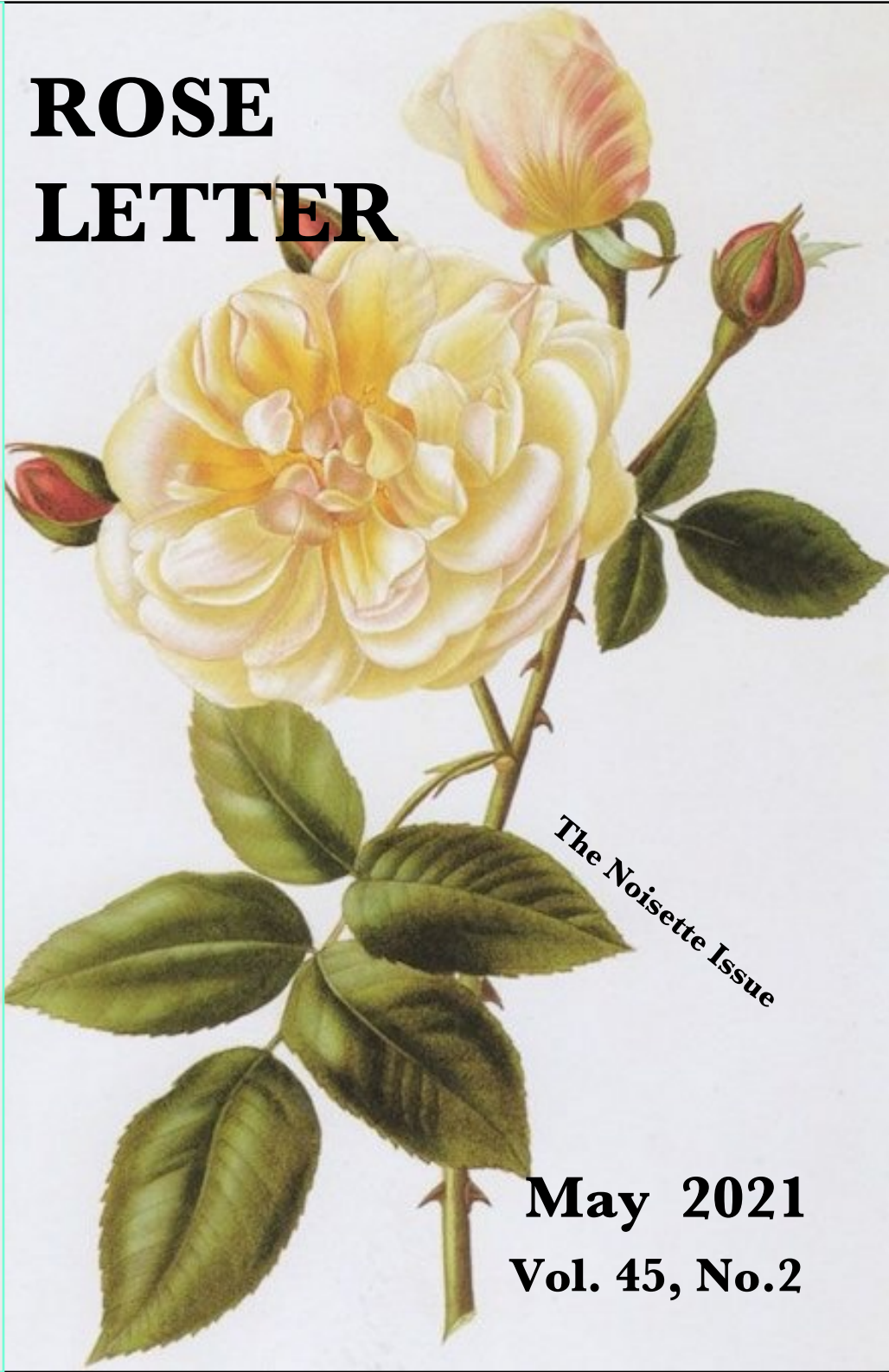
ROSE LETTER



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ROSE LETTER

The Heritage Roses Group

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The following article first appeared in Rose Letter (called Heritage Roses then) twenty years ago, August 2001.

