

Rose Letter



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ROSE LETTER
of
The Heritage Roses Group

©

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FITZWILLIAM AND FOLKESTONE: TWO OLD HYBRID TEAS

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Henry Bennett, the first rose breeder to hybridize intentionally the hybrid tea class of roses, produced two important roses with much in common. Both were bred in the 1880s, both named for ladies of the English court, both of whom were born in 1846, and both of whom died in 1929.

The first rose, bred in 1882, is 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam'. Much has been written of this rose and the woman it honored, some of it utterly incorrect, much of it speculation, and a little of it verifiable fact. One piece of misinformation is that Lady Mary was

the granddaughter of King William IV. Given that he had at least a baker's dozen of illegitimate children and no child that survived infancy from his Queen, it would seem a safe guess.

In truth, born Mary Grace Louise Butler, she was the Irish daughter of the second Marquess of Ormonde. Her paternal grandfather was James Wandesford Butler, first Marquess of Ormonde, and her maternal grandfather was General Hon. Sir Edward Paget. Obviously neither grandfather sat upon an English throne.

In 1877 she married the son of an earl, Hon. William Henry Fitzwilliam of Yorkshire where she kept a garden at Wigganthorp. At court she was Extra Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria's daughter-in-law who had married Prince Alfred, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and of Edinburgh. (One source states she was "Lady-in-Waiting to the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and a close friend of the Duchess of Edinburgh." But the two were one and the same; the duchess, a Russian aristocrat who intensely disliked the English, held both titles.)

By the onset of the 20th century, the rose had virtually vanished from nursery catalogues, primarily—so it was supposed—because it was difficult to grow. On the one hand it was an abundant early bloomer; on the other, according to several rosarians of the time, a rather feeble garden rose. Yet it was the first English hybrid tea of any significance, being the first hybrid tea to be completely fertile. It was the pollen parent of 30 first generation hybrid teas, though with the exception of five or so they were negligible. Another 2004 roses are related in the second, third, and fourth generation of descendents. From first generation offspring 'Antoine Rivoire' came 806 progeny and from 'Mrs. W. J. Grant', also first generation, came 506—in short, 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' is a famous parent rose. Quantity, however, does not equal quality nor ensure popularity. Gertrude Jekyll does not list it in her well-known volume *Roses for English Gardens* (1902). The rose had virtually vanished.

In the early 1960s Wilhelm Kordes went in quest of this productive pink or tawny pink rose. At first he thought he had found it still growing in New Zealand, but that rose was 'Mrs. Wakefield

Christie-Miller’, a two-toned pink. In 1975 Keith Money found a solitary plant growing in a Norfolk garden. When he and Peter Beales published a color photo of the rose in a booklet, two letters from Australia, one from a long-time nurseryman who had grown the rose “extensively,” declared the rose to be ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’. A photo, however, is not conclusive evidence. The other letter was from the niece of Henry Bennett’s great-granddaughter, who further added that Bennett’s son Charles had immigrated to Australia and established a nursery in Homebush, New South Wales by 1890. There he bred the rose ‘Mrs. C.B. Pitt’, using the tea ‘Alba Rosea’ and ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’. Clearly he had taken along some rose stock from his father.

But does the rose still grow in Australia? Australian rose authority Patricia Routley grows it there next to ‘Mrs. Wakefield Christie-Miller’. The two roses are clearly different. Coincidentally in 2001, when she visited South Australia, she saw the two roses growing side by side as well. What supposedly is the same rose has been found also in a few California locations, including in an old Calaveras County cemetery.

But are those the true ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’? The roses I’ve seen bearing that name are invariably a soft or light uniform pink. Yet the old descriptions from 1883 to that of Dean Hole in 1901 describe it as flesh pink, rosy flesh, delicate rosy flesh, and Bennett himself wrote that it was “light tender flesh colour.” Few rose photos on HelpMeFind show the rose as other than simply pure pink—granted, as I’ve said, photos are not conclusive evidence. Patricia Routley’s rose in Western Australia, however, is clearly “rosy flesh” or “flesh pink.”

(As aside: I do find the term *flesh* used as a color to be racist. Whose flesh? Pancho Villa’s? Ho Chi Min’s? Chief Pontiac’s? Martin Luther King’s? Why not *incarnadine* or *lightly tawny* or *pale tan*?)

Unlike the less vigorous ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’, the rose ‘Viscountess Folkestone’, introduced in 1886, has been described as “superior to dripping skies and absence of sunshine,” a good bedding rose of medium height, with quite large, full, and strongly

scented flowers in uniform creamy pink or blush-peach, sometimes deepening to salmon pink in the center. It was/is a good hot weather rose, very popular on the Riviera at the turn of the 19th century, a rose that bloomed floriferously into autumn when it appeared especially fine. According to H.R. Darlington in 1910, women recognized it as “a highly artistic” rose that they wore when going out for the evening or used to decorate table and home.

By 1917 it was rarely seen in England. In 1933 Australia, it was still considered “worth preserving,” but by 1958 the passing of its glory was deplored by those who loved the early hybrid teas. It was last listed in *Modern Roses IV* (1952), but by 2006 Vintage Roses Nursery (now defunct) offered it. Today, only in Germany does it continue to find the shelter of preservation. It can still be purchased from the C. Fechner and the Rosenschule Martin Weingart nurseries and sometimes from the preservation rose garden 16-Eichen Rosenschätze in Lower Saxony.

