



THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE KU-RING-GAI ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

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Committee : Lee Payne

Society mail to - 7 Meredith Avenue, Hornsby, 2077

Next Meeting : Monday, 19th November, 2018

Venue : *The Lindfield Community Centre, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.*

The hall is open from 6.30pm. Please try and get there early to help set up tables, chairs and lighting.

Benching is available from shortly after 7pm but please be patient and wait until tables and dividers are in place. The Culture Class commences at **7.15pm**. This month we have one of Sydney's most experienced growers in **Cary Polis**, and his subject is **"An Introduction to Growing Orchids"**. Get in early to get a seat.

The main meeting **commences at 8pm**. After the formalities of the general meeting, the judging, and the tea break, this month we have a **very special guest speaker**. One of our own members, **John Chang** will be present on : - **"*Neofinetia falcata (Wind Orchid / Samurai Orchid) - The traditional cultivation and appreciation of this cool growing Vandaceous species in East Asian countries from Japan and Korea, to China, and the current enthusiasm and trend shown in other parts of the world.*"**

I have seen a draft of John's work and this might be the best presentation we have had at Ku-ring-gai in a long time. Make sure you don't miss it. It is an amazing explanation of a beautiful, easy to grow orchid, and why it is appreciated in other parts of the world much more than we Australian growers have generally understood it. There are forms and varieties of this magic little orchid that we have never seen before. Growers shouldn't miss it.

Our **supper volunteers for November** are **Janet Snodgrass** and **Lee Payne**. Thank you for offering to help ladies.

Best of the Evening Novice – BLC Mari's Magic - grown by Lina Huang



A lovely orchid and these 'splash petal' types, where the petals follow the colour pattern of the lip, are becoming more and more popular and sophisticated these days.

Mari's Magic is very similar in colour and form to the one that got BOE in June last year for the Cushways (C. Mari's Song). In fact, Mari's Song is one of the parents of Mari's Magic, but the other parent (Tokyo Magic) is a bit of a surprise. There are a few clones of Tokyo Magic that are white with purple and yellow in the lip, but most clones are bright yellow with a red or purple lip. The yellow comes from Tokyo Magic's cute little yellow flowered parent, the rupicolous Laelia, *L. briegeri*. The results are a bit amazing as



C. Mari's Song

briegeri is very small, having pseudobulbs only about 10-20 cm tall, and yellow flowers 4 to 5 cm across. Its colour transferred to Tokyo but its size didn't seem to, and only a splash of yellow got through to Mari's Magic.

Many of these crosses vary widely across their seedlings and there are many names cultivars of Mari's Magic. You will probably be surprised at the variation in these Mari's Magic pictures below from Orchidwiz.



Congratulations Lina. A lovely orchid grown really well.

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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@bigpond.com)

1. Report on our Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) – At the AGM last month Kevin Crocker stood down from all positions on the committee after serving for many years in a variety of roles, including President and Treasurer. The Society extends its sincerest thanks to Kevin for all his past service and especially for his earnest commitment to the roles of President and Treasurer.

In addition, we were sorry to lose Angie Lyle from the committee as she stood down from her roles as Committee member, Membership Secretary, Supper Coordinator, and Social Dinner Coordinator. She did a wonderful job at everything she took on, and like Kevin, she will be sorely missed.

We wish both Kevin and Angie happy orchid growing and all best for the future.

Further, Jim Brydie and Cynthia Brydie also retired after many years of service in many roles. Jim has agreed to continue as Editor of the bulletin for the time being and Cynthia will still be selling raffle tickets at the meetings.

During the AGM, Garrie Bromley acted as Chairman and was obviously handed an unenviable task with no prior nominations for President, or Treasurer, and other vacancies on committee. He handled the job like a great statesman as usual and his call for people to take up officer and committee positions in the Society was very important and very effective. Thank you Garrie, we all appreciated it.

