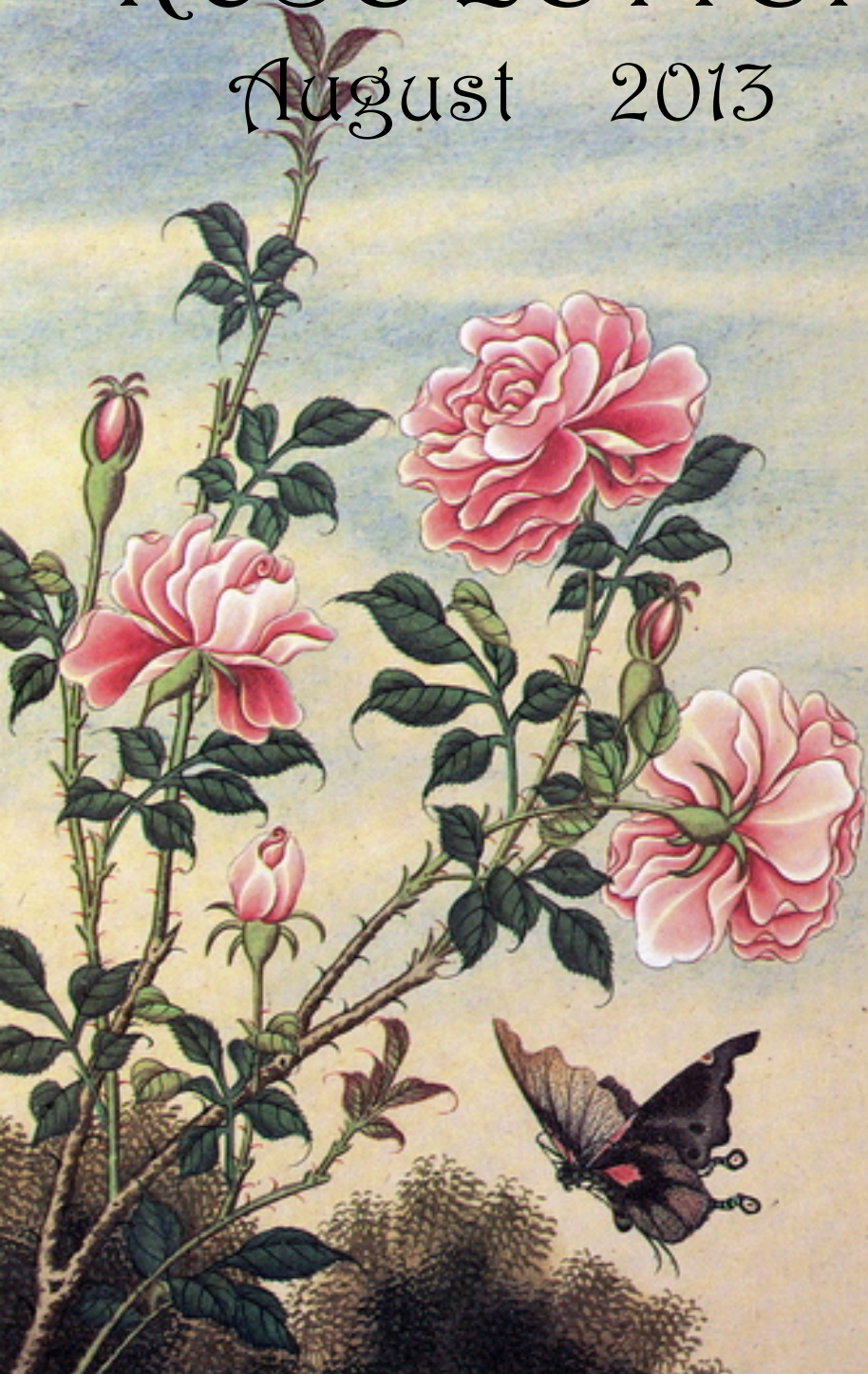


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ROSE LETTER

August 2013



ROSE LETTER

OF

The Heritage Roses Groups

©

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Souvenir of Wootton

FIN DE SIÈCLE AMERICAN ROSES: 1880s-1900

Darrell g.h. Schramm

With perhaps two exceptions, until the last twelve years of the 19th century, Americans did little to develop their own roses. Both Sam Feast of Baltimore and Joshua Pierce of Washington, D.C. had, in the 1840s experimented with the native species *Rosa setigera* and, accordingly, produced several new roses. But mostly nurserymen and plants men seemed content to import their roses from England and France or wait for a serendipitous mutation to occur on a plant and then to market the sport of that rose. For most of the century, that pattern continued.

Consequently, the great rose breeder Dr. Walter Van Fleet was somewhat justified in 1916 to write that, until the Feast Brothers, “there is little evidence of intentional breeding work, in the modern sense, among rose-growers. Superior seedlings or mutation of chance origin were propagated,” but no roses were intentionally hybridized. Though he seems to have overlooked two or three of his contemporaries, he went on to assert that Henry B. Ellwanger of Rochester, New York, had made a deliberate effort “to inject

diversified blood into ‘Queen of the Prairies’ and other of the Feast Climbers” but to no avail. Ellwanger, he pointed out, did raise a seedling of ‘General Jacqueminot’ in 1885 called ‘Marshall P. Wilder’, the best of his productions. The rose was named for a former president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society who specialized in hybridizing and growing camellias. A red rose, according to a number of critics very similar to ‘Alfred Colomb’ only better, ‘Marshall P. Wilder’ was still in commerce in 1999. Horticultural editor Marlea Graham asked in 2004, “Is it possible that some of the superior ‘Wilder’ roses are still being sold today as ‘Colomb’?” Yes, it is wholly possible.