The woman for whom it was named was born Helen Matilda Chaplin, who on marrying became Countess of Radnor and Viscountess Folkestone, the latter a courtesy title both she and Lord Folkestone preferred.

Lord Folkestone, born William Pleydell-Bouverie, served as Treasurer of the Household in Parliament from 1885 to 1891, a conservative politician. The family home was Longford Castle, near Salisbury, known for its impressive collection of furnishings and paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds, Holbein, and others. In 1892, Viscountess Folkestone published a two-volume catalogue of the art collection at the castle.



No doubt she grew the rose named in her honor at Longford Castle. After the turn of the century, she also kept a garden in Venice, which she sold in 1910.

A woman of several interests, she published a short book in 1925 entitled *Notes and Queries on the Origin of British-Israel*, a result of her interest in the lost tribes of Israel and the British Israeli movement. In her memoirs *From a Grandmother's Armchair*, she writes of having been a special guest of Queen Victoria for a full weekend. An ardent appreciator of classical music, she formed her own string orchestra during World War I comprised of all female musicians. Several sources assert that while conducting she chose to wear her tiara backwards to make it more visible to the audience.



The English magazine *Gardening Illustrated* on October 14, 1899, listed 'Viscountess Folkestone' as one of the best 24 roses for late autumn flowering, a list that included 'Caroline Testout' and 'Mme Abel Chatenay'. (The latter two are still quite with us.) This was a much-loved rose. On February 17, 1900, the Australian *Sydney Mail* published an article on hybrid teas. Declared the writer, "We want more . . . of such roses as Viscountess Folkestone, Caroline Testout, and Madame Abel Chatenay. At present the hybrid tea group possesses too many of the

Lady Mary Fitzwilliam class. We need to break away from these." And gardeners apparently did so to the virtual loss of 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam'. The irony is that she has resurfaced while the stronger, more popular rose of the time 'Viscountess Folkestone' has—except in Germany—disappeared. Perhaps the latter rose too will resurface to grace a few gardens again. If so, these two roses will have one more attribute in common.



POTLATCH'S HEIRLOOM ROSE GARDEN

Justine and Larry Landes

The heirloom rosebed in Potlatch, Idaho, was planted during the summer of 2012 with approximately 40 roses. Potlatch is in Zone 5 and 2500 feet above sea level. The rosebed is located in the Scenic 6 Park, which is flat and unprotected from the wind. In spite of this, the roses have survived two winters and have grown vigorously during the spring and summer months. To protect them from the deer we made cages of chicken wire. As the roses grew we removed the cages and started spraying Bobbex, a deer repellent.

Potlatch, Idaho was founded by the Weyerhaeuser syndicate which built the largest white pine mill in the world. The company also built and owned the town. The only way to live in Potlatch was if one worked for the mill. If the husband died, the family would have to move out of Potlatch. The town incorporated in 1954 and was no longer owned by Potlatch Corporation. In 1981 the mill closed and was torn down. The property lay vacant for about ten years. The 1990s saw the property turned over to the town of Potlatch so

that the Scenic 6 Historical Park could be built.

In April of 2012 we potted up about 40 roses from suckers. We grew them in pots until September and then planted them in the spot we had prepared for them in the park. More roses will be added in future years.

Following is a list of the planted roses. **ALBAS:** Celestial, Great Maiden's Blush, Royal Blush. **DAMASK:** Mme. Hardy, Celsiana, Botzaris. **MOSS:** Marcel Davoust, Blanche Moreau, Captain John Ingram, Henri Martin, Common moss. **BOURBON:** Louis Odier. **SPECIES:** Rosa Nutkana. **HYBRID PERPETUALS:** Magna Charta, Rose de Rescht. **MODERN ROSES WITH HEIRLOOM ROSE BLOOMS:** Theresa Bugnet, Constance Stry, William Baffin, Escapade. **PIMPINELLIFOLIAS:** Harison's Yellow, Scotch Rose before 1600 (given to us by the University of Idaho Arboretum, it could be Altaica) **CENTIFOLIA:** Paul Ricault, Cabbage Rose **GALLICAS:** Complicata, Anais Segales, Officianalis, Rosa Mundi, Alice Vena, Superb Tuscan, La Belle Sultane, James Mason, Alain Blanchard, Charles de Mills, Cardinal de Richelieu, Belle Isis, Omphale, Belle de Crecy, Duchess de Buccleugh, Ville de Toulouse, Ipsilante, Aimable Rouge, Pivoine Nouvelle, Antonine D'Ormois.

We hope if you are ever in the area, you will stop by the rosebed. The flush of bloom is in late June.

TO JOIN OR RENEW THE HERITAGE ROSES GROUP

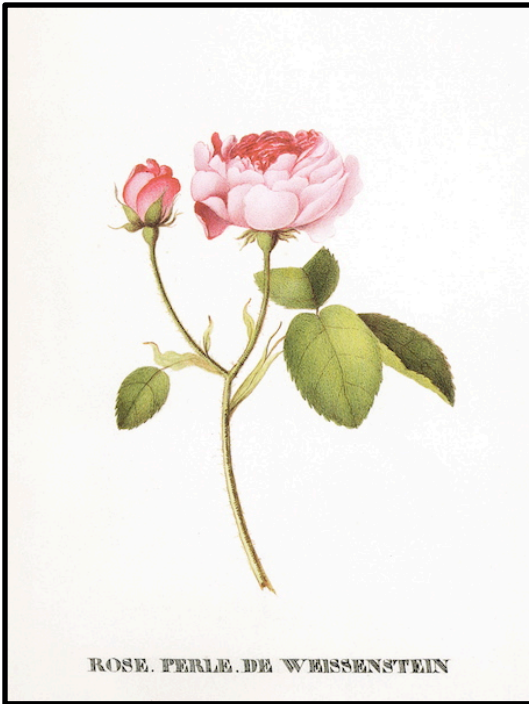
Send \$16 for the print format of *Rose Letter*

