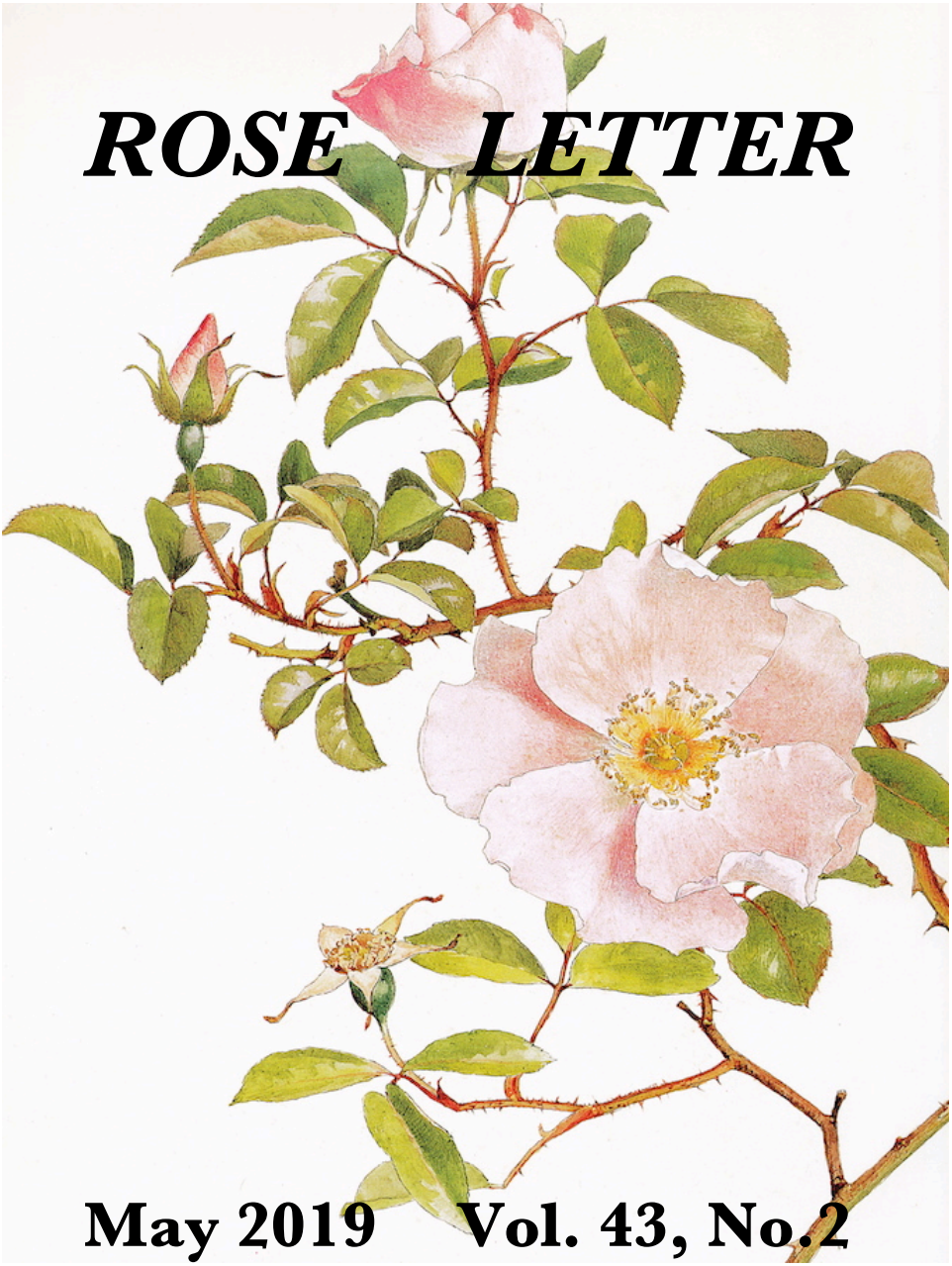
ROSE LETTER



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ROSE LETTER

The Heritage Roses Group

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SOUVENIR DU DOCTEUR JAMAIN

Jeff Panciera

Every so often, a member of Heritage Roses Northwest presents a short program on his or her favorite OGR. I chose 'Souvenir du Docteur Jamain' for its vigor, dark red color, scent, and the fact that it is somewhat rare in private gardens here. François Joyaux says that in France it is considered one of the most popular Hybrid Perpetuals.

It was created in 1865 by François Lacharme, a Lyon nurseryman, and named for a famous Parisian surgeon, brother of Hippolyte Jamain, a rose hybridizer. Lacharme did his apprenticeship in Paris and moved back to Lyon after buying Plantier's stock at his retirement. Over his 47 year career, he introduced more than 100 roses, many still widely grown today. His Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Noisettes, according to Odile Masquelier, are especially appreciated.

One reason that this rose is not more widely grown here in Seattle is that it is particular about its placement. Luckily, I stumbled

upon an authority who wrote that it likes to be planted to the NORTH of a wall or small building. (I have since found out that a woodland setting with five or so hours of dappled sun also works). If it is planted in full sun, it is disappointing in stature, bloom and vigor, as a neighbor of mine can attest.

This one condition being supplied, the rose proves to be vigorous and quite generous with its flowers. It puts out fairly thick vertical canes which support themselves to about six to eight feet. If you have lots of space, you can allow the canes to arch out and over and provide a curtain of foliage and lots of ruby flowers with violet tones. If you are like me, cramped for space, it doesn't mind being pruned as a small vertical climber (small = 8 to 10 feet). My rose leans on the roof of my back porch and seems ready to climb into my bedroom window.

The fragrance is strong old rose and, therefore, it doesn't travel through the garden as does the perfume of 'Jaune Desprez', but it is rich and heady.