THOSE FABULOUS FOUNDLINGS: THE NO-NAME NOISETTES

Rev. Douglas T. Seidel

It was a sultry southern Friday afternoon last spring as a caravan of Old Rose lovers made its way from Monticello's Center for Historic Plants into the ancient confines of the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. This Memorial Day weekend we had come to pay homage to the venerable Double Musk Rose which has grown on the Crenshaw family's burial plot since the 1870s. The sizable specimens of the Teas and Chinas were just finishing their first cycle of flowers. The Noisettes 'Mary Washington' (a genuine "oldie" with a spurious name) and 'Bouquet tout Fait' were keeping graveside vigil with admirable constancy.


Bouquet tout Fait

But what caught my eye that day was another Noisette, one I'd never seen before, one on nobody's nursery list. There it was, wrapping its tender new canes and rich green foliage around the 19th century granite. An abundance of pointed pink buds were opening to semi-double blossoms of the palest blush, blessed with an extra dose of the ancestral *moschata* fragrance. This fabulous foundling, this no-name Noisette, is the newest addition to a growing number of 19th century classics being circulated by nurseries and collectors in the U.S. While many Noisettes have genuine names from long ago—'Aimie Vibert', 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', 'Fellemberg', etc., some really wonderful forms are listed by their local or study names

only, their true identities awaiting further research. In these paragraphs we will look at some of the best of them.

Any list of Noisette foundlings must begin with "Faded Pink Monthly". This was introduced to the gardening world almost seventy years ago by Mrs. Frederick Love Keays. Mrs. Keays got the whole ball rolling in the U.S. with the first serious efforts to collect, to grow, and to identify Old Roses. Her premier article, "Old Roses in Calvert County, Maryland" in the 1932 *American Rose Annual* was followed by a book (*Old Roses,* 1935) and fifteen more years of articles in some of the most popular periodicals of the day. It was Mrs. Keays' cook, Lillie, who introduced her to "Faded Pink Monthly". She wrote of this in *Country Gentleman* magazine in June 1935:

> *Clearly I see her coming up the farm road on a lovely spring morning, her fine figure swinging freely against the sky, bearing in her arms a huge old stump of a root without much top, a plant which before the War of the States had been grown as a cutting from an older rose. Cumbersome, woody, and unpromising as the rose looked, we planted it with care.*

While Mrs. Keays hoped in print that this local beauty would turn out to be the original 'Blush Noisette', she could never quite get her rose to match the descriptions of the early writers. but the beauty of the variety and its connection to Mrs. Keays are more than enough reason to grow it today. In the garden "Faded Pink Monthly" looks for all the

world like a taller version of the much-admired Polyantha, 'Marie Pavié'. But the Maryland foundling regularly reaches six feet and taller ('Marie Pavié' is just three feet here), its foliage is larger, and the bloom is less double in larger clusters.

In 1973 I first visited the Maryland hill where Mrs. Keays' Creekside had stood and where a number of her roses were struggling to survive. Six bushes of "Faded Pink Monthly" still guarded the approach to the vanished manor house. For thirty years, at that point, no kind hand had tended them; no one had cared to pull the suffocating tendrils of honeysuckle and poison ivy away. But dear "Faded Pink Monthly" was still blooming! Cuttings from those stalwart survivors have grown to be the most willing bloomers and the hardiest of the Noisette clan in my Zone 6 garden. Pickering and Roses Unlimited are now growing this legacy from Mrs. Keays.

Commenting on Noisette foundlings in the 1943 *American Rose Annual*, Mrs. Keays observed,

> *There is a certain amount of unresolved confusion about the origin of the Noisette rose. . . . The probability is that the greater number of small-flowered clustering Noisettes were either first or second crosses. Naturally, there would be many white varieties. The pink shades run all the way from blush hrough pale and bright pink, to the deep carmine which we often see in Old Blush China. This sounds simple. It is not. Unless some outstanding characteristic is noted in a description we are lost among whites, among pinks and deep pinks.*

The blooms on three varieties, "Lingo", "Fewell's Noisette", and "Haynesville Pink Cluster" are practically identical: semi-double ivory or palest blush with two or three rows of petals, like faint editions of 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'. "Lingo" was found by a collector of that name in the late 1960s in north Florida and shared with the late Joseph F. Kern Nursery in Mentor, Ohio. The four foot plant was such a willing bloomer that Mr. Kern put it on the market for the next few years as the Charleston-raised 'Frazer's Pink Musk'. [***Editor's note:*** *I own Joseph Kern Nursery catalogues from Fall 1965 to Spring 1975, but this rose under either name does not appear in them.*]"Fewell's Noisette" and the

"Haynesville" rose carry the same type of flower on climbing plants that will reach ten feet in my locale. "Fewell's" may have an edge over the others with huge clusters of buds and nice foliations on the sepals.

