

Erica erigena 'Johann's Gift'

Gates 1905 in Garden. 6. $\Sigma \times$ darl. 'J. G.'

McCl in brief 15-3-05: "This is an *E. erigena* not an *E. x d*, with a strange story, but it is just a normal dull coloured wild form. The story is that when I was in Ireland with John Betts and Valerie Proudey, it seems I picked a bit and handed it to her saying "here is a gift for you". John Betts thereupon dug out a seedling and handed that to her. She asked what to call it and he replied jokingly, "Johnnie's Gift". That got taken home and grew on. Two years later after they had left Aldenham they found their successors were propagating it under the garbled name - at first I assumed it was a German name, but was surprised at "Gift". Thus a wrong name got out."