or \$10 for the digital format

to Clay Jennings, Membership Chair

22 Gypsy Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010

or contact him at e.c.jennings@gmail.com



BEFORE AND BEYOND JOSEPHINE: THE ROSES OF WILHELMSHÖHE

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Long before Empress Josephine acquired and planted her exotic garden known for its many roses at Chateau de la Malmaison a few gardens in Germany were remarkable for their roses and other plants. One

of them in the 16th century reputedly contained every rose then known in the Western world.

Wilhelm IV (1567-1592), Landgrave of Hesse (a title equivalent to a Marquis or Count), established Fuldaaue, a pleasure garden in the 1580s exhibiting a large collection of plants, one of the first botanical gardens in Germany. At one point he sent his sister-in-law Hedwig of Hessen-Marburg several hundred double red roses (*Rosa gallica*) and white roses (*R. alba*). In 1590 he acquired from a Count Neuenaar thirteen different species roses. Though he owned other gardens in Hesse, this garden had a reputation far beyond its borders.

It was the Imperial Marshall of Hesse Georg Riedesel, a botanist like his contemporary Wilhelm IV, who at his Castle Ludwigseck in northern Hesse generated one of the largest assemblage of roses then known. Indeed, it was his garden that was said to contain all the known roses at the time.

Of course, given the times, such a collection could not vie with that

of Empress Josephine 215 years later, but the German interest in roses should not surprise us. After all, Charlemagne, whose court was in Aachen, a German city, issued a royal ordinance around the year 734, in paragraph 70, that farms and gardens under jurisdiction of the crown be required to grow certain plants, chief among them lilies and roses. And it was his son, Louis the Pius who is said to have erected a church on the site of a rose in 818. That church was to become Hildesheim Cathedral where the rose is still growing—at least local records refer to the event as far back as 1573. By Georg Riedesel’s time, the late 16th century, European botanists—certainly those in the Netherlands, England, and France—could name eighteen different roses or more, species and cultivars.



R. Francofurana

One of those roses, known in Germany, is mentioned in various documents in the decades of 1570 and 1580 as *Rosa sine spinis*, which grew in the gardens of Vienna, Strasbourg, Nuremberg, and Frankfort-am-Main, the latter from whence it came to be called R, Francofurtensis, later Francofurtana. Much later Redoute was to paint a rose labeled ‘Rosier d’Orbessan’ which has been tentatively identified as the Frankfurt Rose. But, though it includes the famous poet and writer Goethe, that is another story. And it is debatable whether the rose sold today by that name is authentic.

Meanwhile, back at the castle, the son of Wilhelm IV, Landgrave Moritz, created near the city of Kassel more gardens on the vast lands that the hereditary family owned. This territory surrounded a secularized monastery at Weissenstein. Between 1606 and 1610, Moritz built a hunting lodge on the site, which about 150

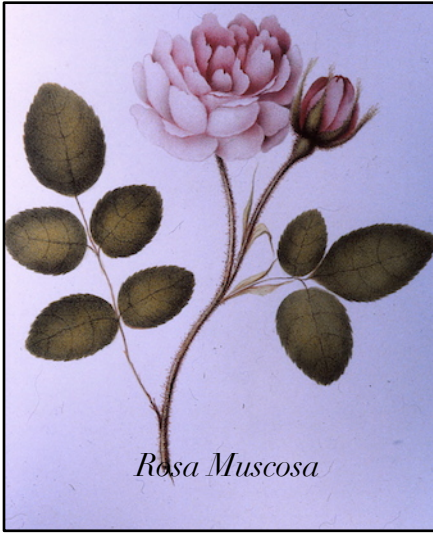
years later Landgrave Frederick II (Regent from 1760 to 1785) turned into a palatial summer residence with a rose walk—roses from the very start received prominent attention. The huge acreage on which the rosarium sat became Park Weissenstein. In 1770 he had the Rose Bosquet rose garden created below Weissenstein Rock, the roses allowed to grow naturally in a free-form manner modeled after the current English fashion. Roses from France, Holland, and the English colonies in America comprised most of this collection.

Earlier, in 1766, he had hired the gardener Daniel August Schwarzkopf, a former apprentice of Philippe Miller in London, to take charge of the Weissenstein grounds. A year later, Schwarzkopf set up a nursery, which grew some 52,000 shrubs, including roses. It became the largest nursery in Germany, closing its doors nearly a hundred years later. In the rosarium's early years, the Schwarzkopf had acquired some of the roses from a landscape garden owned by Baron von Munchhausen. In the meantime, Schwarzkopf began to create his own roses.

When Landgrave Wilhelm IX succeeded Frederick II, he had the old castle demolished and used its rubble in 1789 to form Rose Island in the lake (or Lac, as it was called) of the park. Nine years later, ensconced in a new palace, he rechristened the castle Wilhelmshöhe (Wilhelm's Heights). The old rose collection once belonging to Frederick II continued to be part of the landscape; but Rose Island was devoted to the flower. In 1777 about a hundred rose varieties were listed; in 1785 about 150 varieties, including 49 species (not to mention *R. laevigata*, then called *R. sinica*) were on the park's list.