With so many pale or white Noisettes, pink and rose forms are very desirable. And we are fortunate to have two very good ones. The first, "Mount Vernon Purple Noisette" (Antique Rose Emporium) is the same as "Mrs. Wood's Lavender Pink" (Vintage Gardens). If "Mount Vernon Purple Noisette" was originally discovered on the Washington estate, no one is saying. It has the pointed leaflets and reddish growth of the China on a bush which easily attains five feet here. The clusters of cupped blooms are rich pink with a shot of carmine in the center and are almost fully double. In certain seasons the petals fade off to a lavender hue. "Mount Vernon Purple" can be sporadic in its rebloom, and sometimes there are no late flowers at all in my garden.

"Cato's Cluster" (Vintage Gardens) is synonymous with what many of us were calling "Florida Pink Noisette". The name memorialized Carl Cato, one of the founders of the Heritage Rose Group and of this publication. I first saw this variety at a flower show in Miami in April of 1980, where it was being shown as 'Champneys' Pink Cluster'. Show officials put me in touch with the exhibitor, Mrs. Thomas Johnston of Coral Gables. This gracious lady invited me to visit her roses the next day. Amid the palms, plumerias, and citrus of her garden, there were orchids beginning to naturalize, drifts of blue bulbous iris, Easter lilies beyond counting, and a collection of Chinas, Teas and Noisettes that had taken a lifetime to assemble. This wonderful pink foundling was guarding the entrance to Mrs. Johnstone's enchanted world. When Leonie Bell saw my rooted cuttings in bloom later that year, she had to have one and "one for Carl, too, please." I assume Carl not only liked the rose but that he shared it with friends as well. "Cato's Cluster" is as hardy as a Hybrid Tea and an excellent rebloomer. The flowers are fully double, a row or two of pale petals encircling a non-fading rich pink center.

"Natchitoches Noisette" is a curious pale pink foundling originally distributed by Antique Rose Emporium and available from a number of own-root nurseries. First discovered at an old fort in Natchitoches, Louisiana, this four foot shrub constantly produces

clusters of cupped blooms marked at times with deeper rose tones. The plant seems to be a Noisette x China, and the flowers look like the well-known Polyantha, 'La Marne'. One of "Natchitoches" distinctions is its fragrance. When I asked garden writer Liz Druitt to smell a bloom at Monticello last May, her first reaction was, "Ugh!"; with a second sniff her reaction was, "Anise!" The old writers spoke of just such a quality in 'Bisson à odeur d'Anisette'. Time and more research will solve the matter. "Natchitoches" is one of the few Noisette foundlings that is tender for me—seldom amounting to anything on the cold side of Zone 6. But just south of here it is a worthy addition to the garden.


Natchitoches

"Redoutés Red Noisette" is the study name for the variety once circulated as "Peppermint China" by Antique Rose Emporium and among rose collectors as "Charles Walker's Red." The plant has a heavy dose of Red China Rose in it—bright reddish-pink flowers of few petals often with a white stripe or two. The new growth is stained with even more red. The petals of a true China, however, *darken* as they age, and this foundling *fades*. At Monticello, our plants of this welcome dose of red are never without bloom and reach three feet, so far. In Marie Butler's wonderful garden just south of Richmond, the plant is five feet tall. One Easter Day (not a quiet time


***R. noisettian purpurea*/ Redoute's Red Noisette?**

for me professionally) Ruth Knopf from Charleston telephoned me quite excited about this little red rose. She asked me to study the plate of Redouté's *Rosa noisettiana purpurea*, his "Noisette à fleurs rouges". The details of that portrait and Thory's excellent companion text may mean we have a match. Until more research is done, "Redouté's Red" is a study name for a variety that more of us should grow. This, unfortunately, is quite tender in my area.

There are other Fabulous Foundling Noisettes on trial in my garden with charming names such as "Ruth's Pink Musk", "Tutta's Pink Noisette","Placerville White", and the "Wavy-leaved Noisettte". If you live where conditions permit, these and the varieties discussed here can add so much to a collection of Old Roses and will prove to be among the longest lived and most prolific plants in your garden.