Dennys Angove accepted a nomination from the floor as President and as a result of his and Garrie's entreaties, there were also other nominations accepted from the floor by Lina Huang as Treasurer, and from Lee Payne, and Jessie Koh for committee. Since the AGM, Jenny Richardson has also stepped forward to take up a committee position. Many thanks to all of you for saving us from a serious problem and I hope you find your membership on committee as rewarding as I have over many years.

2. Supper last month – The supper provided at the AGM and GM last month was exceptionally good. Thank you to all the members who contributed to the fine table of deliciousness and also a special thanks to new members Heather and Rhonda for volunteering for the supper roster that night and for their wonderful efforts.

3. Library – The Oct-Nov edition of the Australian Orchid Review is now in and available for loan. Depicted on the cover is the recently awarded Cymbidium Justis Pearl which is the topic of the first article, followed by a further article on Cymbidiums at the WA winter show. There is also an interesting article on Phragmipediums. We have also just received the latest "Orchid Digest" which gives a thorough treatise of the genus Paphiopedilum. See Chris Wilson at the meeting to access either, or for help to borrow any other of the great material our library contains.

4. The Christmas Party – As we have done in recent years, the Society Christmas party is being held a week earlier than our usual meeting date. It will be on Mon 10th December. Please put it in your calendar. More details next month.

Forward Dates

Sun 18 Nov, Manly Warringah OS, public orchid auction - Community Centre Fisher Rd North, Cromer. Plants can be inspected from 9 am, Auction commences at 9.30 am

8 Dec. Royale Orchids - Laelia purpurata Show & Orchid Auction, open to the public. Brieses Road Peats Ridge.

10 Dec – our Christmas party meeting. Note: a week earlier than our usual monthly meeting. Put it in your diary **now**.

Best of the Evening Species – Cattleya intermedia (Orlata type) - grown by Trevor and Pauline Onslow



No matter how many times this species gets best of the evening, it looks different and unique, and beautiful. This is a Cattleya species that needs some particular explanation.

I hope you don't mind if I start with the same habitat description from a previous write up. The IOSPE website bit is especially poetic.

But first. Cattleya intermedia is found in the east coast forests of South America, from just above Rio De Janiero all the way south to Uruguay and Argentina. It occurs on rocks and small trees very close to the ocean and there is a wonderful habitat description on Jay Pfahl's "Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia" website (which is a wonderful free resource to all orchid growers)

".. first the sea gives way to the sand, then the sand gives way to vines and grasses and then to small bushes, and then begins the hammocks of stunted hardwoods with swales of tidal saltwater and freshwater run off. This area is extremely humid and hot and is bathed by spray from the crashing surf less than 20 yards away. Intermedia is found in these hammocks in vast quantities ... Almost all were on trees, at or just above eye-level. The branches and trunks were extremely damp and had lichen and mosses. There was a lot of standing water, and mosquitoes and bromeliads were everywhere."

To sum that up, the habitat is hot, humid, harsh, and relatively bright. However, in Sydney we regard it as a cool growing orchid because it also readily tolerates our winter temperatures.

But what is this "variety Orlata"? In a wonderfully detailed article written in 2015 by David Banks, he answers this

very question. I can't reproduce the whole article here but David tells us that the first he ever heard of the expression *Orlata* – “was around the mid to late 1990s in photos of an exciting “new variety” of *Cattleya intermedia* that had recently been released in the USA. It was a well shaped pale bloom, with wider and rounder segments than the typical form, but what stood out was its huge labellum with broad sidelobes, being contrasting deep magenta in colour. It was captioned and marketed simply as *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata*.” - David goes on to tell us more :

“According to the Brazilian Orchids Website maintained by Delfina de Araujo (www.delfinadearaujo.com) the name *orlata* appears to be first used in 1990. It is used ambiguously as *Cattleya intermedia orlata*. Since 1985 Sergio Englert (nursery Orquidario Ricsel) became heavily involved in line-breeding of their native *Cattleya intermedia*. Over twenty different crosses and combinations are documented.