I have always grown it as a once-bloomer, convinced by my reading and the abundance of the flowering, but some people dead-head it and fertilize it and obtain further flushes. Some say the flowers burn in the sun. I have not found this to be true. Many also grow it in a shady space, where three to five hours of sun seem to be sufficient to stimulate flowering. It flowers well on the tallest canes that have reached direct sun, but with the roots in deep shade and in moist soil, the flowers in the sun don't burn but are lighter in color.

I hope many more people will seek out and grow this fine rose. It takes no special treatment if it is planted north of a wall or small building and will reward this simple consideration with overwhelming generosity.

Le Grand Capitaine

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN! A CAPTIVATING ROSE!

Darrell g. h. Schramm

The title of this article alludes to a Walt Whitman poem, which he wrote to memorialize his captain, Abraham Lincoln, in 1865 and revised six years later. What follows is of a few more captains, these memorialized by roses, and because neither man nor rose should be forgotten and should continue to be found in gardens, they are remembered here.

At least five different roses from the 19th century named for captains can be found growing in private and public gardens today. One of these is named 'Capitaine John Ingram' by Jean Laffay in 1854. Just who was this captain?

Supposedly he was Captain of the House Cavalry's Horse Guard under Queen Victoria. But that is not to know who he really was, not his personality, his virtues and flaws, his tastes and distastes, his

desires and fears. And yet something about him attracted Laffay's attention or sensibility. Was it his magnetism? His friendship, his perseverance, his manner of death? However, seven or more hours of online research have yielded no answer, not even confirmation of Ingram as Captain of the Horse Guard. He is not listed in the many pages of *Regimentally Classified List of Officers,* published in Victoria and Albert's time, where other Horse Guards and military officers are listed.

There was, however, a John Ingram who in 1869 wrote *Flora Symbolica; or, the Language and Sentiment of Flowers* published in London. He attempted to be comprehensive in gathering the various meanings and confusions about the floral code. But he himself added to the confusion. The rose, he wrote, meant "Love." A Centifolia could mean "Ambassador of Love" or "Grace," depending on whether the English or Latin name were used. Adding to the confusion, he also claimed the Briar rose could mean "Poetry" or "I wound to heal," without explaining when or why. But was he a captain? Or did the Captain of the Horse Guard write a book?

Capitaine John Ingram

That absent biographic information, however, does not detract from the fragrant Moss rose 'Capitaine John Ingram'. It robes itself in dark, velvety crimson-purple, the reverse petals a lilac pink. In short, it appears essentially mauve. Except for 'Nuits de Young', it boasts being the darkest of Moss roses. Generally a midsummer bloomer, the flowers flaunt a very full blossom. Reddish moss occurs on stem, receptacle, and calyx. With a profusion of fine prickles, the plant reaches four or five feet, densely bushy. Unfortunately, it is only stingily recurrent.

Another Moss rose is named 'Capitaine Basroger', a rose of 1890 bred by Moreau-Robert. Seven feet tall, a very prickly plant, it is lightly mossed in pale green, more tattered than covered with it. The

bush exhibits considerable vigor and may need some support. It does make a good pillar rose. Its corymbose habit of opening its flowers makes it the most unusual of the roses addressed here, the apical flower opening much sooner than the rest of the cluster. The velvety-rich flowers of purplish crimson, somewhat mottled, come in corymbs of three to fifteen or so. A boss of yellow stamens accentuates their color. In bloom on a large plant or bed, these roses float upon a lake of green foliage like an enormous but embarrassed silence of swans. After the profuse first flush, the plant 'Capitaine Basroger' invites a small flock of flowers in late summer or autumn. They gladden the heart with a strong fragrance.

Capitaine Basroger

The namesake of the rose was Gabriel Basroger (1849-1906), born in the small town of Les Moitiers en Bauptois in Normandy. As a French military captain, he served in the English Channel. On December 18, 1889, he became a sea hero. While socked in heavy fog of the channel, the Dutch liner *Leerdam* and an English steamship collided. Four hundred seventy-two passengers and crew were at the mercy of the shipwreck. Catching sight of the collision from the French freighter *Emma*, Captain Basroger swiftly ordered all lifeboats to the ultimately heroic rescue. Overnight he became famous. The French awarded him the Legion of Honor, Queen Victoria sent him a gift along with her adulation, and the King of Holland praised him effusively. Today the town of his birth honors him with a garden, Jardin de Basroger.

Of the next captain we may know as little as we do of Captain John Ingram or more than we do of Captain Basroger. That captain, for whom a long-time, early Hybrid Tea was named is Captain Christy. To begin with, the surname over the centuries has been spelled Chrystie,

Captain Christy

Christy, and Christie. The House of Christie goes back in Scotland to the 12th century, its members residing mostly in or near both Edinburgh and Stirling. Between 1770 and 1914, we find at least fifteen different Captain Christys.

At the 1872 Lyons Universal Exhibition, attended by many British merchants and other citizens, the rose breeder George Paul encountered the hybridizer François Lacharme who was exhibiting his latest but unnamed rose. George Paul suggested the name 'Captain Christy', which Lacharme accepted, and the rose was so introduced commercially the following year.

Lacharme's ready acceptance of the English name suggests the captain was well-known by the French as well. Further, one might presuppose, then, that the renowned captain was either still alive or fairly recently deceased for the rose to serve as an honor or timely memorial. This is not to say that a distantly historical captain could not have been the namesake for this rose, but it would seem that he would have had some international fame or a French connection. That leaves us with about six possible Captain Christys. two of whom apparently had no French affiliation, one—Thomas—a passenger ship captain of the *Accrington* from 1861-1879, and the other—James, born 1807—who served in a local Scottish militia and became governor of prisons in Edinburgh in 1875. Of the remaining four candidates, only one was alive when the rose was introduced.