During the period of 1773-1785, Schwarzkopf created several new roses: 'Belle de Weissenstein', 'Centifolia de Hesse', 'Petite Hessoise', 'Pourpree de Weissenstein', 'Holoserica Regalis', and Germany's oldest surviving rose, the gallica 'Perle von Weissenstein'. The last-named rose may not have been released to other nurseries at first, for, though by 1781 the park estate had printed a catalogue of its own roses, 'Perle von Weissenstein' is not listed in other German or French catalogues until 1808. However, around 1800 Vibert obtained this rose, no doubt from Wilhelmshöhe Nursery, then the largest commercial plant enterprise in Germany.

In 1785 the botanist Conrad Mönch wrote, "[T]he present



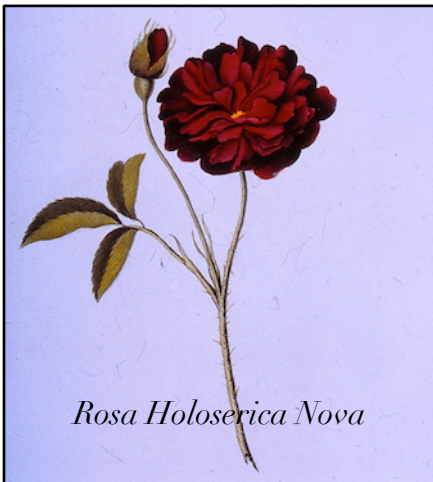
Rosa Muscosa

court gardener Mr. Schwarzkopf is the first person to cultivate these foreign plants [imports of trees and shrubs]. . . . Europe has not received and been the beneficiary of so many new and generally useful plants since Roman times.” Mönch went on to describe the roses, adding, “For the last twelve years Mr. Schwarzkopf has sown many of the varieties to be found here every year and has obtained quite a few noticeable variations.” While most of these have disappeared with time, one and perhaps two can still be found in

gardens.

Significantly and fortunately for rose history, in 1788 Wilhelm IX appointed Salomon Pinhas (1759-1837) as court miniaturist painter. When Wilhelm IX became Elector Wilhelm I, he commissioned Pinhas to paint in watercolor the roses of the grand estate. We can surmise that Pinhas was near the end of his project in 1806 when he requested an annual salary to complete the rose paintings. While the Academy of Arts and the buildings director denied the request, shortly thereafter Elector Wilhelm fled the country. Napoleon’s forces had invaded and

conquered. Consequently work on the rose book engravings was interrupted.



Rosa Holoserica Nova

During this time in England, Mary Lawrence from 1796 to 1810 was publishing in thirty installments her copperplate engravings of roses. Having viewed them, Dr. C. Gottlob Rössig, between 1802 and 1820, wishing to improve on some of Lawrence’s inaccuracies, published sixty rose engravings in volume II of his *Die Rosen*. In 1805 Henry C.

Andrews issued his copperplate rose engravings, adding a second volume in 1828. More or less coterminously, Pierre-Joseph Redouté released the paintings of the first edition between 1817 and 1824 of his famous, botanically accurate *Les Roses*. It was also around this time that Empress Josephine began to add roses to her famous garden—not a rose garden but a garden containing roses.

When her husband Napoleon conquered the Hesse-Westphalia-Wurttemberg region in 1806, he not only created the Kingdom of Westphalia with Kassel as its capital, but also he appointed his brother Jerome as the new king. From December of 1807 to 1813, Jerome and his new wife Princess Catherina of Wurttemberg occupied the palace of Wilhelmshöhe, which was renamed Napoleonshöhe.

Jerome Bonaparte (1784-1860), whom historian Philip Walsingham Sergeant has called “The Burlesque Napoleon,” spent many of his evenings at the palace enjoying concerts, stage comedies, and whist parties. For his princely lifestyle his sartorial display typically consisted of a blue uniform trimmed with silver lace and accented with stylish riding boots custom-made. Sergeant claims that Jerome drank “the very dregs of his royal draught in Westphalia.” On moving into the palace, he at once had ordered all new furnishings. His extravagant, often unwise, often silly and self-interested behavior did not meet Napoleon’s approval. Furthermore, within weeks of establishing the seat of his unearned power, Jerome lost considerable respect of the populace. It was an open secret that the king was an unmitigated philanderer.



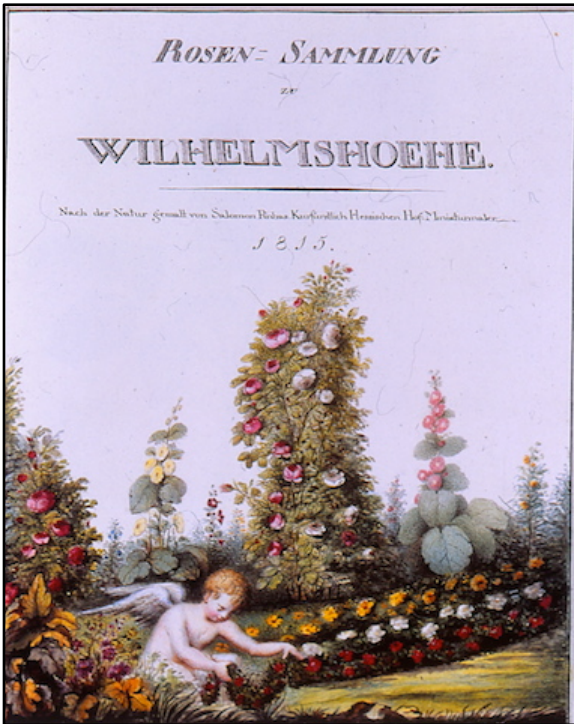
**Catherine of
Wurttemberg**

On the other hand, Queen Catherina was much liked. It was said that many mothers of Kassel refused to allow their daughters to attend royal balls and festivities because of the new king’s reputation and because of their respect for the queen. About eight years after she died in 1835, a rose was named in her honor, ‘Catherine de Wurtemberg’, a rose that still grows at Wilhelmshöhe. But King Jerome did keep Salomon Pinhas employed. Pinhas painted miniatures of the

king, of the palace guards, and others.