The 1990 cross of interest in regards to this article was listed as “*Cattleya intermedia orlata* ‘orlatao’ x *C. intermedia orlata* ‘orlatinha’ (which originated excellent types, *orlata* and *marginata*).” Sergio Englert considered this cross his “masterpiece”, after over twenty years working with *Cattleya intermedia*. Note how the term *orlata* is not used as a cultivar name, but seems to indicate a distinct form or population of plants.

Around this time, Roberto Agnes of Aranda Orchids (now Arabotanica) in Brazil had purchased a batch of seedlings labelled as *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* x *Cattleya intermedia* ‘Tipo’ from Orquidario Nakashima and selected out the best of the cross upon flowering a block of them. Robert Fuchs from R.F. Orchids in Florida USA visited Roberto at Aranda Orchids and saw the plant and asked if he could purchase it. Robert was successful in acquiring this particular plant for R.F. Orchids, and then subsequently gave it his cultivar name of ‘Crownfox’. It’s worth noting that several others of this particular cross were awarded by the American Orchid Society, using the term “var. *orlata*” followed by the cultivar name. Such as *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* ‘Crownfox’ AM/AOS, and the cultivar *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* ‘Rio’. This was a couple of years before Rio de Janeiro, Brazil hosted the 15th World Orchid Conference in September 1996.

Roberto Agnes has confirmed that the original “*orlata*” were naturally occurring but then line bred (with it seems, similar as well as other forms of *Cattleya intermedia*) essentially to improve the shape and colour of the labellum. I’ve never seen any images of populations or individual plants of this form photographed in the wild.”

..... “The fact is, *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* has never been formally described, and essentially its use from a botanical and taxonomic perspective is invalid. In fact, I would further suggest there is nothing in the wild now approaching the advanced “*orlata*’s” bred through selected breeding in cultivation.”

..... “From 2004 to 2014, the Australian Orchid Council (AOC) has ratified ten awards to plants of *Cattleya intermedia* of the “var. *orlata*” form. There is quite a bit of variation within these examples, in terms of both colour and shape. Nine of these cultivars were grown in New South Wales with one in Queensland. I have included a table of the awarded cultivars.

***Cattleya intermedia* (“var. *orlata*”) awarded by the Australian Orchid Council (2004-2014)**

AOC #	Cultivar	Award	State	Points	Date	Owner
3341	'Miss Naomi'	AM	NSW	82.0	18/10/2004	Phyl Murn
3760	'Orlates Imperial'	AM	NSW	82.0	21/09/2007	Theo & Jenny Schutz
3927	'Isabelle'	HCC	QLD	78.8	13/10/2008	A. Sales
4292	'Graeme'	HCC	NSW	76.2	23/09/2010	D. Moran
4440	'Leah'	HCC	NSW	78.0	01/10/2011	W. Simmons
4441	'Leonie'	HCC	NSW	78.0	01/10/2011	W. Simmons
4457	'Aidan'	HCC	NSW	76.0	09/10/2011	J. & S. Atwal
4714	'Courtney-Alexandria'	HCC	NSW	79.6	20/09/2012	D. Moran
4823	'Aitch'	AM	NSW	80.0	11/09/2013	Henry Choo
4830	'Carol-Lea'	AM	NSW	80.5	26/09/2013	N. & C. Campbell

Note that these were awarded without any reference to the name “*orlata*” and were all simply recorded as *Cattleya intermedia* with their respective cultivar epithets. It is important to include the year of the award after its citation, as logic indicates a recent award should be superior to the same award (and points) given decades beforehand. In these photographs you can clearly see how the quality of this style of *Cattleya intermedia* has moved ahead significantly in only a couple of decades. A number of these have been awarded in Japan, where they are recorded as *Cattleya intermedia* forma *orlata* followed by the cultivar name. In the United Kingdom and Europe, plants have been referred to as “*orlata*” or “*marginata*”. It must be kept in mind that the awarding of orchids is an artificial process that is still largely very subjective and at times an unpredictable exercise.”

