



## The Potter's Mansion, Steep Hill Farm.

**This house in Crowborough, Sussex, was built in 1904 and designed (supposedly) by an architect named Hugh Jokin. It was owned by the Walford family. James Walford ran a shipbuilding business and was a potter and painter and appears to have published a book of orchid paintings in 1972, with additional prints of his wife's orchid paintings available for auction. His wife Muriel Walford grew the orchids that her husband painted, in the extensive grounds of the house.**

**James Walford died 7 or 8 years ago and Muriel went into a care home, so the house has been empty ever since. Muriel died on 12th January 2011 at the fantastic old age of 104.**

**The mansion is currently on the market for £2.5 million, with planning permission to demolish the house and build a new one and judging from the poor state of the place, this would probably be the kindest thing for it: the mansion is a mere shadow of its former opulence.**

**As well as the mansion and the gardens, this site has extensive grounds and includes a pottery to the rear of the house, 4 or 5 large greenhouses and a piggery stocked with 2 large stys and outbuildings.**

**We had seen a lot of photos of this house before we found it and it looked incredible, with a great many artefacts of the lives of the people who had previously called this place home (many of which are still available to see, but as the house is not patrolled by security of any kind and exposed to the elements, they are gradually becoming more difficult to find, or are being damaged by people who come to the site just to cause damage). It was quite a shock to see how quickly it had deteriorated from the pictures we had seen, but there were still some quirky little finds around the place that made for some interesting photos.**

**It is interesting to note that one of the most enduring legacies of this house and the family that owned it is, in fact, a punk video! The band "Anti-Nowhere League" filmed their video for the single "Mother, you're a Liar" almost entirely on location at the house. In one scene of the video, the lead singer is seen to spray the word "LIAR" on the wall of the upstairs bedroom and this image can be seen later in this report.**

Agents present: ghost & skyframe.



















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## February 1979

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

JANUARY							MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30	31				





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# A Book of Orchids.



(PROSPECTUS)

A BOOK OF  
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PAINTINGS  
BY JAMES F. WALFORD

*Text by* PETER F. HUNT

*Foreword by* L. MAURICE MASON

*Introduction by* ROY GRUBB



ORCHID BOOKS

*Distributed by the Medici Society Ltd, London*

1972



## A BOOK OF ORCHID PAINTINGS

Too often to-day a reproduction is dull and lifeless even if technically accurate, but these paintings are so vivid, and at the same time so correct, that anyone with no interest in orchids will turn and re-turn the pages with increasing pleasure.

Peter Hunt, who has described the paintings, was for some years the orchid expert at the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and a member of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. He has travelled widely to study and collect orchids in their native habitat, and is a fluent and knowledgeable writer.

This is surely a book to be bought by those who love orchids, those who wish to know more about them, or those who just happen to like beautiful paintings. A work of this quality appears but seldom, but will be cherished, used and valued long after its initial cost has been forgotten.

L. MAURICE MASON V.M.H.

OPPOSITE: Plate 4.

*Miltonia vexillaria* (Rchb.f.) Nicholson  
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Text by Peter F. Hunt, M.Sc.  
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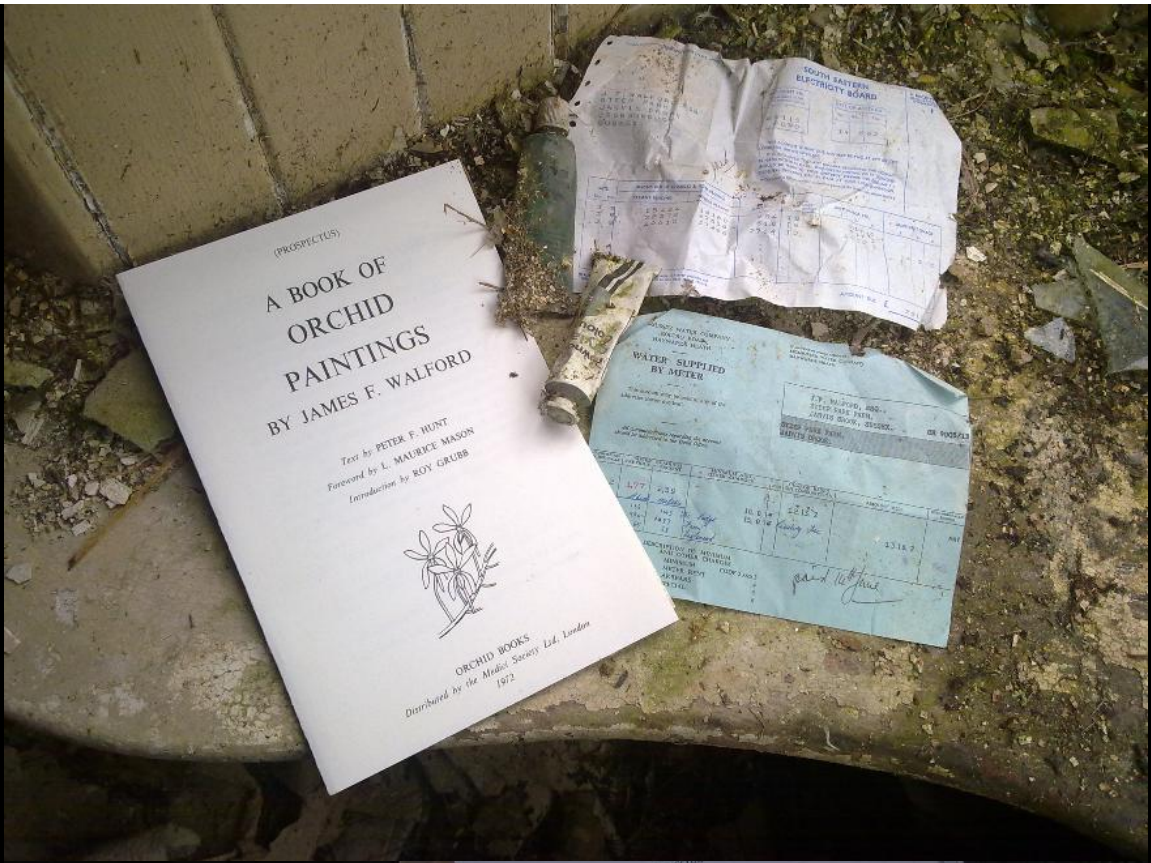


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- 5 *Laelia cinnabarina*
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- 8 *Cattleya intermedia* 'Aquinii'
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- 11 *Cattleya bowringiana* 'Splendens'
- 12 *Vanda tricolor* var. *suavis*
- 13 *Dendrobium* × *superbiens*
- 14 *Cochlidia noeziiana*
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- 17 *Cymbidium insigne* 'Rodocheilum'
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# Pottery Kilns.







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**Outside - The Garden and Pig Pens.**