Also in Jerome Bonaparte's favor, under his rule in 1811 the park grounds nursery published a catalogue, which listed 109 rose

species and cultivars. (However, another source asserts, "In the Napoleonshöhe nursery catalogue 1811 and in the Wilhelmshöhe catalogue 1851, 151 rose species are still on offer.") Pinhas was to paint a total of 133 roses to be published in a bound volume in 1815. The lower number of 109 suggests he had not yet completed his project in 1811. At any rate, such a list of roses was extensive and vied—at least at first—with the number of roses that Empress Josephine



grew.

In fact, Josephine, among her sources, also requested certain roses from Napoleonshöhe. A letter written in November 1809 by Queen Catherina (acquired by the Kassel Library in 1983) to her sister-in-law Empress Josephine, informs us of a rose show apparently to take place at Malmaison and goes on to apologize that the king (Jerome) had left rather hastily for France without taking along some promised roses. The queen assures the Empress that the roses will follow shortly. If the roses listed for the palace in 1811 were the same as those in 1809, we might more accurately determine some of the roses that grew at Malmaison by 1812.

After Napoleon's first defeat, Jerome and Catherina having fled

temporarily to her father's castle, Elector Wilhelm I returned to his beloved Wilhelmshöhe. Salomon Pinhas completed his work of the 133 engravings, labeling them with the French names used in the 1811 catalogue, and the Elector had them bound in a volume for his private library. There for over 150 years Pinhas' book of roses lay forgotten.

In 1978 Dr. Wernt and Hedi Grimm of Kassel, employed to renew and restore the rose collection in Wilhelmshöhe Park, discovered in the library the neglected old volume of Pinhas's art work. Here was a find! Though less detailed botanically, less finely executed than the engravings of Redouté, these paintings are important as an index of the roses grown in Germany at that time as well as of roses grown at the time Empress Josephine was beginning her collection in 1804.

Study of the Pinhas plates have determined that a number of them correspond to roses listed by Jules Gravereaux as likely growing at Malmaison and to several roses painted by Redouté. For example, Pinhas' *Rosa francfortensis* corresponds to Redouté's *R. inermis*, *R. semiplena alba* corresponds to *R. alba flore plena*, *R. incarnata* to *R. gallica incarnata*, *R. holoserica simplex* to *R. gallica maheka*, *R. rubicans* to *R. alba regalis*, and so on. Pinhas's *R. semperflorens purpurea* seems to be 'Slater's Crimson China'.

The most renowned rose among the paintings by Pinhas is, naturally, 'Perle de Weissenstein', not only because it was found by the Grimms to be still growing in the park, but also because it is Germany's oldest surviving rose. It corresponds to Redouté 'Rose provins perle de Weissenstein'.

The result of Wernt and Hedi Grimm's discovery, research, and restoration is the publication in 2001 of a beautiful book entitled *Rosen-Sammlung zu Wilhelmshöhe* (The Rose Collection at Wilhelmshöhe). The coffee-table size book includes all 133 color plates, one to a page, sized 8 ½" by 11 ½", along with other illustrations. The first section of the book, written by Margot Lutze and Horst Becker, traces four hundred years of German rose history, including the history of Wilhelmshöhe. It is a pity that Germany has generally been overlooked in accounts regarding the history of the rose. As early as 1855, Wilhelm Doll, referring to a chapter in William Paul's *The Rose Garden* lamented, "Germany has not been mentioned at all in Paul's 'History of Roses'." Even Roy Shephard's *History of the Rose* of 1954 ignores Germany.

Twenty years later a German, Gerd Krussmann sought to correct this oversight but devoted only fragments of information on roses in Germany during the Middle Ages and mostly of the 20th century. Jennifer Potter in her fairly thorough and vast survey of *The Rose* (2010) adds to the latter, but it is this book on Wilhelmshöhe's roses that is currently the definitive work on German rose history to the middle of the 19th century. Unfortunately, Dr. Grimm died in the year 2000 before the book was finally published.

Today Roseninsel, the Rose Island, that the Grimms re-established parades 1,600 roses in 900 varieties and species. In addition to the gallica 'Perle de Weissenstein' and the moss 'Catherine de Wurtemberg', a few other roses in the gardens are named for their association with Wilhelmshöhe. 'Park Wilhelmshöhe', a 1987 hybrid gallica by Kordes; 'Salomon Pinhas' (aka 'Pinhas') a shrub of 1998 by Ewald Scholle, German breeder of thornless roses; 'Hedi Grimm' another shrub by Scholle, 1973; and another 'Hedi Grimm', a hybrid musk released twice by Lens, the second time in 2005. In addition to those grown on Roseninsel, roses are grown throughout the 590-acre park among waterfalls, monuments, a grotto, a thick stand of trees.