During a trip to the USA in 2005, David was invited to visit RF Fuchs Orchids and he tells us : - “In the sales area of R.F. Orchids, amongst hundreds of plants in bloom, I spotted across the showroom **the** *Cattleya* I had seen photos of years beforehand. This was a first blooming mericlone with a tag reading *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* ‘Crownfox’. The R.F. Orchids website describe it as “Gorgeous waxy white flowers, lightly flushed with pink and deep magenta markings on the lip. We had so many requests for divisions, we meristemmed it!”

This is interesting on a couple of aspects. We know the original plant of *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crownfox' was from a seed raised plant from two different forms of *Cattleya intermedia*. It seems that it is not a very stable plant throughout the mericlone process, as it appears mutations occur. The numbers of plants I have now seen in Australia and New Zealand (well over a dozen now) have all shown variation, some being quite different – being an improvement on the original. Even though these were all marketed and sold as mericlones of *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crownfox'. It was the sort of variation you would normally expect from seedlings, not tissue cultured plants – that are supposed to be genetically identical. The other difference is the colour of the petals and sepals. The original plant was described as having white blooms with a pink flush. My best two examples have bloomed with musk-pink flowers, with a few random pin-prick spots on the tepals that slightly bleed as they age. I do think the colour can be influenced by the amount of ultraviolet light the plants receive in the bud stage. With those under shade cloth producing richer colours than those grown in shadier greenhouses.”

Later David tells us : - “I know of at least three Australian orchid nurseries that have imported flasks (of both seedlings and mericlones) labelled as *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata*. I think Aranbeem Orchids in Queensland were the first to sell seedlings (under the code RM616). In recent times, mericlone flasks (originating out of Taiwan) labelled as *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crownfox' were imported by Easy Orchids and Tinonee Orchid Nursery, both of New South Wales. However, we cannot be really sure if these flasks contained seed-raised plants, or were primary mericlones, re-worked protocorms off the original material or pirated mericlones of mericlones.

My two musk-pink examples (that came from Ray Clement at Tinonee Orchid Nursery) are the finest that I have seen, in both photos and real life. I think now that the term “var. *orlata*” should be discontinued (as the Australian Orchid Council have already done) with emphasis now solely on the cultivar epithet. I also think it is pointless continuing to refer to my plants as *Cattleya intermedia* 'Crownfox', as they look nothing like the original. That being the case, I have renamed them *Cattleya intermedia* 'Louanne' after my wife, and *Cattleya intermedia* 'Rachael' after my youngest daughter. One of the main differences between these two very similar plants are the distinct spotting on the sidelobes of 'Rachael' that are absent in 'Louanne'.

In conclusion, I suggest we disregard the term *Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata*. It is clearly an invalid name that has never been formally described. Superior and distinct cultivars should be given their own cultivar epithet (cultivar name). We do know that the original plants that were released were crosses between two “forms” of *Cattleya intermedia* (“var. *orlata*” and 'Tipo') – so were not pure “*orlata*” forms to start with anyway. (We are now having a similar problem in Australia with the naming of “line bred forms” of *Dendrobium speciosum* when interbred between the different named subspecies, and doubt perpetuated when breeding details are either lost or incorrect.) I also do not discount a spelling error, especially across two languages, speculating that the term “*orlata*” was used instead of the suitable alternate word of “*ornata*”, only one letter being the difference. Whatever it is called, it is a wonderful flower that brings much joy to the orchid collection.”

From Jim : I am convinced that David is correct. There is no such thing as “Variety Orlata” and at best you might call it “forma Orlata”, but it is more likely a genetic variation that has been accentuated & stabilised by human breeding.

However, while dumping the term Orlata altogether might be the correct technical answer, it would create a practical problem for growers and nurseries. The Orlata versions of *Cattleya intermedia* are recognisably different enough from other ‘forms’ of the species and need to have some name by which we can reference them. I am sure those more expert than me in such matters will come up with a method in due course, but until they do, forma Orlata is ok by me. Just be aware it isn't a “Variety” as that has a special taxonomic meaning.

