/AOS. You have to earn this award on your own!

Many orchid growers have been both so fortunate and so skilled. The pages of each issue of the *Awards Quarterly* are filled with recently granted C.C.M. awards whose illustrations are usually larger than normal so that the reader can see, more plainly, the aspects for which this award was granted. For example, the front cover of this issue reveals the C.C.M. flowerings of three clones of that famous – and profuse bloomer – *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Jewel Box: Upper, right, *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Jewel Box ‘Crimson Glory’, CCM/AOS (90 pts, 1975); Upper left, *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Jewel Box ‘Ginny’, CCM/AOS (86 pts, 1975); and Lower, *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Jewel Box ‘Scheherazade’, CCM/AOS (84 pts, 1981). The award description of the ‘Scheherazade’ clone is found on page 27 of this issue. It is interesting to see not only the C.C.M. potential of certain crosses – *Sophrolaeliocattleya* Jewel Box has reaped 13 Certificates of Cultural Merit for exhibitors of various clones, while the ‘Scheherazade’ clone has brought glory 6 out of those 13 times to talented growers – but also to notice how the passage of time, and the experience of both growers and judges, affects the scoring of the C.C.M.

As if the accolade of a Certificate of Cultural Merit were not enough, excellent growers often find their finest grown plants in competition for the Butterworth Prize. This is a monetary award, initially funded by Rachel Butterworth Dietz given in memory of John and Nancy Butterworth, parents of Mrs. Dietz, and in memory of George Butterworth, past A.O.S. President, and is granted to the finest specimen plant exhibited in A.O.S. judging during the calendar year. Each judging center of the awards system in April of every year reviews all plants whose exhibitors received a C.C.M. during the previous calendar year. At least one nomination from each judging center is forwarded to the A.O.S. Committee on Awards along with the award slide of the nominated plant and the award description (which is one reason for a continual upgrading of both slides and descriptions). After careful study, the C.O.A. selects one plant whose owner will receive the Butterworth Prize.

Two-time winners for their superbly cultured miltonias, Mr. and Mrs. James Riopelle of Portland, Oregon were the recipients of the Butterworth Prize for 1980 for their magnificent *Miltonia* Gordon Hoyt ‘Dolores’, FCC-CCM/AOS (95 pts) whose award-winning flowering is “upheld” in this illustration by Ron Sellon. A detailed article on this

plant and its culture will appear in the June 1982 issue of the *A.O.S. Bulletin*. We congratulate, once again, the Riopelles for their mastery of *Miltonia* care.

As the judging records for 1981 become complete, possible candidates for the Butterworth Prize for 1981 begin to emerge. This award will be decided at the A.O.S. Trustees' Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia in the fall of 1981 and announced shortly thereafter. Though it is only possible to show a sprinkling of the plants which garnered a C.C.M. for their exhibitors during the calendar year 1981, on these two pages, this selection may serve to stimulate readers toward reviewing the 1981 and 1982 issues of the *Awards Quarterly* up to the time of the granting of the Butterworth Prize for 1981 to see whether, from the pictures and the descriptions, they may make their own nominations and final selection – and be correct. Remember: quantity of flowers alone will not ensure the Butterworth Prize. Difficulty of culture, condition of the plant, presentation of the inflorescences as well as other subtle points all affect the final decision.