To be fair, we must acknowledge several rosarians who may have begun with seedlings and sports in the 1880s but did graduate to hybridizing roses. And Van Fleet does assert that only at “the closing years of the past century” did any rose breeder produce “notable results.” One of these was John Cook (1836-1929) of Baltimore. Indeed, he was an American pioneer in rose hybridization. While his tea rose ‘Annie Cook’ of 1888 was a discovery that he propagated, his ‘Souvenir of Wootton’ made his name. A cross of the tea ‘Bon Silene’ and the hybrid perpetual ‘Louis van Houtte’, this rose is *America’s first hybrid tea*. It was named to memorialize the American Florists Convention previously held at the summer estate of George W. Childs in Wootton. On a somewhat short bush, its full, cupped flowers emit a wonderful fragrance. However, more than one nursery that sells the rose today offers a rose that does not match the first published descriptions, vague as they might be. Sources from 1888, 1899, 1906, and 1914 describe the color as “grand red,” “crimson,” “pure rich velvety red, and “rich red.” Another 1906 source describes it as “bright cherry crimson,” and a 1921 as “rosy crimson.” Two other writings of the same period assert the color as “pink with carmine edging” and “deep rose pink shaded purple rose.” A much more recent catalogue has it as “Crimson, carmine pink edges.” What we have here is one of three situations: this rose has been confused with another over the years; the rose has changed over time; or the rose is quite variable depending on climate, soil, and local weather, a chimera. Yet in Australia the rose remains consistently dark red. My rose, however, varies remarkably both in color and flower form, on the same plant. Do I grow the real ‘Souvenir of Wootton’?

John Cook would go on to breed three more roses before the end of the century and then continue with about two dozen more, not least the famous pink hybrid tea ‘Radiance’.

John N. May, Sr. (1840-1928), Cook's contemporary, operated an enormous nursery in Summit, New Jersey, which he had opened in 1880. By the 1890s he was selling 20,000 plants a year, staffing his greenhouses with fifteen to 25 people. Between 1891 and 1900, he bred at least four roses: 'Brighton Beauty', 'Frances B. Hayes', 'Mrs. W. C. Whitney' (still available about 100 years later), and 'Olympia'; he also introduced three sports. Not least of these and the only one of his roses still in cultivation, is 'The Bride', of 1885, virtually his first rose. It is a white tea, sometimes flushed with the palest pink at the edges—like a blushing bride.

According to Lynn Forsell of the Summit Historical Society, May was a founder of the National Society of American Florists in 1892 of which the American Rose Society was a part until it branched out on its own in 1899.



The Bride

Another nurseryman who bred at least one rose in the 1880s was Peter Henderson (1822-1890). Arrived from Scotland in 1843, he worked first at George Thorburn's nursery on Long Island, then for Robert Buist in Philadelphia. In 1847 with his brother James, he opened a nursery in New Jersey, primarily a seed company at first. At one time he employed more than 100 workers. When his brother died, he established the Peter Henderson & Company in 1871 in New York City. Henderson was instrumental in providing work for other immigrants, especially gardeners on their way to California. For example, he had hired first Peter Kunz and later the latter's cousin Frank Kunz, both who were to found separate nurseries in Sacramento, California in the 1860s.

Henderson wrote articles for several important periodicals of the time but also wrote several books as well. His first book, *Gardening for Profit*, 1866, was a gardener's Bible for fifty years. His other books were *Practical Floriculture*, 1869; *Gardening for Pleasure*,

1875; *Hand Book of Plants*, 1881; *Garden and Farm Topics*, 1884; and an expanded version of his handbook in 1889.

Peter Henderson also introduced a number of roses, mostly sports of those growing in his nursery. Of at least seven roses, four are still in commerce today. ‘American Banner’ and ‘Snowball’, both sports, have disappeared, as has his hybridized rose ‘Dinsmore’, 1888. But available are ‘Setina’, a climbing pink sport of ‘Hermosa’; ‘White Pet’, an unusual dwarf sport of the climber ‘Felicite Perpetue’, both of 1879; ‘Sunset’, 1883, a dark yellow tea rose, a sport of the soft yellow ‘Perle des Jardins’; and ‘Climbing La France’, sport of the famous pink beauty that put hybrid teas on the map. At his death, the *Jersey Journal* declared his nursery company to be one of the largest at the time and “certainly the best appointed.”



In 1888 Jackson Thornton Dawson (1841-1916) produced the first *Rosa multiflora* hybrid rose in the United States. He would become the second rose breeder in the world to use another species, *R. wichurana*. That multiflora, named ‘Dawson’, is a strong climber with clusters of fragrant, double, dainty, pink blossoms still grown today. Not cold, nor disease, nor neglect trouble this plant.

A plant propagator who, said a fellow botanist, “could almost resurrect a dead stick,” Dawson worked as

superintendent for Harvard’s renowned Arnold Arboretum, an institution instrumental for bringing back from Asia a large number of different plant species. In 1890, Dawson produced another multiflora hybrid, ‘Appleblossom’, still in cultivation. Its flowers are semi-double, pink with a white center, and have ruffled petals. He also bred the lovely deep red ‘Arnold’ in 1893, but it was not made public by the Arboretum until 1914. It is a rugosa hybrid. He would go on after the turn of the century to create several more original roses, most of which have vanished, though a few, like ‘William C. Egan’, can be seen in private and public gardens. Having served the

Arboretum for forty years, Dawson died in 1916. Notably, Dr. Van



Apple Blossom by Dawson

Fleet in his 1916 article singled out Dawson's exceptional work.

In California Edward Gill of the Albany & Berkeley area deserves mention. Though his propagated roses have not survived, he appears to have been the first Californian to produce his own roses and introduce them commercially. One of these roses was a tea, 'Sarah Isabella Gill', offered in his nursery catalogue in 1884; whether this was a sport or one of his own seedlings is not clear. In 1889 he introduced 'Mrs. Cleveland', raised from a seedling, a short, red hybrid perpetual. It was still in commerce in 1916.