Long before Empress Josephine at Chateau Malmaison, others with strong horticultural inclinations and passions were laying out gardens beautified with roses. Significantly, Park Wilhelmshöhe near Kassel, Germany, has survived and thrived in a way that the gardens of Malmaison have not. In June of 2013, this beautiful mountain park was designated a World Heritage Site. That honor also honors the Rose.



PHOTO CREDITS

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 Page 7 Justine Landes
 Pages 9 & 12 Salomon Pinhas
 Pages 10, 16, 17, & 21 Bill Grant
 Page 13 detail of portrait by Francois Kinson
 Page 14 catalogue cover 1811 in *Rosen-Sammlung zu Wilhelmshohe*, 2014
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PITTOCK MANSION REVISITED

Last year, early June 2014, I visited the famous Pittock Mansion in Portland, Oregon, with an old friend. Though the mansion sits high on a hill overlooking the city, it was less the view and the gardens I had come for than the old roses. Alas, scarcely any old roses were growing there—a ‘Cecile Brunner’, a hybrid musk, one or two others. Mostly modern roses filled the beds. Yet Mrs. Georgiana Pittock, a pioneer of 1852, was the woman who helped found the annual Portland Rose Festival and in 1888 hosted the first rose exhibition, which led to founding of the Portland Rose Society.

A large flowerbed around beside one section of the house had been upheaved. I learned that some roses had been removed from it and were in storage while repairs on that end of the house were in progress. But no one seemed to know whether those roses were old or modern.

Mrs. Pittock grew many an old rose. Much later, in 1976-77 over sixty old roses were given to and planted on the Pittock grounds, now owned by the city. In 1981, rose researcher Janet Witter wrote an article that named the old roses identified on the property.

Among the **Gallicas** were ‘Antonia d’Ormois’, ‘Desiree Parmentier’, ‘Jeanette’, and ‘Charles de Mills’. (‘Antonia d’Ormois’ and ‘Jeanette’ are no longer commercially available.);

among the **Albas**: ‘Alba semi-plena’, ‘Celestial’, ‘Jeanne d’Arc’, and ‘Mme Legras de St. Germain’; among the **Damasks**: ‘Gloire de Guilan’, ‘Mme Hardy’, ‘Omar Khayyam’, and ‘York and Lancaster’. The **Centifolias** were ‘Adeline’, ‘Blanche fleur’, ‘De Meaux’, ‘Fantin Latour’, ‘Juno’, and ‘Rosa x centifolia’, and the **Mosses** were ‘Comtesse de Murinais’, ‘Eugenie Guinoisseau’, ‘Gabriel Noyelle’, ‘Henri Martin’, ‘Jeanne de Montfort’, and ‘Laneii’. Two **Chinas**, ‘Viridiflora’ and ‘Hofgartner Kalb’, and one **Tea** ‘Catherine Mermet’ were added. Of the **Hybrid Perpetuals** planted were ‘Frau Karl Druschki’, ‘General Jacqueminot’, ‘Hugh Dickson’, and ‘Souvenir de Mme H. Thuret’—the latter is no longer available. Several old Hybrid teas were also planted. Others were ‘Soleil d’Or’, ‘Austrian Copper’, ‘Gruss an Teplitz’, ‘Danae’, and the species *Rosa hugonis*.

The layout of the beds were planned as a “walk through rose history” beginning with the Gallicas beside the carriage house, swooping around the perimeter of the mansion, and ending with the hybrid foetidas and old hybrid teas. Needless to say, I was immensely disappointed to see these roses no longer growing there. Perhaps a few were in storage? One would hope that that city, proud to keep the mansion in good condition to preserve its history, would also be alert and proud enough to show the history of the rosebeds as well.

The Editor

Rosalia Open Garden

by Hearthstone Village benefiting the Reveil Martinal Orphanage in Haiti.

May 23rd, 11:00-4:00 pm.

Tour the renowned garden Red Rose Ridge of Michael and Pamela Temple at 5111 Westview Rd. Willits, Calif.

Head north on Hwy 101 to Willits, make a left on Muir Mill Rd. before Glen Mark Storage and follow the balloons. Tickets \$20, children under 13 free.

Facebook Hearthstone Village for more info.

OBITUARY: LILY SHOHAN

We are saddened to inform our readers that Lily Shohan died on the morning of April 4th.

Lily was among the founders of the Heritage Roses Group in 1975. She served as editor of our *Rose Letter* twice, the first time from May 1976 to February 1977 and again during the years of 1980 and 81.

"Lily was very kind to me when I took on the task of editing *Rose Letter*," wrote Jeri Jennings. "She sent me an almost-complete library of copies of *Rose Letter*, dating back to the first one. I'm so sorry that she is gone. She leaves behind a void that cannot be filled, as, indeed, have others who have gone before."

Following are two pieces of still-pertinent advice gleaned from Lily in the early issues. The first is from May 1976: "For areas having problems with salt build-up or lack of drainage, an organic fertilizer would be indicated. There are a number of commercial fertilizers with an organic base or the gardener may want to rely on manure tea for nitrogen, bonemeal for phosphorus and wood ashes for potash. . . . Whatever fertilizer is used, it is spread in a ring around the bush, at least six inches from the base of the plant and then worked lightly into the top inch or so of the soil. After this the mulch is replaced, added to if necessary."