One Captain Christy, born 1797 or -98, who had been in command of either the harbor or its environs at Balaklava during the Crimean War (in which the English and French were irritable allies), had died about 1854. He was the subject of unflattering news articles for the loss of one of his ships and perhaps of sending troops to one place rather than to another. He was also the subject of a Parliamentary

debate in 1855 of whether he ought to be honored or not.

Also deceased was Captain Robert Stark Christie (1792-1862) who had served in the West Indies, then under Wellington had fought in the Peninsular Wars (1808-1814) against Napoleonic forces. Similarly, Captain Charles Maitland Christie (1785-1871) fought against Napoleon in 1805, 1807, 1809, was wounded in the Battle of Talavera and taken prisoner in 1810. A few months later he was exchanged for a French prisoner and shortly thereafter retired. As for the fourth, Captain Gabriel Christy, like the latter two, served during the Napoleonic wars. Born in 1791, he was still alive when the rose was introduced; he died three years later.

In a belated description of 'Captain Christy', the 1902 *Journal des Roses* claimed the namesake was from London and an amateur rosarian. Certainly any of the four above may have been that man, but so might Captain W. C. Christie who served in the House of Commons in 1902 or Captain H.W.A. Christie of the Royal Horse Artillery who served in South Africa under Lord Kitchener in 1902, assuming they were enlisted adults thirty years earlier and had some French connection. Lacharme might as well have named his rose 'Mr. Smith'.

As for the rose itself, 'Captain Christy', with large and lovely double flowers, manifests the color of whipped cream after vanilla flavoring has been added—rather incarnadine. Virtually scentless and on a short bush, it offers a long blooming period. Because of its popularity, other hybridizers began to follow Lacharme's example of using Hybrid Perpetuals as seed parents rather than Tea roses, as was their wont. After 'La France' (the first rose to be designated a Hybrid Tea but *not* designated as the *first* Hybrid Tea), 'Captain Christy' was next in importance. Though still found in some private and public gardens, it is nearly forgotten today.

Unlike the suppositions regarding the man Captain Christy, the identity of Captain Philip Green is not guesswork. Philip Green was a captain of the 9th Lancers and a frequent visitor to the Côte d'Azur. Obviously from the upper classes, he built there in 1870 his Villa La Forêt. About six years later he married the daughter of the 6th Duke of Marlborough, Lady Clementine Augusta Spencer Churchill. Another six years later, in1882, he had Villa Clementine built at Cannes. The

gardens there included an enormous boxwood maze, animal-shaped topiaries, exotic plants, and a rose garden. No doubt he frequented the Nabonnand rose nursery nearby. In fact, it was Gilbert Nabonnand who named the Tea rose for the captain. On April 3, 1890, he welcomed the Prince of Wales and sometime resident Lord Brougham at the Nice railway station. (It was Brougham who had first settled at Cannes and who then encouraged the English to develop the Riviera.) Like most wealthy *bon vivants*, Captain Green had important connections. In 1892 he sold his Villa La Forêt to Princess Galitzine from one of the most noble houses of Russian aristocracy. In 1899 Nabonnand released the rose in his honor. The captain died in England in November of 1904.

Captain Philip Green

Offspring of the roses 'Marie van Houte' and 'Devoniensis', 'Captain Philip Green' wears a cream and carmine pink color with a hint of pastel yellow interior, sometimes shaded with a tawny flush. La Roseraie du Desert describes the rose as a "large, double, open flower, very variable in form and color, from crimson to pale pink with yellow tints and darker veining." The flower offers 26 to forty petals on an upright but loose and branching bush with some widely-spaced prickles. A modest fragrance can be detected in the cup of the blossom. Quite healthy, it is not given to any fungus.

As much as we know of Captains Ingram, Basroger, Christy, and Green, these seem to have been men of a certain gravitas. Now we encounter a captain whose enthusiasm expanded his view of the world, who delighted in being alive, who knew adventure for its own pleasure. "Happy is he who bears a god within, and who obeys it," wrote Louis Pasteur centuries later, and Monsieur le Capitaine did.

The younger brother of Louis XIV, the Sun King, Philippe I was born in 1640. Upon the death of his uncle, he became Duke of Orleans and thus founded the Orleans dynasty of France. In the tradition of the French Court, he was known simply as Monsieur, the royal title for a younger brother of the king. As a captain he was renowned for his battle victory in 1671 and again for the decisive victory at the Battle of Cassel against William of Orange in 1677.

However, he was not interested in politics, nor did Louis XIV wish him to be. Monsieur was also renowned for unashamedly wearing extravagant and effeminate clothing, surrounding himself with his male favorites, and being bisexual. Dressing up in drag, after all, may be a way of pretending, of playing, of giving one's protocol world the special coloring of make-believe, of having fun in a serious world. A merry heart, we know, is good medicine. Clearly, Monsieur obeyed the god within.

Monsieur le Capitaine Louis Frere

Monsieur was twice married. When his first wife died in 1671, Louis XIV compelled him to marry the Princess Palatine of Bavaria. They produced three children. But these family circumstances did not dampen his enthusiasm for living out the other facets of his character. Exuberant in battle, exuberant in bed.

Monsieur followed his own inclinations and delight. He took residence at his Chateau Saint-Cloud, an alternative to Versailles, where he had gardens designed by the famous landscape architect André Le Nôtre, which, along with his apartments in the chateau, rivaled that of his brother. Life was beauty, art, pleasure. Among his male lovers was Chevalier de Lorraine, a handsome man, "beautiful as an angel," who had begun to share his bed when Monsieur was eighteen. He seems to have manipulated Monsieur easily. No doubt with mutual pleasure. Also known as Philippe of Lorraine, he died a year after his royal lover. Monsieur died in 1701.