Luther Burbank (1849-1926) a transplant from the East Coast to Santa Rosa, California, also bred a number of roses in the last decade of the 1800s. But because of his slack, unscientific record keeping, provenance and dates of his roses remain questionable. With each new rose introduction, he boasted in catalogue descriptions that this rose was the best ever, the most healthy, the most hardy, the most floriferous, and so on, yet all but three rather quickly exited garden and marketplace. One is a rambler, still cultivated; the other two are 'Santa Rosa' and 'Burbank' (also called 'Burbank Rose'). These latter two are variously classed in the literature as hybrid china or tea or bourbon or hybrid tea. The years given for their introduction are inconsistent as well, but they *seem* to

have been ushered into society in 1898 and 1899 respectively. Although both are similar in color and form, they are beautiful roses —full, somewhat globular, and dark pink. A photo of ‘Santa Rosa’, taken in France, shows, however, the outermost circle of petals as red. Both roses have in their parentage the china ‘Hermosa’ and the tea ‘Bon Silene’. Their coloring is evident in the photo below.



Santa Rosa

The usual date given for the ‘Burbank Rose’ is 1900. But in 1899 the John Doyle Company featured the rose on its catalogue cover. Even earlier, for its November 5, 1898 issue, *American Gardening* magazine reproduced a picture of the rose. Perhaps photos of the rose were taken a year or more prior to introduction? And what do we make of the claim by one Burbank scholar that ‘Santa Rosa’ was clearly the first of the two? Could its year be 1897? Careful records of propagation would have helped rose historians. Regardless, today the two roses often seem interchangeable.

Michael Walsh (1848-1922) may have been the most prolific of these latter day 19th century rose breeders, accruing 42 varieties in his twenty years of rose experimentation. Arriving from England on American shores in 1868, he made his home and business sometime later in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He became an ardent supporter of the American Rose Society in its early years.

In 1897 he produced the hybrid perpetual ‘Jubilee’ (not to be mistaken for Peter Henderson’s rose of the same name out the following year). The next year he made public his hybrid tea ‘Lilian Nordica’. A second hybrid perpetual, named for his former employer, ‘J.S. Fay’ came out in 1899, as did his first climber, a hybrid wichurana named ‘Sweetheart’, which is still in cultivation. Walsh would go on in the new century to develop over three dozen more climbers. With ‘Excelsa’, ‘Evangeline’, ‘Hiawatha’, ‘Minnehaha’, and a few others he would make his mark on the rose world of Europe and America. Indeed, the last four named roses are still very much in commerce. Walsh died at the age of 74. In the first *American Rose Annual*, the same issue that published Van Fleet’s article, Walsh wrote, “Roses were my first love.”

Michael H. Horvath (1868-1945) arrived in Rhode Island from Hungary around 1890. He was soon employed by the Newport Nursery where he began his rose experimentation. By about 1893 he had bred four rambling roses, becoming the world’s first hybridist to use *R. wichurana*. He remained an independent thinker and breeder, continuing to put out more roses. In 1897 he exhibited fourteen of his new roses at the first flower show of the American Rose Society. He was a sensation. Eagerly W. A. Manda of New Jersey introduced his first four roses, ‘Manda’s Triumph’, and ‘Pink Roamer’ in 1898 and ‘South Orange Perfection’ and ‘Universal Favorite’ in 1899. Manda appears not to have been above crediting some of Horvath’s roses to himself, such as ‘Evergreen Gem’ and probably ‘Gardenia.’

When Horvath moved to Ohio, he began in the new century breeding roses with the American native species *R. setigera*, producing no fewer than eighteen of these hybrids. Horvath was indeed an original. His breeding vision was broader than most others of the 20th century. Not only did he shun the well-trod path of hybrid tea popularity, but also he used as many different species roses as he could acquire for his work (*R. blanda*, *R. suffulta*, etc.). Granted, the majority did not afford him the success of *R. wichurana* and *R. setigera*. On his ramblers he wanted larger blooms and recurrent blooms; he wanted hardier plants and better rootstocks. Using a wild rose of each region of the country for those regions of the country, he believed, would achieve his goals. In the end, he produced at least 27 new varieties.

Like Horvath, Dr. Walter Van Fleet (1857-1922), an American native son, was quite experimental. Like Horvath, envisioning varied possibilities for American roses, he was not reluctant to use a broad

selection of species roses; rambling and climbing roses were his passion. Of the six roses he bred and introduced near the close of the 19th century, two still survive, both hybrid wichurana: ‘May Queen’, 1898, and ‘Ruby Queen’, 1899. Graham Stuart Thomas describes the first as becoming “a sheet of scented blossoms, cool lilac pink, few prickles.” It

can finger the second story of a building.

Bred with ‘Cramoisi Superieur’, ‘Ruby Queen’ is a full rose with deep, luscious pink flowers, their centers merging into white, sometimes prettily



May Queen as a Weeping Standard

muddled with petaloids, the reverse petals much paler pink. As appealing as these two roses are, Van Fleet’s best and most significant work was yet to come. But that is a story for the 20th century.

A SPECIES ROSE LOCATED

On a plant-finding expedition to Yunnan, China, last year, the Quarryhill team discovered the rather “elusive” *Rosa odorata v. gigantea*. The team brought back seeds of the rose from the very area in China where several botanists and plantsmen in the late 1700s and early 1800s sent or brought roses and other plants to Europe. According to Howard Higson, head of horticulture at Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, CA, *R. odorata v. gigantea* is thought to be the main genetic source of the Tea rose family and its many descendents. Truly, a cause for excitement!

THE MANY FACES OF 'SOUVENIR OF WOOTTON'

All photos taken of same
plant except dark red,
taken in Australia





Old Roses at Vintage Gardens

THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

Carolyn Sanders

There is a wondrous collection of historic, old garden roses located in a rural area just outside the town of Sebastopol, California, located about 50 miles north of San Francisco. Many Heritage Rose Foundation (HRF) and Heritage Rose Group members know of this collection as having been brought about through the vision of Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson. Because of several crises, exacerbated by the economic climate over the past few years, the collection has been sadly deteriorating. Concerned about the future of these roses, a group of loyal old-rose enthusiasts gathered together in July 2010 to form an organization now called The Friends of Vintage Roses (TFoVR). In order to reverse this drastic situation, it was decided that the organization needed to be a non-profit entity, tasked with the mission of preserving this collection of old and rare roses.