In producing his article, David acknowledged data, photos, and assistance from : Robert Fuchs and R.F. Orchids Inc., Jody Curajar, Roberto Agnes of Aranda Orchids (now Arabotanica), Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids, Greg Allikas, Brazilian Orchids website, the American Orchid Society website, and Australian Orchid Council website.

Congratulations Trevor and Pauline, you grow all these Laeliinae just so well. And thank you David for allowing the use of parts of your article.

Who Says Men Don't Remember

A couple were Christmas shopping in a packed shopping mall. As they wandered around, the wife suddenly realised that her husband wasn't with her. She became quite upset until she realised that she could call him on his mobile phone and find out where he was.

When she phoned, her husband explained in a quiet voice that all was ok, and asked if she remembered the jewellers shop they had visited about 5 years ago when she had fallen in love with that diamond necklace that they couldn't afford. He reminded her that he had said that one day he would get it for her.

The wife started to choke up and cry and said “yes, I remember the shop.”

The husband said, “Good, well I'm in the pub next door to that shop.”

Best of the Evening Hybrid – Trichocentrum Gloria Hill ‘Beige’ - grown by Garrie and Lesley Bromley

Garrie really presented us with a spectacular specimen of this unusual orchid. But really - who called the cultivar “Beige”. I don’t think it was Garrie.



(close up)

This is one of those orchids we used to call the ‘mule ear’ Oncidiums. You can’t tell from the picture, but the leaves are stiff, upright to 60cm tall and 5cm wide. They are succulent in texture and have a leathery surface. They are also folded along the centre line so that the leaf edges are only about 2 centimeters apart.

Most of the species from which this hybrid is developed are from hot areas with very dry winters. The leaves help conserve water, deflect heat, and direct whatever water is available to the roots.

Trichocentrum Gloria Hill is the cross between *T. stramineum* x *T. Redstone*. Redstone is a primary hybrid between *T. sprucei* and *T. carthagenense*. All the 3 species mentioned were originally called Oncidiums, or mule ear Oncidiums. As I explained in an earlier bulletin (Dec 2014), the mule ear Oncidiums were first moved to a genus of their own called *Lophiaris* in about 1986 and then in

2001 they were folded into an existing Genus “Trichocentrum”. Once this change occurred, for some reason we seemed to stop calling these big stiff leaf types ‘mule ears’. I am not sure why. Yes, there are other Trichocentrums which don’t have mule ears, but so were there many Oncidiums that didn’t have mule ears, so that can’t be all of it. It is a pity really because ‘Mule Ear’ fits the group so well. Perhaps its just that they are now Mule Ear Trichocentrums?

Gloria Hill was registered in 1986 but surprisingly still has no awards. The parents are curious to say the least. There are three species in the make up. The primary species with 50% of the gene pool is *T. stramineum* (see at right), and it is quite a cutie. It comes from Mexico at elevations between 600-1000 metres and is almost miniature compared to many of its sister mule ear species, its leaves are only about 20cm long, it has a 30cm long spike with up to 50 lovely little (1.5 x 2 cm) white flowers. It is hard to see where it went to in Gloria Hill. Something of a mystery.



The other two species are the parents of Redstone and they are also a curious pair. The first, *T. sprucei* (see right) isn’t even a mule ear in the classic sense. As you can see, it has 30cm terete leaves that are about 1cm thick. More of a ‘rat tail’ than a mule ear.

It comes from wet tropical forests in the lowlands of Surinam, Brazil, and Peru. The inflorescence is only short, at 20cm and it has up to 20 medium size 2cm x 4cm ‘Oncidium’ like flowers, in yellow and reddish brown. An attractive, very unusual Trichocentrum but it is hard to imagine it in the parentage of Gloria Hill unless it contributed to the depth of the fold in the leaf. Still another mystery?