Although Monsieur Philippe I, Duke of Orleans, avoided the royal court, he was respected for his military courage. And he and the king remained bonded by a deep fraternal affection.

The rose bears the long name 'Monsieur le Capitaine Louis Frere', translated "Monsieur the Captain, Brother of Louis." Bred by Jacques Vigneron in 1883, it is a Hybrid Perpetual. Quite vigorous to five feet in height, the plant tends toward laxity and sprawl. Fortunately, it is mostly without spines, though some canes exhibit small brown bristles or prickles. The very remontant, globular flowers, large and full with some fifty petals, are robed in velvety red or crimson, wafting a strong pleasant perfume. Like its namesake, this is a vital, exuberant rose. Apparently only Long Ago Roses in North Carolina sells it in this country.

One other captain has inserted himself here, but he remains anonymous. Though still available today and mentioned by William Paul in 1848, no date, breeder, or introducer is given in the literature. I refer to 'Le Grande Capitaine' (just 'Grand Captain' in William Paul's book). This recurrent bloomer, a Bourbon, lifts its torch of fiery crimson-scarlet roses (according to Paul) or deep crimson flushing purple (according to Gregg Lowery) from a dwarf bush of perhaps three feet or slightly more. The very full flowers flaunt their masculine chests, imbricated, quartered and large, with pride. (See photo at beginning of this article.)

Five captains of captivating roses, or six—any or all of them would do fine in a bouquet or ribboned wreath, not to mention in a garden.

R. watsoniana

Shinosuke-Bara: The Bamboo Rose

Stephen Hoy

A number of years ago I had the opportunity to attend an Heirloom Roses open house. One of the speakers, Suzy Verrier, showed several slides of a unique rose, one I'd never heard of—*Rosa watsoniana*. To say this rose is a curiosity is an understatement!

According to an article written by Professor Charles S. Sargent in the October 1, 1890 issue of *Garden and Forest*, Edward S. Rand brought a plant to the Arnold Arboretum in 1878 from his Dedhams, Massachusetts garden, having obtained the variety (Sargent wrote, "If I remember correctly") from an Albany, New York garden some years earlier. Prof. Sargent added, "It was supposed to have been brought from Japan, and to be a cultivated form of a variety of *Rosa multiflora*. Its Japanese or Chinese origin is probable, but Monsieur Crépin, whose knowledge of roses is unrivaled and to whom specimens from the Arboretum have been submitted, points out certain characters which separate it from that species and another east Asia species of the same section (Synstyle), *R. anemonaeflora*, to which, however, it is closely related. . . . [It] would seem to suggest some long cultivated abnormal form from a Japanese garden, a view which is further strengthened by the fact that wild specimens of this plant have not been collected."

Dr. Sereno Watson of Harvard's Gray Herbarium was the individual responsible for sending the "new" rose to Brussels, some time in the 1880's, for evaluation by Mons. François Crépin. The famous Belgian botanist and rose authority gave it the name *R. multiflora*

Thunbergia forma watsoniana Matsumara—in honor of Dr. Watson, according to an Italian horticultural journal published in 1888. During the last decades of the 19th and first decades of the 20th centuries, the rose was distributed throughout Europe and parts of the U.S.

The five petalled blooms of *R. watsoniana* are pale pink to white and are very small, measuring approximately ¼" in diameter; they arrive mid-summer in large pyramidal clusters referred to botanically as corymbs. As unusual as the flowers are, the feature that really draws one's attention to this rose is the slender willow or bamboo-like foliage, which is pale green mottled white. Each leaf has three leaflets which may account for Crépin's comment about its "relation" to *R. anemoneflora*. The arching stems layer themselves over one another in rather casual fashion, growing to about 3-4' in height and diameter, and are armed with small, but very sharp, hooked prickles.

Its oddity as a garden rose prompted Gertrude Jekyll to write, "There are not many roses which are distinctly unbeautiful, but this may certainly be said of R. watsoni [*sic*] . . . the leaves are twisted. . . and look as if some enemy has been at work upon them, or as if they had been passed through boiling water" ("Wild and Garden Roses"). One contributor to HMF speculates that the unusual character of the foliage may be virus-induced. This idea is potentially corroborated by the fact that seedlings of *R. watsoniana* have normal multiflora foliage.

Despite Ms. Jekyll's opinion, I love the "curiosity" factor this rose brings to the garden. My backyard is filled with Japanese maples, in particular the Dissectums (*Acer palmatum* f. *dissectum*), a very rare cut-leaf *Vitex*, the quite novel lace-leafed birch 'Trost's Dwarf,' plants with variegated foliage, silver foliage, maroon foliage, so *R. watsoniana* fits right in.

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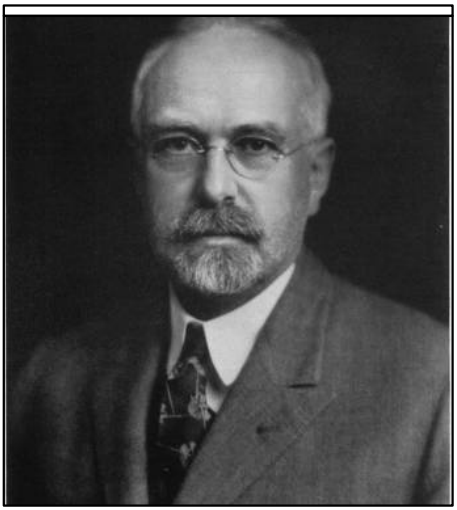


FORGOTTEN ROSARIAN: DR. EMMET H. RIXFORD

Darrell g.h. Schramm

He was known to grow unusual roses, especially wild ones. He was known an an eminent surgeon at Stanford University's Medical School, eventually internationally known. He was also known as a mountain climber, at one time having climbed with John Muir—the 13,000 foot Mt. Rixford in the Mt. Whitney range is named for him. A Cabernet grape clone is also named for him, 'Dr. Emmet Rixford'.