A look back at the history of this collection tells the story of how Gregg and Phillip's passionate collecting was informed by their love of the historic roses and how the amassing of their collection grew to about 5000 cultivars. Phillip is no longer involved with the property or collection, but his contribution will always be honored. Today, rosarians world-wide consider this collection to be one of the most complete collections of many old rose classes ever assembled. It brought international attention to the Pernetiana group of Hybrid

Teas, a seminal historic rose group of great importance to rose history. Also, it is one of the most complete collections of Hybrid Perpetuals, Bourbons, Gallicas, Hybrid Chinas, Teas, Noisettes and Chinas in North America.

Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson, who were among the founding members of HRF, not only collected and preserved these roses, but they have been extremely generous in promoting and educating the public. They held ‘open garden days’ where they opened the garden to the public during a few weeks in spring for many years. They have provided large quantities of propagation material to numerous public rose gardens around the world, helping to develop some of the



Gregg Lowery

best known rose collections. These include the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, the Japanese historic rose collection at Sakura, the recent old rose garden at the New York Botanic Gardens, the Heritage Rose District in New York City’s Harlem and the Heritage Rose Garden at Sacramento’s Old City Cemetery. They have provided roses to help replace historic roses long missing from the Roseaie de l’Hay in Paris, the Europa-Rosarium at Sangerhausen in Germany, and the National Collection of Old Roses at Mottisfont Abbey in England. The collection has also been instrumental in various technical studies on DNA research, including a study on rose pigments conducted in Japan.

Through the years a loyal group of volunteers has met at the Sebastopol property to help with weeding, mulching and any other tasks which needed attention. It became a close-knit group, enjoying the camaraderie, sharing rose-growing experiences, and gathering for delicious potluck lunches. These events are cheerfully referred to as “Dirt Days.”

This is the group that met in July 2010 to discuss its concerns of maintaining this wonderful and vital collection. To date several milestones have been met. An interim board of directors was selected to spearhead forming a non-profit. On March 5, 2012,

TFoVR was incorporated in the state of California as a non-profit corporation, and in April 2013, TFoVR filed an application with the IRS for tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (3). TFoVR now owns the Lowery-Robinson collection outright, and the new owner of the Sebastopol property has leased over two acres to TFoVR for a nominal sum. TFoVR has overseen propagation on nearly 2000 varieties from cuttings taken from the mother plants, and our “Dirt Day” volunteers have potted up most of these cuttings as well as undertaken other maintenance chores.



Once the restoration of the collection is completed, it is an important part of TFoVR’s mission to maintain the roses in the collection in the best possible condition. Long term, TFoVR will seek a permanent home in a garden setting for as many historic varieties as are deemed necessary for the preservation goal. Another part of TFoVR’s mission is to educate the public about the history of the rose in human social and scientific life – in all aspects of rose history, cultivation and social relevance. Sharing the collection with the public via guided tours, educational seminars and training classes on cultivation of roses is all part of this. Roses will be provided to the scientific community for study, such as the taking of plant materials for genetic research and bio-preservation, and will also be shared with other collections that serve a preservation or scientific role on behalf of the public.

Meanwhile, as TFoVR waits for the IRS to approve its application for tax-exempt status, there is an ongoing need for funds to continue to do what is necessary for restoring the collection to a healthy and sustainable condition. An immediate financial need is to hire an attorney to help finalize the 501(c) (3) filing. We are extremely grateful to the Heritage Rose Foundation for facilitating donations to TFoVR through the special purpose fund it has established. Everyone who has donated to that fund has contributed toward stabilizing and restoring the collection, but the need continues and is urgent. Until TFoVR can accept tax-exempt donations directly, please donate to TFoVR through HRF. You can go to the HRF website, (www.heritageosefoundation.org), which includes a link for donations by credit card to the special purposes fund for TFoVR. Or you can mail a check made out to the Heritage Rose Foundation, specifying it is for TFoVR, in care of Peggy Martin, HRF Treasurer, at P.O. Box 1719, Gonzales, LA 70707.

The Friends of Vintage Roses will be launching a website in the near future, but email contact is available now at this address: info@thefriendsofvintageroses.com.

Carolyn Sanders is circulation manager for HRF's Rosa Mundi and organizer for Friends of Vintage Roses "Dirt Day."

'Beyond Les Roses':