The second is from the August 1976 issue: "Now and then someone announces in great excitement that he has found sport. Some roses do that frequently when on their own roots—'Austrian Copper' and 'Austrian Yellow' will bloom on the same bush, and 'Rosa Mundi' and *Rosa gallica officinalis* sport back and forth. Carl Cato keeps his eye on 'Isabella Sprunt' who "remembers Mama." Mrs. Frank Earing has a climbing sport of 'Archduke Charles' so good that it is registered and will be commercially available. Climbing HTs are sports of bush form HTs—there are many. So watch the sports, and if you decide they are of quality to justify it, get them registered and perhaps have a grower to sell them.

FROM HIPS TO ROSES

Rosemary Sawyer



A friend gave me an article from *The Christian-Science Monitor Weekly* entitled “Raise Unique Roses from Seed.” Here I paraphrase what was written and intersperse my comments.

If you grow a cutting from a rose, you can be assured you will get exactly that rose. If you take a rose seed from the hips [the fruit of the plant], you will have a mystery rose, since it has the genetic influences of both the mother plant (your rose) and the father (chosen by either the bees). Like children, these seeds have the

you or
characteristics of their ancestors.

Let’s start with the easiest way to get a rose hip by letting the bees pollinate the bloom. Once hips begin forming on your bush, let them ripen and become orange or red [a few hips become black], then cut them off, identify the rose “mother” and take them inside to extract the seeds. Cut the hips open with a sharp knife and remove the seeds, scraping off the attached hairs. You can drop the seeds in water; if they float, they are said not to germinate as well as those that sink. It is your choice to throw the floaters away or take a chance and see if they will germinate.

The article suggested that you “wrap the seeds in a handful of moist vermiculite or peat moss and that even damp paper towels can work.” I cut strips from paper towels, moisten them, place the seeds on top and put them inside a baggie labeled with the rose name, then place these baggies inside another container and refrigerate for 6-8 weeks. The seeds need cold temperatures to germinate.

After the 6-8 weeks, take them out and plant them in a good seedling mix, moistened, and wait until they start to grow. The article suggested planting them about 1/4 inch below the soil surface in cheap plastic shoe boxes, placing these under grow lights, making sure the temperatures are at least 70 degrees F., keeping the lights on for about 16 hours a day. Or, you can do as I do: put them in a greenhouse with ambient air and just let the season progress. It takes a little longer this

way, but the little roses will begin to poke their “noses” above the soil when conditions are right. Keep the soil moist but not soaking wet.

The first two leaves that appear are cotyledons (seed leaves). The next leaves will look like rose leaves; then in a few weeks a small bloom may appear on a 3-4 inch plant. Sometimes it takes longer, even up to a year for a bloom—just have patience. If you like the bloom and the plant doesn’t show signs of disease, repot it and watch it some more. I have found it takes several years after planting the seeds to see how the new roses mature. Like kids, they change for a few years—possibly adding more petals and growing to their mature size. During this time you can decide if the characteristics satisfy you as a good plant. If you don’t like it, destroy the plant and try again next year.

It takes ten or more years for commercial growers to get a rose to market, but you can decide whether you want to keep the rose in three or four years. Just think, with a little time and not too much effort, you will be able to grow your own unique rose—and what a thrill when you get a beautiful rose from a seed YOU planted and nurtured. Another plus: You can give it a name, for one of your children or grandchildren or whatever/whomever the rose might remind you of.

Rosemary Sawyer belongs to the Golden Sierra Rose Society. Unfortunately, this year she will be closing the doors of her nursery Rosemary’s Roses.

ROSES IN CALIFORNIA

May 2 in San Juan Bautista

National Heritage Roses Group at **Living History Day**,
seminar beings at 9:00 at VFW Post, 58 Montgomery St.

Presentations at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00

Roses sales, rose raffle, tour of old roses.

Early California costumed docents bringing the past into the present; crafts & cooking demonstrations, old-time sodas, etc.

SUCKERING ROSES REVISITED

Darrell g.h. Schramm

A very early issue of *Heritage Roses: Rose Letter* some thirty years ago contained an article on the subject of suckering roses. This is a somewhat more detailed update.

In botany a *sucker* refers to a secondary shoot emerging from the rooted base of a shrub, usually at some distance from its origin. This growth—or sucker—arises from under ground anywhere from several inches to two or three yards from the original plant and duplicates that plant. It is, in essence, a clone. Such roses on their own roots reproduce roses just like those of the mother plant.



In contrast, roses that have been grafted or budded reproduce only the rootstock. For instance, a grafted white hybrid tea that in time produces a shoot with red roses arising from the basal trunk of the shrub is producing, quite likely, a 'Dr. Huey' rose, a commonly used understock.

Most heritage roses contain at least one rose in a given family that will sucker. The only Alba I know that suckers is 'Jeanne d'Arc' (1818). On the other hand, nearly all Rugosas and Spinossimas sucker, some of them so exuberantly that they form virtually impassable hedges or thickets.

The Centifolias, too, are all prone to suckering, including the hybrid 'Paul Ricault' (1845). Moss roses, which are mutations of Centifolias, contain a few suckering roses in their family. 'Communis',





Duc de Cambridge

the ‘Common Moss’ (pre-1700) will wander freely, while the Moss ‘Nuits de Young’ (1845) will explore in all directions but generally not farther than three feet from home.

In the Damask family, the determined ‘Duc de Cambridge’ (c. 1848) will send his suckers into the shade or undergrowth, should it be nearby—a vigorous fellow.

‘Celsiana’ (1732), on the other hand, tends to keep her suckers loosely tied to her apron strings.