The third species (the other half of Redstone) is *Trichocentrum carthagenense* (right). This one is a true mule ear. Great big, thick, erect, mule ear leaves about 40cm tall x 7cm wide. It comes from a wide range of countries from Mexico and parts of Central America, Cuba in the Caribbean, all the way down to Brazil. It is an epiphyte in humid deciduous forests between 0 and 1500m, almost always along river courses, in high trees or on the rocks below. This one also has a huge multi-branched inflorescence up to 2 metres tall and many, many 2.5 cm or more flowers. The colours are quite variable but usually a white base with red/brown blotches and a bright pinky/purple centre.



At least we can see that this one is a better prospect for supplying Gloria with a bit of colour and plant size.

I would love to see what the hybrid Redstone looked like, but unfortunately I wasn’t able to find a picture or even a reference to a magazine or book that might contain a picture. Its rat-tail leaf parent (*sprucei*) has only 7 registered F1 hybrids, and the only useful picture I can find of any of those, is of the cross with the species *stipitatum* but that species just happens to be yet another ‘yellow flowered, terete leaved species’ so it is hardly surprising that the hybrid between them also has terete leaves and yellow flowers. Nothing to be learned there, so we are left with questions.

I am way out of line with thoughts like this, but somehow I find it hard to believe this published family tree. I find myself wondering if somewhere along the way the pollen envelopes got mixed up or a flask was mislabeled.

Colour is a superficial characteristic but If I allow my imagination to consider possibilities, I can’t help looking at

orchids like *T. haematochilum* or *oestlundianum* as more likely parents, or at least grandparents, for that red. Let me show you some pictures and explain why I think that way.

T. haematochilum was regarded as a species when I first began with orchids but these days most growers accept that it is probably a naturally occurring hybrid between *T. luridum* and *T. lanceanum*. Its colour is very variable but some forms have very striking red colours in the flowers. It also has a big erect leaf, a 60cm branched inflorescence, and lots and lots of 5cm flowers. Now that sound more like a Gloria Hill parent to me.



haematochilum (2 very different clones)

The other species with red flowers is *T. oestlundianum*. Well at least the lip is pretty much always red, the upper half of the flower can be a bit variable. It is a much smaller plant than *haematochilum* with mule ears to about 26cm tall. It does have a tall branched inflorescence to about 1 metre, but with this species it is a slender stem with short side branches and well spaced (2 x 2.5cm) flowers. I think *haematochilum* is more likely, but the flower size is right.



oestlundianum

But then again, all such thoughts are just musings. Who knows what strange things come from DNA. I wonder if there is much variation between different 'Gloria Hills'? Garrie's orchid is the only Gloria Hill I have ever seen in the flesh, and the only other picture I can find is of an unnamed plant posted by John Woolf on Orchidwiz, which could be the same clone as Garrie's.

If you decide you must have a Gloria Hill and go looking, be aware that all the background species are warm to hot growers that need a winter rest, and it might be a good idea to seek out some culture advice from Garrie. He really grows this and other *Trichocentrum*s to perfection. .

Whatever the breeding, Gloria Hill certainly makes a stunning display. The dark red colour is hard to capture in a picture, especially at the night meetings of our club, but I can assure you it is a beauty. Congratulations Garrie and Lesley. An unusual and really lovely orchid. Keep 'em coming.

What is Your Wish?

A man on his Harley was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, 'Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.'

The biker pulled over and said, 'Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want.'

'God replied, 'Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. Look at the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete, asphalt and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for such worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind.'

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, 'God, I wish that I, and all men, could understand women. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy.'

God replied, 'Do you want two lanes, or four, on that bridge?'

Wisdom of the ages

A doctor that had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life finally retired. At her next check-up, the new doctor told her to bring in a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?"

"Yes, I have them because they help me sleep at night."

"But, Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old Granddaughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night."

Irish humour

I went into the confessional box after many years of being away from the Catholic Church and inside I was surprised at how luxurious it was. I found a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On one wall, there was a row of decanters with fine Irish whiskey and Waterford crystal glasses. On the other wall was a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates. When the priest came in, I said to him, "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than I recall it used to be."

He replied, "Excuse me sir, but you seem to have entered the wrong side"