Born in 1865, Emmet Hawkins Rixford graduated from U.C. Berkeley with an engineering degree, then, changing his mind, studied medicine to become a surgeon. Delighted with sailing, he bought an old yacht, and when she became too decrepit, rather than allow her to rot in the sand or mud, he had the sloop burned at sea. He married Louise Campbell and with her sired four children, three sons and a daughter.

Another interest was floriculture, roses in particular. Setting up a wholesale nursery on his estate in Los Altos, California, he began to specialize in roses, growing both recent and rare ones, especially species.

In the rose fields, his hired rose budder, crouching on his knees, would bud 600 to 900 roses a day. In the 1920s it was California's preferred method of propagation.

In an article addressing mostly commercial roses, Rixford wrote that after cuttings have been planted, they should be irrigated "often," that is, "three to five times in the season to keep the plants continuously in vegetation and . . . cultivating after each irrigation to keep the surface of the soil open so that nitrifying bacteria of the soil, which are aerobes, can have the needed oxygen as the soil breathes." That advice seems to presume deep irrigation and lack of mulch, as does the following statement that roses grown commercially "are voracious feeders [certainly true of Hybrid Teas] and rapidly exhaust the soil so that only three or four crops can be taken from the same ground" before giving "the soil a rest of a year or two."

According to Rixford's wholesale list of 1931-32, most of his roses were budded on Frank Meyer's *R. odorata* except for a few budded on 'Manetti'. ('Frau Karl Druschki', 'General McArthur', 'Hadley', 'Hoosier Beauty', 'Los Angeles', 'Shot Silk', and one or two others.) A few Climbers were grown on their own roots.


Angele Pernet

During that season, he offered for sale about 110 different cultivars, at least a quarter of which were Pernetianas, a rose type still in favor then. Heading the list was 'Angele Pernet', its color like that found in the Southwest deserts of Arizona and New Mexico, a kind of distinct brownish apricot aging to a rosy-pink orange or coral, occasionally with yellow brushed lightly on some petals. Unusual for a rose, it remains one of my favorite Pernetianas. The flowers are full, the petals mucronulate (tipped with a small cusp), on a low, shade-tolerant shrub.


Cuba

Another lovely rose on the list and in my garden is the rich pink or vermillion 'Cuba', of 1926, its center usually splashed with yellow, often with orange undertones. Its twelve to sixteen petals open widely and loosely. The stems can be shy of prickles. Not profuse in flowers, the plant adds a bit of flamenco excitement to the garden bed. Unfortunately, it does not last long in the vase or on the bush. It would be effective massed with five or a dozen others of its kind in a garden bed.

Almost a facsimile but more substantial, fuller, is the 1920 'Padre', cherry pink with copper or gold undertones. In 1928 several rosarians considered 'Cuba' an improved 'Padre', though breeder William Kordes thought neither better than the other, both grand but transient in color.

The light yellow 'Duchess of Wellington', darker in hue at the center, is another charming Pernetiana. It was named for Catherine Pakenham (1773-1831), wife of "The Iron Duke," Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. Theirs was not a contented marriage, he being frequently absent and enjoying an affair or two.


Joanna Hill

'Joanna Hill', another light yellow rose but with a pink flush and aging to cream,was one of the newest roses on Rixford's list A stylish flower, it is nearly without prickles. Buds and double or semi-double blossoms (it varies) grow large and profusely on strong stems of a vigorous bush. It

boasts a long blooming period. Via the lovely 'Sunburst', Pernetiana flows in its genes as well. The name of this 1928 rose is a contraction of Joseph and Anna, Joseph being the son of E. Gurney Hill the breeder, and Anna the name of Joseph's recently born daughter.

A Pernetiana of 1929, another new rose on Rixford's list, a rose popular for several decades, is 'Talisman'. A child of the prolific 'Ophelia' and 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet', it revels in an unusual blend of fuchsia, scarlet, and apricot colors washed with rose-pink or even red on the edges, the coppery-golden yellow reverse brushed with cerise. In fact, it is a rose with a changeable nature of colors, which,


Talisman

though they may fade with age, remain attractive. A rose with prickles widely dispersed, a high center, and a sweet, fruity scent, its semi-double to double flowers are borne on long, firm stems. It can reach a slender three and a half feet in height. Fonder of cooler weather, it often blooms into December. 'Talisman' was a rose growing in the childhood gardens of Gregg Lowery, Bill Grant, and numerous other rose lovers.

Other Pernetianas Rixford sold were 'Tim Page', 'Mrs. Ambrose Ricardo', 'Mme Alexander Dreux', 'Maud Cuming', 'Jean C. N. Forestier', and the shade tolerant 'Feu Joseph Looymans' (*Feu* in Dutch meaning "The Late," not fire, as in French). These six name but a few and less well known of the class. One unusual Multiflora climber that he

sold was 'Mariette Silva Taronca', still in European commerce.

But it seems species roses were Dr. Rixford's favorite. In fact, he appears to have owned the largest selection of species in California during the first three quarters of the 20th century, about fifty, nearly half of his entire collection. Only the 1932 catalogue of Bobbink & Atkins offers more, about seventy, and their nurseries were in New Jersey.