IMAGE CREDITS

Pages 2 & 21. . . Elaine Sedlack
Page 3 . . . Connie Hilker
Pages 6, 8, 10, 15, 23, 25 . . . Darrell Schramm
Pages 11 & 13 . . . Gloria Leinbach
Page 14 . . . Giuseppe Bonin
Page 16 . . . Gregg Lowery
Page 17 . . . painting by George Richard, 1875
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Page 24 . . . watercolor by Alfred Parsons
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A HONEY OF A ROSE

Elaine Sedlack

I have never come upon anyone who doesn't love this rose! Most give 'Crepuscule' an "Excellent" rating. Francis Lester, Graham Stuart Thomas, Charles Quest-Ritson and Sally Anderson all praise it to the heavens, to which, with the least bit of encouragement, it will rise! Bred by Francis Dubreuil in 1904, this is a later Tea-Noisette. Although it has the smaller flower size usually displayed by the original Noisette class, as well as that class's generous flower clusters, it has a rampant climbing habit, and its limber growth allows it to drape beautifully. It is one of the few Noisettes which could essentially be used as a large-scale ground cover (I have seen another Tea-Noisette with this capacity, 'Alister Stella Gray', smother a building), and in fact, Jack Harkness mentions that it is planted on "roadside verges." It can therefore be beautifully grown into trees or on arbors.

It is prolific, with relatively small yet very fragrant flowers borne profusely. Perhaps these smaller flowers (compared to other Tea-

Noisettes) enable its tendency to repeat. It is reportedly rarely out of flower in mild climates. The individual flowers have a perky charm, and though the flower form is sometimes described as muddled, with larger guard petals, I find it to have a very graceful, romantic character. There is a subtle ivory-green tone on the guard petals that complements its overall golden hue. The amber stamens peeking out from the reduced central petals accentuate its warm, true apricot color. This color is enhanced by sunlight, which causes the exterior petals to turn salmon pink—somewhat in the manner of 'Reve d'Or', making this a great rose for blending with a wide range of colors of other flowers.

Among 'Crepuscule's other attributes is its hardiness; one European gardener mentions that it is hardy to -10 degrees Celsius. I find this hard to believe, but I guess it is vigorous enough to recover in a season. Mostly, though, it is described as being a little tender. It is light of wood with deep copper colored new growth, very striking, and, since the Noisettes bear flowers at the ends of their canes, its scandent growth further contributes to its profuse flowering, by a sort of self-pegging tendency.

According to HelpMeFind, Louis-François ("Francis") Dubreuil (1842 - 1916, Lyon, France) was a tailor who turned his hand to rose breeding, and this flouncy charmer is appropriately dressed to go to the ball! The name 'Crepuscule' translates as "twilight"; Harkness describes this as “prophetic, being one of the last Noisettes to appear." It also captures light in the way of Harkness' roses, so I am not surprised that it caught his eye.

Francis Dubrueil married the Lyon horticulturist Joseph Rambaux's daughter, Marie, and upon Rambuax's death was responsible for posthumously introducing his later roses. He was also the grandfather of Francis Meilland, (himself most famously known as the raiser of the rose 'Mme. A. Meilland', named for his mother and known as 'Peace' in the US.) From Dubreuil's obituary: "He was a helpful man, of great common sense, and played a big role in the prosperity of horticultural societies. He was the founder of the French Society of rose growers. He was an Officier du Mérite Agricole (Order of Agricultural Merit)."

There is scant information, at least none that I could lay my

hands on, regarding the parentage of 'Crepuscule'. It has smooth canes, is almost thornless, and has fine foliage indicating its China ancestry, though the prickles it does have are quite capable of inflicting pain. Dubreuil was responsible for introducing another well-known rose: 'Perle d'Or' by Rambaux (1875), and because that rose's flowers bear some resemblance to those of 'Crepuscule', both the smaller size and to some extent the color, I am curious to know whether it was used in its breeding. Another Tea-Noisette with relatively small flowers is 'William Allen Richardson', thought to be a seedling or sport of 'Reve'd'Or'. 'Reve d'Or' shows up frequently in Tea-Noisette lineage. We may never know the answer, and will just have to content ourselves with this beautiful surviving result of Dubreuil's meticulous efforts.


