

ALPINES IN FOCUS: Harry Jans

ALPINES IN FOCUS: Sichuan & Qinghai by Harry Jans

- lasts for 48 minutes and covers the areas of Wolong, Balang Shan, Songpan, Huanglong etc.

ALPINES IN FOCUS: Yunnan by Harry Jans

- Part 1 lasts for 42 minutes and covers Lijiang, Zhongdian, Tianchi Lake and the Tibetan Horse Race Festival....worth the price of the dvd alone!!!!

It was my pleasure to attend and very much enjoy, the Dutch International Rock Garden Conference in Wageningen in April of 2005. The president of the NRV, Harry Jans, delighted the delegates with his sense of humour, his efficiency and his hospitality during the conference and the subsequent scheduled garden visit to his home. What was NOT scheduled however was an impromptu showing of two DVDs produced by Harry from his forays into China. I, along with every member of the audience, sat enthralled for the forty or so minutes of each production, so quiet was the audience that the silence was only broken by the frequent intakes of breath at the sight of magnificent plants and the laughter that accompanied some of the antics on the trip.

Harry was keen that I take a couple of copies for review purposes and it is only the pressure of time that has prevented me from writing my review before now. I have watched them over and over and like a good film, repeat viewings stand the test of time. The quality of production and editing defies Harry's status as an amateur film producer. The quality of the photography, both video and still, is excellent and the combination furthers the enjoyment for the viewer. The format relies heavily on plant portraits as you would expect, however, there is adequate and informative footage devoted to culture, religion, and wildlife which enhances the viewer's knowledge and understanding of the area and its peoples. Each disc contains a wealth of flora not often seen and largely unknown.....even some species new to science, I would hazard a guess, and in that respect the content serves as an encyclopaedic reference for the flora of China and a pre-requisite for anyone contemplating a journey to these parts of the world.....and yes, I am tempted!!!!

The discs are available in PAL and NTSC formats but please state your requirements when ordering them. The cost, excluding postage and packing, is €15 (Euros) each or the current equivalent in other currencies. Please send your orders/enquiries directly to Harry at his website: www.jansalpines.com or send an email to jansalpines@wanadoo.nl

At the asking price, these are well worthy of a place in anyone's collection and it is to Harry's credit that he is making these available without the need to charge extortionate prices. He is to be encouraged to continue with his film career and I look forward to receiving Part 2 of Yunnan and hopefully something from his planned trip to Tibet, Lhasa and Everest. All in all, a delightful way to enjoy sitting in front of the television.....and as a bonus one can improve one's knowledge of the Chinese flora. I highly recommend that you add these to your 'bookcase'.