While Bobbink & Atkins list both the white and the pink form of *R. coriifolia*, Rixford lists only one but provides no description to ascertain which form. Rixford also sold a rose whose name I'd not come across before, *R. morica*. Fortunately, Bobbink & Atkins give a brief record: "A hybrid of *R. canina*; possibly with *R. spinosissima*. Light pink flowers . . . followed by very large, ornamental fruits, hardy." But is it, was it, a single, a semi-double, or a double hybrid? Another uncommon species on his list was *R. saturate*, with deep pink or red flowers and purple anthers, two inches across, borne singly on an eight foot shrub with few or no prickles. The listed rose *R. xanthina* 'Allard' shows double, pure yellow flowers with fern-like leafage. It is clearly a hybrid. In fact, according to Gaston Allard in 1900, it came from the seed of *R. harisonii* and so perhaps should be listed under cultivars, not species.


Rosa moschata nivea

R. moschata nivea (also known as *R. Dupontii*) was apparently a special favorite of Rixford. Having met the millionaire Harry Tevis, a rose lover who lived ten or fifteen miles southwest of Los Altos Hills in the Santa Cruz mountains, Dr. Rixford began exchanging roses with him. At one point in a letter of exchange, he expressed his

excitement in sharing *R. moschata nivea* with Tevis, describing it as "a vigorous climber with light green stems which loves to bask on the top of a pergola, with hanging corymbs of twenty to thirty delicate single white flowers, suffused with the faintest blush of cherry, straw yellow stamens." Rixford also sent him two plants of *R. gigantea,* the seeds of which he had obtained from the late Francesco Franceschi-Fenzi who had obtained his seeds from India and whose plants he had budded on *R. odorata* rootstock.

Clearly, Dr. Rixford propagated roses, hybridizing them, grafting them, and raising them from seed. When Tevis requested 'Antoine Rivoire', 'Breeze Hill', 'Duchess of York', 'Climbing Heart of Gold', 'IXL', 'Mrs. Henry Morse', and 'Pilgrim', Rixford sent them. In addition, he supplied botanic gardens and parks with roses grown from species seed sent to him from several Asian countries.

Rixford wrote a few articles of the American Rose Society's annuals in the late 1920s. In one he lamented the stubbornness of conservative pruners of rose: "Nothing is more difficult in horticulture," he wrote, "than to convince an old-time pruner that hard-pruning hinders rather than favors root-growth. That inflexibility is rampant to this day and explains the lack of longevity in most modern Hybrid Teas when rose society members insist on hard-pruning, all for a few large exhibition blooms. Furthermore, he wrote, "There is a correspondence between top growth and root development—the more top, the more roots." Thus, removing the top, cutting it down to twelve or eighteen inch-high canes forestalls the development of the root system which, in turn, prevents a long life of the plant. Rixford also believed that withholding water from roses in August to allow them some rest in California summers secured much finer blooms. I've yet to test that belief.

In 1936, Emmet Rixford was an honorary pallbearer at the funeral of Timothy Hopkins,the man who had founded the town of Palo Alto and had once established and owned Sherwood Hall Nurseries, later Sunset Seed & Plant Co. Near the end of 1937, Dr. Rixford learned he had developed cancer of the bladder. He died in Boston after his surgery on January 2, 1938.

LIZ DRUITT: A MEMORIAL

Rose author and organic rose gardener Liz Druitt died the 20th of March 2019. The date being the first day of spring seems apropos to someone as attuned to Mother Nature and roses as Liz was.

In 1986 she became a gardener at Antique Rose Emporium in Texas under Mike Shoup. Very quickly she became one of its managers and then a writer of the monthly newsletter, not to mention the nursery's catalogues. She went on to write gardening articles that appeared in prominent magazines. In 1992 she and Mike Shoup co-authored the excellent, still quite relevant *Landscaping with Antique Roses*.

Before long she had written three more books: *The Organic Rose Garden* (1996), *Gardening with Kids* (1998), and *Liz Druitt's Guide to Little Roses* (2000). For a time she also became a host on PBS for its garden series *The New Garden*. And for three years she managed the ornamental garden for the Organic Plant Institute in Texas.

Liz Druitt's knowledge of rose history and rose culture was obvious in all she wrote, in all she said, in all she shared. I am sure that all who knew her—and I ardently wish I had—now feel a gap in their lives.

Mirabel Osler:

How easy to be carried away at this time of year. It is the crescendo . . . when almost the whole garden moves too fast.Things are ripening with copious extravagance before our eyes: buds and petals, pinks and whites, foliage and smells. And all so emphemeral.

WHAT I LEARNED FROM LIZ DRUITT

Darrell g.h. Schramm

I never met Liz Druitt, but I knew her by proxy. In other words, I knew her horticultural self though her books, especially *The Organic Rose Garden* and *Landscaping with Antique Roses.* Though I've learned about the culture and care of roses from other rosarians, from other books, and from experience, I owe much of my rose knowledge to her. And much of what follows can be attributed to her.

Although the best time for **planting** roses—depending on your hardiness zone—is winter to early spring, I learned that roses grown in containers can be planted any time of year since their root system has not been upset. And when planting in the ground, at least half the soil should be the original clay or loam. While Tea and China roses, like my 'Maman Cochet' and 'Comtesse du Cayla' as well as Species tolerate clay soils, Rugosas prefer a more sandy soil supplied with natural nutrients.

About **fertilization**, Liz has much to say. A cup of compost tipped into the hole before adding the rose is a smart idea. Furthermore, slow-release organic products like seaweed and alfalfa promote strong growth and basal canes. Container roses should be fertilized frequently with mild liquid products such as "fish emulsion, diluted urine, or liquid seaweed."

We all know the essential **nutrients** for roses are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Nitrogen is important for early spring growth, and because it breaks down quickly, you as a reasonable person need not worry that

Liz Druitt at Natchez, May 1993

you might overdo it. At the beginning of the spring and fall growing seasons, you might water in a few tablespoons of blood meal (nitrogen) per bush. I tend to use fish emulsion each spring, which, I learned, contains some sulfur that can aid in controlling blackspot, mildew, and rust.