Life, Times and Botanical Art of Jean-Phillip Redouté

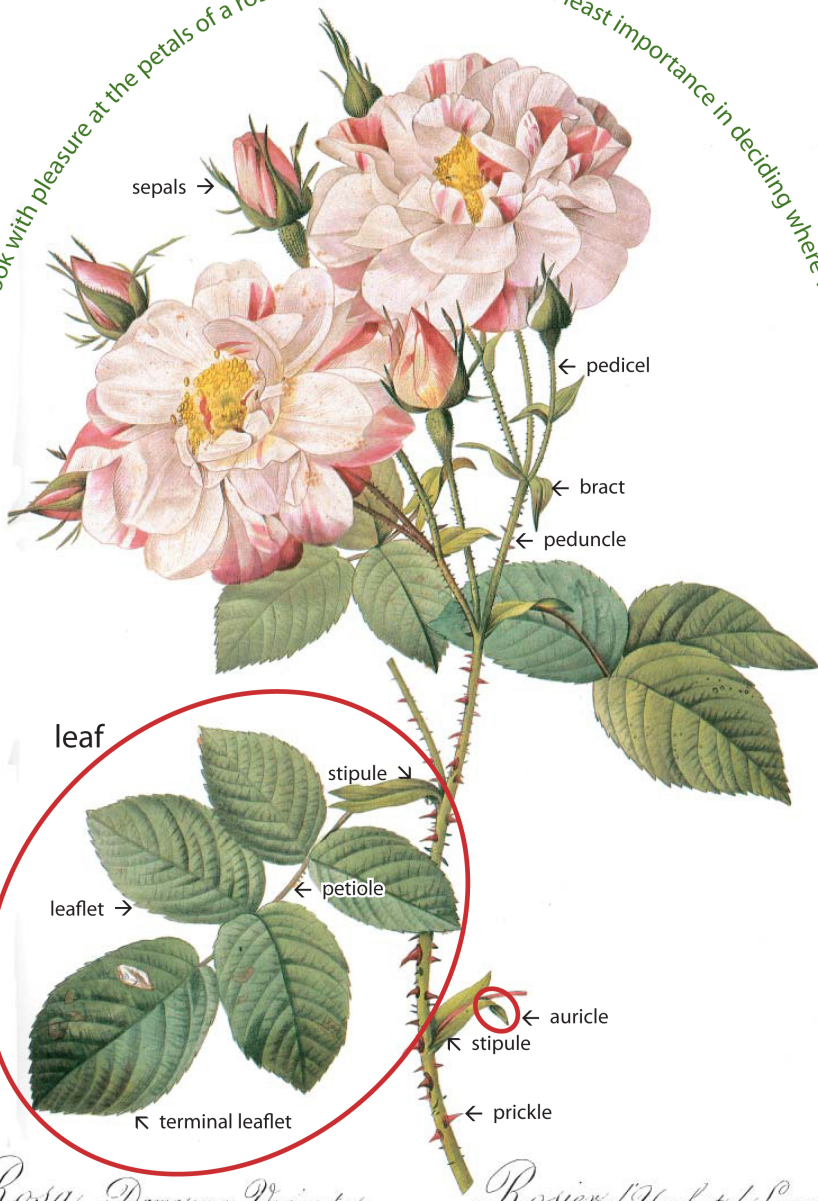
Central Library – 828 I Street, Sacramento

2 p.m. Sunday, August 4

This very special event features Belgium's Ingrid Verdegem as she describes the life and art of the great Belgian botanical artist Jean-Pierre Redouté, court artist to Marie Antoinette and the Empress Josephine. Redouté's *Les Roses* is his most famous volume, but he produced over 2,100 published works in his long career during the heady days of the French Revolution, the Reign of Terror, and Napoleon. Ms. Verdegem will describe the techniques used by Redouté and show examples of his other works. Co-sponsored by the Historic Rose Garden & Sacramento Public Library, the event is free.

ROSE PLANT IDENTIFICATION

"While we always look with pleasure at the petals of a rose, frequently they are of the least importance in deciding where we are to classify our plant." ~ Mrs F.L. Keays, 1938



Rosa Damascena Variegata

Rosier d'York et de Lancaster

--developed by Fiona Hyland, editor of *Heritage Roses New Zealand* (with help from Redoute)

The Heirloom Roses Nursery

Jeri Jennings

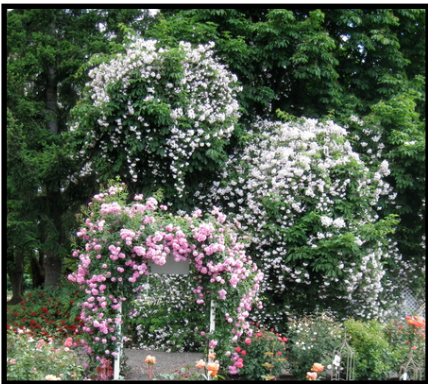
In the hands of John and Louise Clements, Heirloom Roses Nursery in St. Paul, OR, was one of the earliest nurseries to make rare roses available in easily shipped band-size plants. Starting as a part-time seller of Miniature Roses, Heirloom was, by 1982, the largest wholesale supplier of miniature roses in the Northwest. In 1985, John and Louise Clements bought four and one-half acres outside the little town of St. Paul, Oregon. In 1990, the Clements opened Heirloom Roses.

Heirloom was one of the earliest practical sources in the U. S. for David Austin's increasingly popular roses, selling them on their own roots, allowing us in the West to avoid the multiflora rootstock used by Canadian nurseries. And they also sold a mouth-watering selection of Old Roses.

Over the years, Heirloom "migrated" to carry more moderns, but a core selection of Old Roses remained. The wonderful imports offered for a while by Cliff Orent's EuroDesert Rose Nursery has found a home at Heirloom.

Early in 2013, **Heirloom Roses was sold to Ben Hanna**, a man whose business experience and general horticultural background speak well for the nursery's future. The Heirloom team already in place, manager Cheryl Malone is excited to have Ben's knowledge and business acumen augmenting their experience with roses.

The new Heirloom team is committed to building Heirloom into a top-tier rose nursery with staying power. To learn more, visit <http://www.heirloomroses.com>.



Roses in June bloom at Heirloom Roses Nursery.

The rose over the archway is 'Lavender Lassie'.

The rose above and to the right is growing, at its highest, 20 feet into a tree.

JUNE 8 SYMPOSIUM REPORT

A goodly group of rose folks found their way to Ft. Bragg, CA, in June for a symposium on rare roses, their identification and preservation. The day began with a talk on “found” roses, emphasizing their importance and the processes involved in collecting them. A distinct emphasis on the etiquette of what we tend to call “Rose Rustling” reminded us that it’s always good to ask permission—when it is possible to do so—and the importance of some judgment in when to snip and collect, as well as when NOT to do so.

The venue for the talk was the beautiful, historic Weller House B & B on Stewart Street in Ft. Bragg.

The rest of the day was meant for a broad effort at tagging most of the remarkable roses in the home garden of Ft. Bragg rosarian Joyce Demits. Some of this DID get done—though it must be admitted that the process was hampered by abnormal heat. With temperatures soaring well into the 90s, many of us felt—melted.

