

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

Gardener's Guide: Philippine Ornamental Plants

Review Article: Jaime C. Joaquin

Philippine Studies vol. 10, no. 3 (1962): 509—511

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

When the students have thus been started on their training as critical listeners, the teacher asks them to identify the correct word for *street*:

TEACHER—(showing picture for street)—Now I'll say two words, one of which is correct for "street" in French. If the first word is correct, say "first"; if the second is correct, say "second". Listen [la ru—la ry].

STUDENTS—Second!

TEACHER—Second is right. Again: [la ru], [la ru].

STUDENTS—Neither...

There are two difficulties with this procedure: 1) the students are allowed to hear the wrong pronunciation of a word—the pronunciation makes an impression on their memory and interferes with the right pronunciation; 2) the student is not taught how to phonetically reproduce the sound, i.e., he is not taught how to pucker his lips, and bring his tongue-tip up high forward, etc. The student may approximate, but will find it difficult to reproduce, the sound exactly.

The phonology drills, however, are effective. There is the so-called *noun-unit*, a list of about 30 nouns containing all the sounds of the language. These are repeated one by one and the students imitate the teacher. Then there is the *sentence-unit*, a list of sentences containing all the sounds and basic sentences of the language. The teacher reads the sentence and the class repeats in chorus. Or, the teacher puts up a picture of a cat, and asks, "What is this?" The class responds, "That is a——". Here there is a most efficient method for helping the student memorize the forms and learn the sounds of the language at the same time.

TEODORO LLAMZON

GARDENER'S GUIDE

PHILIPPINE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS. By Dr. Mona Lisa Steiner. Manila: Carmelo and Bauerman, Inc., 1960. 233 pp. illus., 2nd edition.

This fascinating book is filled with exciting information on ornamental plants in a fashion which cannot fail to be helpful. Prepared as a source of information for all lovers of plant life, this book presents a concise, clear and easily understandable description of the

various ornamental plants being cultivated in the Philippines as well as directions for their proper care and propagation. It considers such topics as garden planning, the environmental needs of particular plants, hybridization, hydroponics (growing plants without soil), plant pests and diseases and how they may be eradicated, the different types of vegetative propagation, and the proper use of fertilizers.

As may be expected, this second edition contains data not included in the first edition published in 1952. Some of the new matters discussed are: pools and fountains, liming, the growing of plants from seeds, and the pruning of trees. Not only did the author introduce new topics, but also expanded the discussion of other topics. Also included in the present edition are the names and descriptions of additional ornamental plants not previously considered, among which may be mentioned several species belonging to the genera *Calliandras*, *Mussaendas* and *Clerodendron*.

Since the layman may not be familiar with the scientific names of the numerous plants described, in most cases the author also gives their common or local names.

To further facilitate the recognition of the various ornamental plants, numerous illustrations in color and black and white have been introduced. There are 769 illustrations, 207 of which are colored, compared to only a little over a hundred illustrations found in the first edition. In general, the photographs are well taken and no doubt they will be appreciated.

A special feature that will be of interest to all groups is a list containing the approximate flowering schedules of many herbs, shrubs, vines and trees, together with the colors of their respective flowers. Information on these will be of great value to anyone who wishes to own a good garden—among other things, a garden that will not only exhibit proper color contrasts when the plants are in bloom, but also one that will always have something in bloom the whole year round.

Another special feature that will appeal particularly to botanists, horticulturists and students of plant life is a descriptive list of about a thousand Philippine ornamental plants, both native and introduced, arranged alphabetically according to families. Aside from mentioning the characteristic morphological features of such plants, their places of origin have also been given whenever possible.

A foreword by Dr. Eduardo Quisumbing, one of the leading botanists in the Philippines today, and the preface to the second edition by the author tend to give this book the perspective readers will need.

Dr. Steiner, cited as "Outstanding Woman Horticulturist of 1960", has indeed prepared a much-needed book on ornamental plants that both layman and specialist will be proud to have.

JAIME C. JOAQUIN

LIFE IN A KAMPONG

THE SEDUCTION. By Susan Yorke (pseudonym of Suzette Telenga).

New York: Farrar, Straus, & Cudahy. 1960. 248 pp. Glossary of Malay terms.

This "ethnological" novel is a perceptive account of the acculturation of a *kampung* girl, Zainah, and her eventual downfall. According to the author, "The events and incidents in this novel are true, the people to whom they happen are fictitious..." Zainah became the intimate paid companion of a British family living on a rubber plantation in postwar Malaya. She learned proper English, how to handle shrimp and oyster forks, the intricacies of modern plumbing, and the unique folkways of Euroamericans in Southeast Asia. After a series of amorous adventures with an Eurasian, an Indian, and a Chinese, she fell deeply in love with a British rubber plantation official whose mother was an American. David, however, did not return her wild affection. In a fury of rejection, Zainah falsely claims she is pregnant and David is the man. Kelantan men are hired by her father, a *penghulu*, to assassinate David and uphold the *kampung's* honor. Zainah confesses to the police, however, that she killed David; as the novel ends she awaits her trial.

Aside from the plot, the novel is filled with sharply etched vignettes of contemporary Malayan life—scenes in the village coffee houses, the daily routine on a rubber plantation, the interior of the dwellings of wealthy Chinese, and interaction between the Chinese, Indians, Eurasians, British, and Malays. (For a more detailed account of life on a Malayan rubber plantation, the reviewer prefers Pierre Boule's S.O.P.H.I.A.) The Chinese, as often the case in novels, emerge as cunning, avaricious capitalists—Ah Fan, the fat *keep* of the plantation manager, gets her cut on everything done on the estate. Information is given on the food, dress, and other aspects of Malaya's pluralistic society. "Every Division had its temple for the Hindu Tamils. The Chinese went to the Buddhist temple in the village... We Muslims had our mosque just outside our *kampung*... [and] one church on the estate... had been built by the Hindu Untouch-