On the other hand, heavy soils can build up too much **phosphorus** from bone meal or colloidal phosphate. The leaves may become yellowish, not from chlorosis but from the overload of phosphorus which has locked up the nutrients. Because phosphorus raises the pH level of soil, be sure your soil needs it. If so, a half cup twice a year of bone meal or other phosphorus product is sufficient.

Though California soils rarely require magnesium, container roses usually do; two or three tablespoons of Epsom salts per bush after the spring pruning is helpful.

We can rarely add too much **manure**, Liz asserts. Three to five pounds per bush once or twice a year helps keep the soil moist and adds nutrients. Cow manure contains the lowest level of essential nutrients, about 2% N, 1% P, and 1% K. Soy meal, bought at feed stores, also provides nutrients for roses at one cup to a rose bush twice to four times a year. Who knew? Liz did.

If **foliage** is prone to fungus, chlorosis, or pests, use a foliar spray of compost tea, alfalfa tea, fish emulsion or seaweed solution. Spray under the leaves and above. Not only does the spray help thwart pest and fungus attack but also it gives a vitality boost. Spraying liquid seaweed onto leaves also treats transplant shock.

Like Liz, I believe that creating a monoculture in the garden, with roses only, encourages more pathogens and pests than a diversified garden. **Companion plants** like the allium family (garlic, leeks, the whole onion tribe), catnip, thyme, rosemary, alyssum, artemisia (but NOT *A. absinthium*, which inhibits nearby plants from growing), tansy, coriander, geranium, nasturtium, petunia, and mint provide benefits, some discouraging disease, others discouraging pests. Grow them close to the roses. The allium family can be grown right through a rose bush. Alliums also increase sulfur content of soil. But be patient: the benefits of the onion family often take about three years.

In general, for **fungal diseases**, a solution of one tablespoon

baking soda and one tablespoon horticultural oil to one gallon of water, sprayed in late evening or early morning regularly, should inhibit blackspot, powdery mildew, and rust. *Regularly* is the key word here.

As for certain **pests**, Japanese beetles (scourge of the Midwest) and Cucumber beetle (mild scourge of the West) are eaten by beneficial nematodes. Catnip, garlic, and geraniums repel them. Borage acts as a trap crop—if near roses, they will attack borage first. Spider mites and other mites hate dill and sulfur. Thrips, which dislike like wetness and drown easily from a hose spray of water, are also repelled by the onion family, while beneficial nematodes will kill their pupae and those of curculios within the ground. Lacewings, damsel bugs, and pirate bugs devour thrips. It pays to grow organically so that these helpful insects find a home in a garden free of insecticides and herbicides.

Other companions plants Liz recommends are **kohlrabi and tomatoes**. I've now grown tomato plants among my roses for years. Druitt especially recommends the indeterminate and vigorous tomato 'Purple Calabash' to accompany such mauve and pink roses like 'Rose de Rescht' and red ones like 'Oklahoma'. Kohlrabi, she writes, goes well with most Old Garden Roses. She mentions growing the Damask 'Celsiana' and the Gallica 'Alain Blanchard' with a group of Kohlrabi.

And speaking of those old roses, Druitt claims Gallica, Alba, Damask, Centifolia, and Moss roses do best if provided some afternoon shade, a well-mulched bed, and a moist ground. If you wish to learn more, read her two books which I named at the start. Even the seasoned gardener will view her as a valuable source of specialized knowledge.

Breeze Hill

THE ROSE ON OUR COVER

This depiction of Rose 'Anemone' was painted by Alfred Parsons for Ellen Willmott's enormous 1914 opus *The Genus Rosa.* Willmott labeled it *Rosa laevigata x chinensis*. It is also known as *R. x anemonoides, R. laevigata* 'Anemone', and 'Pink Cherokee'. Indeed, it is a laevigata relative from whom it inherited three leaflets to a leaf. DNA analysis shows it to be a hybrid of *R. laevigata.*

It was grown from seeds brought from China, in the mountains north of Beijing, and given to L. Wiesener who, in 1884, planted them. One plant survived and then flowered in 1889. In 1896 Johann C. Schmidt, who would go on to breed the blue-wannabe rambler 'Veilchenblau', introduced 'Anemone'.

Resembling a clematis, the delicate pink (sometimes pale mauve-pink) petals, heart-shaped and with a pleasant fragrance, unfold into mostly solitary flowers quite early, virtually at the same time as the Banksiae family of roses. The foliage, simply serrated, displays a bright green sheen above, paler green underneath. Thriving in zones 6b to 9, sometimes recurrent in warmer areas, the plant can measure thirteen feet high by ten feet wide.

In 1913 'Anenome' sported the rambler 'Ramona', a darker pink rose with almost grey undersides. Graham Thomas suggests allowing the sparse branches of 'Anemone' to ramble through a shrub against a sunny wall—rather like a clematis. However, it does tolerate some shade. The rose is still sold by The Antique Rose Emporium in Texas.

The Editor

FROM OUR READERS

It truly is the best newsletter in the US.—Pam Greenewald, Florida

Just received the latest Rose Letter, and it is terrific! The stories, the pictures, thank you. Such a beautiful issue, partly because many of those particular roses are my favorites. I want to get Louise Odier from David Austin in TX, about twenty years since I lost her. I'm remembering the first time I inhaled, again and again, Louise Odier. And the unexpected whiskey scent of Mme. Hardy! At least that day, at that temperature. Here's to all the great ladies, raise a glass. —Judy Rock. Near Limestone, Pa, in NW Pa., zone 5 in a good year

The last issue was dynamite.—Michael Temple, Calif.