Nevertheless, many roses were tagged for future cuttings and preservation, and we had a chance to familiarize ourselves with this wonderful garden, as well as unmatched opportunity to see it at the top of its form.

--Jeri Jennings

Fred’s Fabulous Find

Fred Boutin & Darrell g.h. Schramm

When Fred Boutin showed up late for the afternoon session of the June 8th symposium at Joyce Demits’ rose acreage outside Ft. Bragg, he had good reason. A look of exuberant delight sparkled from his eyes, indeed, shone on his whole face as he turned toward us. “Look what I found!” he said, producing a bouquet of rich pink roses clutched in his hand.

“Where?” we asked. “Where did you find them?”

“Right in town.” He had been driving slowly down a street in Ft. Bragg looking for the source of an unknown rose brought to our morning meeting in Ft. Bragg when he spotted the plant in full, glorious bloom in the yard of a house. Stopping his vehicle, he walked up to admire the roses and take a few photos. The owner of

the home came out to learn what Fred was doing. After discovering that Fred was interested in the old climbing rose on the porch, the owner invited him into the garden to see other roses planted by his Finnish grandparents about 1919.

After looking at six roses in the narrow front gardens which included a luxurious plant of ‘Russelliana’ and a 1910-ish era white Hybrid Tea, the owner mentioned that there were a few more roses in the back garden, including one similar to the climber on the porch. Fred ambled back to look at it. It was a twin to the plant in the front, but this one grew luxuriantly in the shade. With many thanks, Fred left, carrying an armful of scented roses and hints of a Finnish lumber camp, now an abandoned site called “Sointala” (paradise), back up in the mountains where similar roses once grew.



Darrell holding Fred’s fabulous find

Fred believes the rose to be a *Rosa setigera* hybrid, possibly Feast’s ‘Queen of the Prairies’, 1843. (But if Darrell is correct about the rose being fragrant, it could be Burgess’ ‘Gem of the Prairies’.)

Perhaps some reader knows or has grown this rose. For those who may be interested in more technical detail beyond the photo and the description so far, I add the following on Fred’s fabulous find:

The closed bud of the flower is red; its sepals do not extend beyond the bud.

The flower is a bright, deep pink or cerise, large, very full, and sweetly fragrant. It is quartered; some of the blooms reveal a button eye. Tiny prickles or bristles adorn the pedicel.

The leaflets are sessile, biserrate, with adnate stipules. Small prickles grow on the underside of the petiole.

Except for a few scattered falcate thorns, the peduncle is smooth.

Fred says the rose grows about ten feet high.

I am still high from having seen, touched, and smelled Fred's discovery. In fact, it was the highlight of my day.

National Heirloom Expo
Sept. 10, 11, & 12, 2013
Sonoma Count Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa, CA

The National Heirloom Exposition is a non-profit event centered on the pure food movement, heirloom produce, and anti-GMO activism. What could be more appropriate for the Heritage Roses Group?

HRG took part in the first event in September of 2011. The event was stimulating, and our booth was a huge success. We're excited about repeating our participation this year! The 2012 event, with more than 100 speakers and 300 natural food vendors, was the largest gathering in pure food history--and 2013 could eclipse that!

The Heirloom Expo has gained incredible interest among home gardeners, farmers, school groups, and the general public--so much so that it is being called the "World's Fair of Pure Food"!

HRG is already on the Vendor's list. Want to come and play? The more the merrier. If you're interested in "**Booth-Sitting**" for part of the time, you'd be welcome.

The more of us who participate, the more time we can all spend exploring other exhibits. In 2012, Clay and I came home with a few rare and wonderful perennials and enjoyed a feast of wonderful heirloom tomatoes. But I missed a lot, and I want to make up for it this year. **To volunteer**, contact Sherri Berglund at CBERGL2433@aol.com. --Jeri Jennings

Management of Rose Mosaic Virus Disease at Florida Southern College

Malcolm M. Manners, Ph.D.

The following article is modified from the lectures given at the Great Rosarians of the World programs in Pasadena, California (February 2013) and New York (June 2013).

When I joined the faculty at Florida Southern College in 1981, right out of graduate school, I had no particular interest in roses. At that time there was only one rose bush on our campus—a grafted plant of 'Mrs. B. R. Cant' known to have been there since at least the early 1950s. My department chairman was an expert rosarian and an American Rose Society judge. He invited me to see the spring 1982 Lakeland rose show. I was not much interested but decided that it would be good politics to go. There, I "discovered" old garden roses, and found that their fragrances reminded me of my grandmothers' gardens. I was hooked!

I immediately ordered 13 plants from a nursery that specialized in old roses. That fateful order eventually resulted in FSC's rose mosaic heat therapy program. When the plants sprouted in my new garden, they showed interesting yellow stripes and blotches on their leaves. I had no idea at the time what caused those marks, so I showed them to my boss, who said they were symptoms of rose mosaic; lots of roses have it, and there's not much you can do about it. That piqued my interest, so I began to research the disease. I discovered that it could be removed from a rose with a process called heat therapy, and as I read about the process, I realized that there were two large plant growth chambers, not 50 feet from my office and not currently in use, where such treatment could be done. I asked my boss about the possibility of our starting such a program, and he gave his blessing. And the rest is history!

We were certainly not the first heat-therapy program in the United States, nor the largest. The University of California at Davis has by far the largest and oldest program, in which they work with virus diseases of fruit trees, grape vines, and various other crops. Roses are an important but minor part of that very large program. Oregon State University also had a significant heat-therapy program, which has since ceased to exist. For a while, Bear Creek, owner of

Jackson and Perkins and Armstrong nurseries, had its own proprietary heat-therapy program. That one also no longer exists.