Duchesse de Rohan

Among the Portlands I find four roses that cautiously amble away from home—never far. These are ‘Delambre’ (1863), ‘Duchesse de Rohan’ (1847), ‘Indigo’ (1830), and ‘Rose de

Rescht’ (reintroduced in 1949).

But ‘Joasine Hanet’ (1847), also called “Glendora” is a wild woman who knows no limits.

Like the old British Empire, she is determined to colonize as much of her known world as she can.

I find her flowering suckers displaying themselves among my ‘Tuscany Superb’, ‘Celsiana’,

‘Autumn Damask’, ‘Alfred de

Dalmas’, as well as my mystery roses “Benny Lopez” and

“Roseville Noisette”. To fling up a sucker of her beautiful flowers

twenty feet away from the original homestead is mere play

for her. If you would contain and restrain her wildness, it may be

best to grow her in a half wine barrel.

Of course the roses most famous for producing suckers are



Indigo

the Gallicas and some of the Gallica hybrids. ‘Anais Segales’ (1837), ‘Belle Herminie’ (1819), ‘Camaieux’ (1830), ‘Oeillet Flammand’ (1845), ‘Orpheline de Juillet’ (pre-1836), and ‘Violacea’ (pre-1795)—which may or may not be the same as ‘La Belle Sultane’—all replicate themselves, some more than others. ‘Violacea’, for instance, can create a good thicket, though admittedly the prickles are



Joasine Hanet



Camaieux

fairly harmless.

The Gallica hybrids, such as ‘Belle de Crecy’ (pre-1829), ‘Cardinal de Richelieu’ (1840), and ‘Charles de Mills’ (pre-1790) sucker somewhat thickly, sometimes reproducing themselves as though marching in a phalanx or military band on parade. As such, they create huge, long bushes.

Gardeners who have the space and do not

mind these roses invading other sections of a garden bed, especially those who prefer an informal or wild garden, may welcome the eagerness of this floral reproduction. What they lack in repeat blooming, they compensate in a mass of flowers.



CALENDAR

May 2--Rose Seminar & Living History Day on san Juan Bautista, CA : see page 22 for details.

May 3--The Friends of Vintage Roses Open Garden, 12-4 pm
4747 Terra Bella Vista Way, Santa Rosa, CA, \$20 per person, fundraiser; vintage roses sales & entertainment.

May 8-10--San Diego Centennial Celebration of 1915 Panama-California Expo; Balboa Park; displays of heritage 1915 roses pre 1915.

May 17--Celebration of Old Roses, El Cerrito, CA. See p. 29.

May 23--Rosalia Open Garden fundraiser. See page 19.

Everything is permitted to the rose: splendor, conspiring scents, petals with flesh that tempts the nostrils, the lips, the teeth How assured and how easy to love it. Riper than fruit, more sensuous than the cheek or breast.

Colette, *Prisons et Paradis*, 1932

HERITAGE ROSES GROUPS

Bay Area Group

Convenor: Kristina Osborn
Contact: Joan Helgeson
184 Bonview St., San Francisco, CA
94110; 415-648-0241
brunner1941@yahoo.com

San Diego Group

Jack & Mary Ann Olson
5038 Edgeworth Rd., San Diego 92109
858-272-0357; jrolson@san.rr.com

South Bay Group

San Jose & Santa Cruz area
Jill Perry
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oldtearoses@gmail.com or
perry@calcentral.com

Central Coast Group

Jill Perry (same as above: South Bay)

Yolo & Beyond Group

Sacramento, Davis, Folsom areas
Anita Clevenger; anitac@surewest.net

Bidwell Heritage Rose Group

Butte, Glenn & Tehema Counties, CA
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San Juan Bautista HRG

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Loryn Ross: Loryn000@aol.com

<http://sjbheritageroses.weebly.com>

Gold Coast Group

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Jeri & Clay Jennings

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Central-Sierra Group

Lynne Storm and Bev Vierra

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Old Dominion Group

Virginia & Adjacent Area

Connie Hilker

335 Hartwood Rd., Fredericksburg,

VA 22406; c.hilker@comcast.net



Celebration of Old Roses!!

Sunday, May 17, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Over 100' of beautiful roses! Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses from specialty nurseries. **Rose experts will be available to answer questions.** Vendors will be selling rare perennials, crafts, china, books, greeting cards, calendars, honey, jam, jewelry, and clothing all inspired by roses. Tool sharpening on site.

Talks and demonstrations are scheduled.

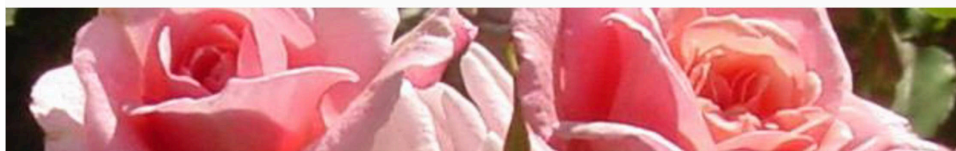
Activities for children.

**Children will receive a FREE rose plant
(While supplies last!)**

Admission is FREE! Food and Soft Drinks.

Follow us  www.celebrationofoldroses.org

EL CERRITO COMMUNITY CENTER on Moeser at Ashbury.
Take Hwy 80 or 580 to El Cerrito, Central Ave exit. Go east to Ashbury, then left to Moeser.





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Our back cover shows *Rosa gallica* with a male *Saturnia pyri* moth and a Solomon's Seal flower on a color plate from *Livres des Simples Médicines*, a manuscript made by the Capucin monks of the rue Saint-Honore in Paris, early sixteenth century.