IMAGE CREDITS

Pages 2 & 3 Jeff Panciera
Pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11,15. 16 top, 17, 18 Darrell g.h. Schramm
Page 12 by Alfred Parsons
Page 16 bottom Ingrid Wapelhurst
Pages 20 & 21 Malcolm Manners
Page 23 Connie Hilker
Page 26 detail from *The Roses of Heliogabalus* by Sir L. Alma-Tadema
Page 28 *In the Rose Garden* by Sir L. Alma-Tadema

A HISTORY OF ROSALIA

Darrell g.h. Schramm

As an imperial system, the Roman Empire existed for about 500 years, roughly from 23 BCE to 476 CE., an empire much given to celebrations. Its citizens celebrated Lupercalia, Saturnalia, Vestalia, Vulcanalia, Hilaria, Floralia, and at least a dozen more. Floralia, even earlier than the imperial government, held annually since 173 BCE from April 28 to May 3, was a fête of fertility in the name of Flora, goddess of flowers. Wearing rose garlands on their heads, celebrants indulged in licentious behavior and general sexual freedom. Around 50 BCE Lucretius wrote of festivals in which the streets were strewn with white rose petals.

As for Rosalia, the earliest documents we have of this rose festival occur during the tyrant Domitian's rule (81-96 CE). At least 24 Latin writings referring to Rosalia have been found in northern Italy, and another ten are from the Italian peninsula. Apparently it was quite popular. And as recent as 1822, M. Bizard listed in his catalogue a Gallica rose named 'Rosalia'.

The Romans loved roses. At first they imported them from Egypt to supplement their desire for the flowers, but

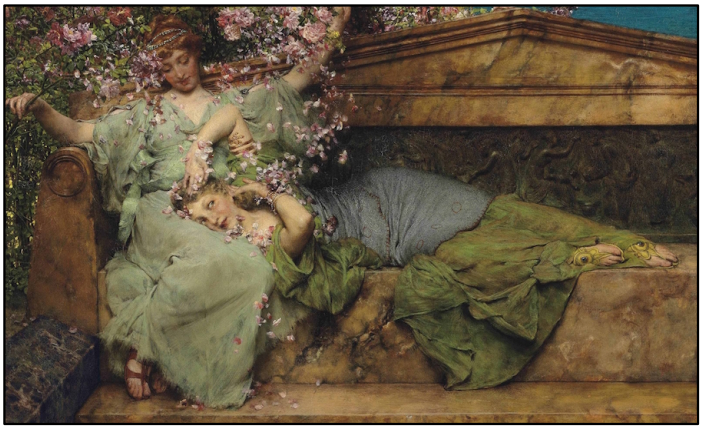
before long they were growing enough to put Egypt's supply to shame. Roses were a part of weddings, during which the bridegroom wore a crown of roses, sometimes intertwined with violets. The Latin phrase "in the roses and violets" meant that one was experiencing the pleasure principle. Rose garlands and rose wreathes symbolized not only beauty but also the brevity of life. *Carpe diem*: enjoy the day while you can, seize it, "gather ye rosebuds while ye may."

Roses also signified rebirth, rejuvenation, and the memory of loved ones. Thus, while Rosalia celebrated both the joy and brevity of life, it also became a commemoration of the dead, a memorial day in which the custom gradually developed of laying flowers, especially roses, on tombs and graves, an ancient tradition carried into our own times. Roses were also planted at graves and mausoleums; even today in pioneer cemeteries we find roses planted at gravesites.

According to one epitaph: "Here lies Optatus, a child ennobled by devotion: I pray that his ashes may be violets and roses, and I ask that the Earth, who is his mother now, be light upon him, for the boy's life was a burden to no one." The remains of the deceased, this child, is with Mother Earth now, who will cause his ashes to become violets and roses. Rebirth, rejuvenation, the memory of a loved one.

Though Rosalia occurred on varying days in May, sometimes June, dependent on the blooming season of the region, it generally lasted three days, often from May 24 through the 26. Even the Roman army adorned its military standards with garlands of roses in May, calling their rose jubilation *Rosaliae Signorum.*

Vases of rose bouquets, rose petals scattered on floors and tables as well as outdoors, rose wreathes, rose chaplets, and rose garlands adorned happy celebrants and festival sites. Roses were given or exchanged in memory, in friendship, for birthdays, for love. For a day or more the world was roses roses roses.



ROSALIA : A Festival

What: a gathering of rose lovers, a discovery about roses, their history and how to grow them, a sale of rare roses and companion plants, an adornment with roses

Where: Wischemann Hall, 465 Morris St., Sebastopol, CA 95472

When: Saturday, May 18th from 11 am until 3 pm.

Who: The Friends of Vintage Roses, a nonprofit established to preserve an historic collection of several thousand roses, based in Sebastopol, CA, in Sonoma County, and sharing curatorship of the roses with preservation-minded individuals and groups across the United States.

- **Contact**: Gregg Lowery, Curator at curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org or info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org.
- Our website: thefriendsofvintageroses.org
- Post enquiries to The Friends of Vintage Roses, 3003 Pleasant Hill Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472

Why: To aid in the work of the volunteers who maintain and help to preserve a great collection of old roses

Celebration of Old Roses!!

Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

!! NEW LOCATION !!

Over 100 feet of beautiful roses on display! Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses. **Rose experts will be available to answer questions.** Vendors will be selling perennials, crafts, china, books, honey, jam, and jewelry, all inspired by roses.

Sponsored by: Heritage Roses Group Bay Area

Children are welcome!

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

Admission is FREE! Food and Soft Drinks.

ALBANY MEMORIAL BUILDING on Portland at Carmel.
Hwy 80 or 580 to the Albany exit. Go east to San Pablo, then left to Portland.

www.celebrationofoldroses.org

visit us online at

www.heritagerosesgroup.org

for past newsletters, other articles, photo gallery, and more

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Gather Ye Rosebuds

John William Waterhouse, 1909