Rose mosaic is the name used for any disease with a similar set of symptoms, specifically the lines, ring spots, and "mosaic" patterns of yellow or white, that appear on the leaves. In the USA, it is nearly always caused by prunus necrotic ringspot virus, or much more rarely, by apple mosaic virus. In Europe, it may also be caused by arabis mosaic virus, but that virus is not believed to exist in the USA at present. Visible leaf symptoms tend to occur on only a few leaves of the spring growth flush, and for the rest of the year, the plant may show no obvious symptoms. But numerous studies have shown that infected plants produce fewer flowers, on shorter stems, are less vigorous, less cold-hardy, are more difficult to graft, and don't live as long, as uninfected plants. So it is worthwhile to grow an uninfected plant if possible. Notice that rose mosaic is not in any way related to "rose rosette," a much more severe disease that is caused by a different virus.



The disease spreads naturally in its native hosts—fruit trees (peach, pear, apple, cherry, plum) in the rose family, via pollen and through seeds. However, the disease is not native to roses, and in roses, there is no documented case of it ever spreading via pollen, through seed, on pruning or grafting equipment, or by other natural means. Indeed, no natural spread has ever been documented

in a rose garden. Apparently the only means of spreading the disease in roses is through grafting. If an infected scion is grafted to an uninfected rootstock, or if an uninfected scion is grafted to an infected rootstock, the resulting plant will be entirely infected. Cuttings taken from that plant will also be infected. Since most

rootstocks produced in the USA are rooted from cuttings from the growing fields, this is how the disease moved from variety to variety, and by the 1970s, it was estimated that 90% of the US crop was infected. Today that number is far lower. UC Davis has documented natural spread in a closely grown (a few inches apart) research planting, apparently via naturally occurring root grafts. But at normal garden spacing, there is not a single documented case of natural spread of the disease.

An individual plant in the garden cannot be cured; but by heat therapy, we can cure a variety and produce healthy ("clean") plants of that variety for distribution. To do that, we start with a plant in a two- or three-gallon pot. Before beginning the heat therapy, we toughen the plant by growing it in a hot greenhouse, starving it of fertilizer (especially nitrogen), and allowing it to get somewhat dry between waterings. We want it to build a high level of abscissic acid, the hormone that makes a plant able to survive extreme stress.

When we have a thoroughly hardened plant, it is placed into the growth chamber, which looks like a large refrigerator with lights and access to water inside. There, we maintain a constant temperature of 100 °F (38 °C) for at least four weeks. While in many places in the world daytime temperatures may get that hot or hotter, there is no natural climate on the earth where the temperature would remain at 100°, continuously, day and night, for 28 days. That's a very artificial situation, to which neither roses nor the viruses causing this disease are well adapted. Often, the rose bush dies and we have to start over. But sometimes, the bush manages to survive. In that case, we cut scion buds from the upper branches and bud them onto known virus-free rootstock plants, then grow them off like normal nursery plants, in our greenhouses. The original heated plant is discarded—it is not cured, since the root system, which is frequently watered, cools off a bit every time we water it. So we need the buds, which have remained hot the entire time. If we've done it right, the virus will have died out of those buds.

But because there is the possibility that the virus remains, the next step is to "index" the new plant,



i.e., to test it to demonstrate that it is, indeed, cured. We use three methods of testing to index our plants:

1. 'Shirofugen' Cherry. Cherry trees don't grow well in Lakeland, Florida, so for this test, we ship budwood to the UC Davis program, which does the test. Buds of the rose to be tested are grafted to the branches of the Japanese flowering cherry variety 'Shirofugen'. If any of the forms of mosaic virus are present, the cherry reacts at the site of the graft, turning black and oozing a sticky gum from the wound. On the other hand, if the rose was not infected, the cherry branch heals over neatly, under the rose scion (in any case the graft is never successful and the rose scion dies). This test says whether or not any form of mosaic is present, but it does not identify exactly which virus is involved.

2. 'Mme. Butterfly'. We do this test in our own greenhouses at FSC. Scions of the rose to be tested are budded in autumn to known clean plants of the old Hybrid Tea rose, 'Mme. Butterfly'. Then the following spring, we observe the 'Mme. Butterfly' new growth. If one of the mosaic virus is present, 'Mme. Butterfly' will show remarkably bright line-banding symptoms.

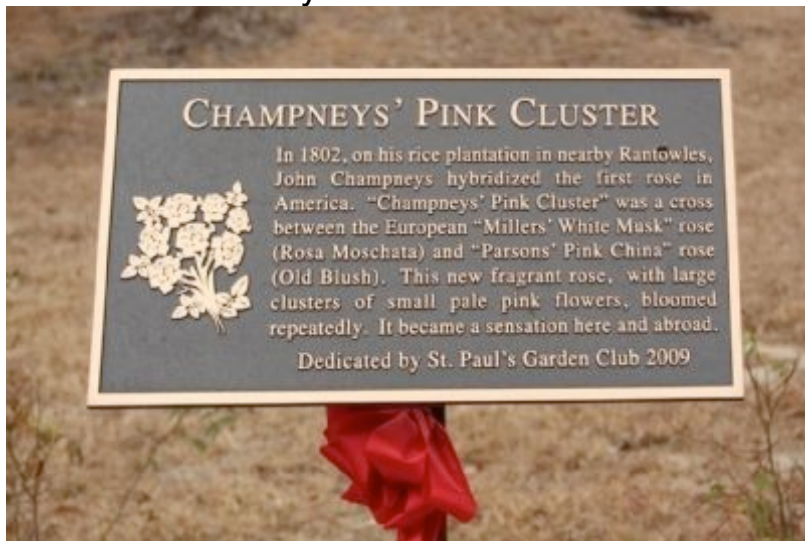
3. ELISA. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay is a lab procedure that works in the same way as do some home pregnancy tests, HIV tests, and other human diagnostic tests. It uses antibodies (usually from a rabbit that has been given immunization shots with the virus of interest). We send young, immature leaves of our plants to be tested to Washington State University's ELISA lab in Prosser, Washington. There, the samples are ground up, put through an extraction procedure to purify any virus present, and then taken through the ELISA reaction test. That involves more chemistry than I want to discuss in this article, but the result is that if the virus is present, the spot turns yellow. If not, the spot remains clear. This is a quick (one to two days), cheap (under \$10 per virus) test that accurately tells us specifically which virus(es) is/are present. To be sure this test is reliable, we always include both some known positive and negative controls. All samples are sent just with code number IDs. So the lab doesn't know which samples are the controls. To be believed, they must get all the positive and negative controls right, and then we believe their results on our test plants. Many ELISA labs exist all over the country, but we use WSU's lab because of its record of extreme accuracy and reliability.

