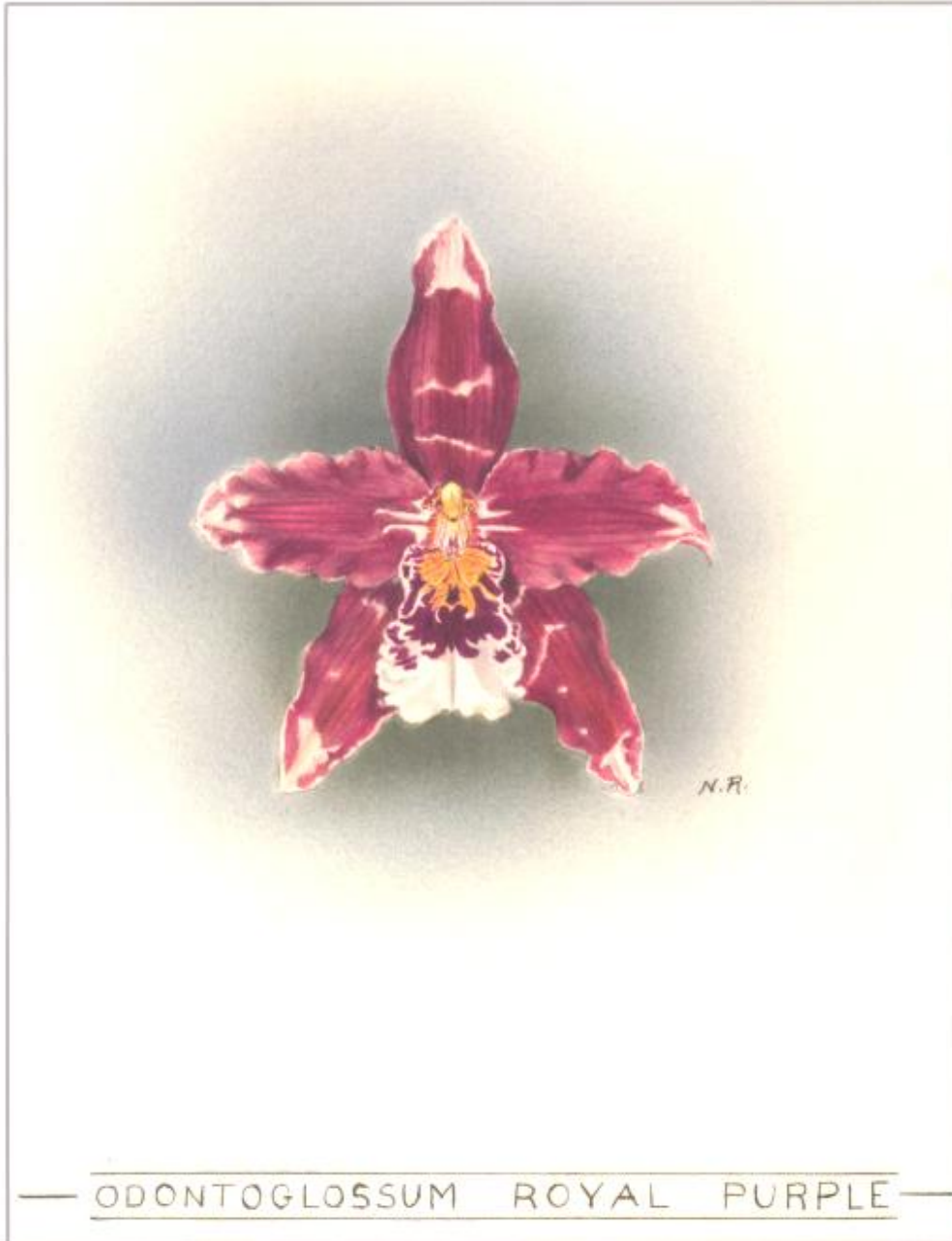




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LOST TREASURES FROM  
THE  
GOLDEN AGE OF ORCHIDS

Select Paintings From The Ben Singer Collection

# ORCHIDS

The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society

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## Lost Treasures From The Golden Age Of Orchids

Supplement to *Orchids* — The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society December 2013

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THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN ORCHID society is pleased to present its fourth annual supplement for Volume 82 of *Orchids* — *The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society*.

We had several topics under consideration for this year's "extra issue." While all were good, we decided it would be fitting at the one-year anniversary of his death to honor the contributions Ben Singer made to the American Orchid Society. Some years ago, Ken Roberts sent me a CD containing digital scans of four hundred paintings that Ben had collected. Most of the art was pre-1900 and depicted lost treasures from *The Golden Age of Orchids*. For the orchidist, the paintings present a unique opportunity to look to the past and see what has shaped our hobby. Each generation thinks we have it a little better than those that came before us, but looking at some of the cultivars shown in these paintings makes me realize that there were early discoveries that were easily as good, or better than line-bred species of today.

I am deeply indebted to the committee for their support and to the authors who have contributed to make this publication an educational look at the art and importance of botanical illustration. Without the generosity of contributors, there would be no magazine. We hope this is a meaningful addition to our members' libraries.

As we did last year, we ran a brief fund-raising drive on the AOS website. Thanks to generous members we reached our goal. I speak for the entire Publications Committee and the leadership of the American Orchid. We appreciate the support that you have given us.

Finally, the original paintings were a hundred years old when they were scanned and show the signs of old age. Some had spots and foxing, and the paper was yellowed on all. A decision was made to do only minor color correction and digital restoration so the paintings would appear true to their age.

— Greg Allikas, Chair, AOS Publications Committee, Lake Clarke Shores, Florida (e-mail: graphicgreg@orchidworks.com).

*Masdevallia davisii* painted in 1879 by J.N. Fitch

*M. Davisii major*

FRONT COVER

*Odontoglossum Royal Purple* (in today's nomenclature *Cyrtocidium Royal Purple*) painted by Nelly Roberts, circa 1914