



The Scottish Rock Garden Club The Alpine Garden Society Farrer Medal [AGS rules] Hexham 2013



Best Plant in the Show *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus* shown by Cyril Lafong



It means an early morning start if you are going to get from Glenrothes to Hexham in time to stage plants for judging but Cyril has his own taxi driver! Ian Christie rises even earlier and drives down to Glenrothes from Westmuir, north of Dundee. Most people would be ready for a cup of tea or a second breakfast when they reached the Glenrothes but Ian just loaded up Cyril and his plants and off they went over the Forth Road Bridge and down the A1. Careful driving is needed if you mean to avoid all the cameras along the route. I have travelled with Ian and can attest to his driving skill. Exhibitors and plants arrived safe and well at the Wentworth Leisure Centre on the edge of Hexham to find that many others had descended on the old Roman town with so many plants that this turned out to be the biggest show of the year so far! Well done to all the early rising people whose dedication ensures the success of our shows.

Congratulations to Cyril, especially, since he had grown and tended his *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus* for many years. Most growers find it difficult to build up sufficient corms of this Chilean rarity to fill a small pan far less the huge 12 inch pan which Cyril showed. It was part of his entry in the hotly contested class for 3 Pans Rock Plants, of

distinct genera. Cyril's entry is directly in front of him - the *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus*, *Pulsatilla vernalis* and *Dionysia aetioides*. Just look at the competition in the class. When you include the 6 pan class at the top left of the picture this must be one of the most impressive corners in the history of Rock Garden Shows.

In any normal year most of these entries could be expected to be placed first. Well done Cyril for triumphing against the cream of British exhibitors. He sets the standards which we all strive to reach.



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