So how can we be sure a rose is really clean? To declare a rose free of rose mosaic, we like to have results of at least two of these

tests, and in most cases, we eventually get results of all three tests. In the nearly 30 years that our program has existed, we've never had two tests to disagree -- that is to say, if a 'Shirofugen' test says a plant is clean, 'Mme. Butterfly' and ELISA will also find it clean. Or if a plant tests positive for infection by one method, the other two methods always agree. So in all those years, and with nearly 400 rose varieties, we have never had a single case of disagreement among the tests. Also, in those years, we've never had a single plant, once tested clean, to become symptomatic or to test positive at a later date. We do retest our collection periodically, just to be sure, but there has never been a single recurrence of the disease.

Once we have a rose treated and indexed, we make propagating material available to the nursery industry, and eventually, you can buy a "virus indexed" plant for your garden.

A Plaque in Florida Dedicated to America's Oldest Hybridized Rose



It should be noted that we have no evidence for the exact year, which, in the literature is variously given as between 1802 and 1812. Given that fact still allows 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' to remain the oldest cross-bred rose in the United States.



GLOIRE DES ROSOMANES

Translated by Bill Grant

Glory is not lacking when it comes to roses. Open any merchant catalog, and you'll see 'La Gloire de Guerin', 'Gloire des Hellenes', 'Gloire de Paris'. 'Gloire d'Auteuil', 'Gloire des Perpetuelles', 'Gloire de France', 'Gloire de Colmar', 'Gloire d'un Parterre' (flower bed), 'Gloire de Pelay', 'Gloire de Lawrenceanas', 'Gloire d'Alger', 'Gloire de la Guillotiere', and a thousand and more glories. But you will not always find [in the catalogs] 'Gloire des Rosomanes'. This does not mean that the rose is mediocre, far from it, but it signifies that it is already an "ancient rose." But then, old age and even adult age is a crime and gets no pity from certain merchants. For them it has to be new, of course.

As for us who speak differently, we, who aim to make a century of "the most beautiful roses" and not of "the new roses," which are totally different, have examined many popular rose bushes; we have compared the blossoms, we have studied the growing

pattern of each one, we have weighed the advantages and drawbacks, and then we have concluded that up till now **'Gloire des Rosomanes'** has always been ranked number one. We have respectfully cut a branch and carried it to our artiste, Madame Annica Bricogne, who reproduced the rose faithfully and have proof of this in the beautiful portrait delivered to you.

'Gloire des Rosomanes' had been obtained in Lyon about fifteen years ago by Monsieur Plantier, who had the good sense to give it the name this rose justifies so well since she has given glory to rose lovers who own it. The rose belongs to a mixed section, a hybrid of uncertain lineage, and has given us most of the roses of this series and many others said to be hybrids, but they are really 'Gloires Rosomanes' with slight variety. . . .

Nothing is more beautiful than this specie to cover bowers, old walls, covering all the way to the roofs and to show a constant burst of flowers

September 1845

Translated from the book *Choix des plus belles Roses*
by Martin-Victor Paquet. Published in Paris, 1845-54
Annica Bricogne illustrated the book.

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CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Aug. 4 | “Beyond <i>Les Roses</i> ” talk by Ingrid Verdegem, Sacramento Downtown Library, 2 pm |
| Sept. 10-12 | Heirloom Expo, Santa Rosa, CA, county fairgrounds |
| Sept. 28 | San Jose, CA, Heritage Rose Garden, autumn symposium, 10-3 pm |
| Oct. 12 | Rose Workshop w/ Paul Zimmerman & David Perry, photographer. Angel Gardens, FL. See p. 30 |
| Oct. 19 | Celebration of Roses. Speakers: Tom Carruth, Pat Shanley, & Stephen Scanniello, Farmers Branch, TX, 10:30-4:30 pm. Part of RoseDango Festival. See www.fbroses.com |
| Nov. 1-3 | Antique Rose Emporium, Fall Festival of Roses See www.wearerose.com for more details |
| Nov. 14-17 | Heritage Rose Foundation annual meeting and conference, Lakeland, FL |
| Feb. 1, 2014 | Great Rosarians of the World event. No details yet |
| June 2014 | Mottisfont, Hampshire, England. Event honoring outgoing Head Gardener David Stone and incoming Head Gardener Jonny Bass. Conference to be held at Winchester. |

Fall Seminar and Propagation Workshops in Ft. Bragg

Folks who gathered in Joyce Demits’ garden in early June enjoyed a moment of peak bloom and a somewhat overwhelming collection of unlabeled roses. The work mapping the garden is being finished by Alice Flores and Joyce with help from a local landscaper. The goal will be a comprehensive map of the roses, a database of names and provenance where known, and photos to help identification before taking cuttings.

The focus of the Fall Seminar will be on propagation.

(continued on page 29)

HERITAGE ROSES GROUPS

San Francisco Bay, CA

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CENTRAL COAST GROUP

Jill Perry (Same as above: South Bay)

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(continued from page 27)

Participants will return home with cuttings for their own gardens, plant material for public projects and display gardens, and in-depth instruction by several experts on propagation methods.

A date has been set only tentatively; it will be either Sept. 14th or October 19th. Contact me to confirm. Those who were unable to attend the June event are welcome. Please bring gloves and secateurs, sturdy shoes, a folding chair, and your own lunch. The event is free. Email Alice at aflores@mcn.org.

--Alice Flores

A decorative archway made of white pillars and a vine with roses and leaves. Several butterflies are scattered throughout the design.

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