

**THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB  
PERTH SHOW 22 4 23  
FORREST MEDAL  
Cypripedium 'Ursel'  
Shown by Cyril Lafong**



What more can I say other than, "Cyril's Cypripedium was magnificent". This lady's slipper orchid is a hybrid between *C. fasciolatum* and *C. henryi*.

As you can plainly see its pale yellow flowers perfectly complement its lime green leaves. Every flower, each stem and every leaf was perfect. Often a great plant is denied a top prize because some eagle eyed judge has managed to spot an imperfection. Not this time! Every stem, leaf and flower was in perfect condition.



I quote here from the Plant Delights Nursery page

"*Cypripedium 'Ursel'* is a compact growing hybrid of the high elevation Chinese *Cypripedium fasciolatum* and the giant-flowered Chinese *Cypripedium henryi*. The result is a 15" tall plant with large yellow flowers, often with red flecking in the sepals and usually borne 2-3 per stem. Please remember that *Cypripedium* are only for advanced gardeners".

## Parents of *Cypripedium* 'URSEL'

*Cypripedium fasciolatum* is a Chinese species found in Hubei, Guizhou, Sichuan provinces of China in open scrub along forest margins at elevations of 2,000 to 2,400 meters

*Cypripedium henryi*, **Henry's cypripedium**, is endemic to China. It is found in southern Gansu, Guizhou, western Hubei, southern Shaanxi, southern Shanxi, Sichuan, and north-western to south-eastern Yunnan. It grows in humus-rich places in open forests, at forest margins, or on scrubby slopes at elevations of 800–2,800 m (2,600–9,200 ft) above sea level.

**Augustine Henry** was born on 2 July 1857 in Dundee to Bernard and Mary Henry. His Irish father was a flax merchant. The family returned to Cookstown in County Tyrone soon after Augustine's birth. He died on 23 March 1930 aged 73. With a Christian name like his he was surely born to greatness. Sure enough! He is renowned as one of our greatest plantsmen as well as expert on all things Chinese.

He sent over 15,000 dry specimens and seeds and 500 plant samples to Kew Gardens. In 1935, *John William Besant* was to write: 'The wealth of beautiful trees and flowering shrubs which adorn gardens in all temperate parts of the world today is due in a great measure to the pioneer work of the late Professor Henry'.