Crepuscule

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‘JAUNE DESPREZ’

Joan Harland

This spring I plan on visiting Debbie Petersen’s garden in Livermore, California, to meet a former celebrity. Tall, blonde, handsome, and subject of a mysterious theft, 'Jaune Desprez' (AKA 'Noisette-Desprez' or 'Desprez à fleurs jaunes,’ 1828) may be nearly 200 years old, but it is still as vigorous as when nicknamed “La Mille Écus,” meaning “3000 Francs," about $30,000 in today’s money, the price one smitten nurseryman paid the breeder. The breeder was Charles-Louis-Romain “Jean” Desprez (1781-1849). And the exquisite ‘Gloire de Dijon’ (1853) supposedly resulted from the cross of ‘Jaune Desprez’ x ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison.’

'Jaune Desprez' is a phenomenon, rapidly growing 15 to 20 feet tall, producing masses of large three inch double blossoms, flat or cupped, often quartered, variously described as apricot, pink, and/or pale yellow, fading to buff, in clusters of three; with flushes continuing from April through fall. The foliage is attractive and in the words of *Revue Horticole* in 1833,“spines are purple and scattered; its leaves are large, well extended, leathery, of a very beautiful shiny green, with 5 oval, acuminate leaflets.” It is robust, cold-resistant, disease-resistant,

and drought- and heat-tolerant. When it first appeared, it made quite a splash for combining three rose attributes rare at the time: yellow or apricot blooms, remontancy, and climbing. But the quality most often mentioned by its admirers is the wonderful scent of ripe pineapple or banana. The American horticulturist William R. Prince in his *Manual of Roses* (1848) described it as "so powerfully fragrant that one plant will perfume a large garden in the cool weather of Autumn".

This is one of the first Tea-Noisette climbers, Noisette hybrids bred upon the arrival of the Chinese Tea roses in France. The Tea-Noisette crosses yielded smaller clusters and larger flowers than their Noisette parents, and sometimes the extraordinarily rare yellow blossoms. Both 'Jaune Desprez' and 'Lamarque' (also still available) were introduced around 1830, each thought—but not verified—to be a cross between 'Blush Noisette' and 'Park's Yellow Tea-Scented China' (*Rosa odorata* 'Ochroleuca', introduced to France in 1824 by Alexandre Hardy). 'Lamarque' was bred independently by the cobbler and amateur rosarian Maréchal. If that lineage is true, it is remarkable that two separate amateurs successfully made the same cross nearly simultaneously. Today, 'Lamarque', its blossoms white to pale yellow, is better known, but in 1832, 'Jaune Desprez' was in greater demand, and responsible for a huge financial loss for the Dutch-born horticulturist, Jean Sisley-Vandael (1804-1891), later known as Jean Sisley.

Although Desprez bred roses in Yèbles (the small village in North central France where he was the retired mayor), he did so strictly for his own private enjoyment. It was not until he was discovered by the gardening editor Pirolle that Desprez became known for his roses. In 1881, Desprez's son wrote that in the late 1820s, Pirolle got lost in the French countryside and followed an enticing fragrance to find Desprez's astonishing creations, including 'Jaune Desprez' and 'Baronne Prévost'. Against Desprez's protests, Pirolle finally published his discovery of 'Jaune Desprez' in his journal *Annales des jardiniers amateurs* in August 1831: "This superb plant, with very full flowers . . . opens very elegantly; it offers in its forms, its two rare colors [dark yellow, lemon yellow], its smell, etc. , all that constitutes a rare and very precious conquest in the beautiful rose genus; since it took

seedlings by the thousands and many years to obtain it."

Soon after Pirolle's discovery, Desprez was visited by a string of horticulturists and rosarians (Sisley, Julien-Alexandre Hardy, and Pierre-Joseph Redouté, to name a few). According to Desprez's son, in 1830, Sisley pestered the reluctant breeder until the latter sold him several specimens of 'Jaune Desprez' for 3,000 francs (Desprez's recent greenhouse bill), although Sisley was prepared to pay 10,000 francs for it ($100,000 today), on the condition that Sisley wait a few years to introduce it. When Sisley finally did place it on the market, offering each plant for 10 francs (about $100 today), he was dismayed to find it offered elsewhere at five francs! Someone had earlier stolen a cutting or plant. It is believed that the subsequent loss of customers ultimately led to Sisley's business collapse. Years later, in Algeria in the 1870's, the famous retired rose breeder Jean Laffay furtively whispered to Desprez's son, "It was Marouflot who stole the rose!". (Marouflot was considered a low-level nurseryman at the time.)

Is 'Jaune Desprez' right for you? Perhaps. As Debbie Petersen writes, "The rose is something of a force to contend with, and nastily prickled, so not many folks, these days, may be willing to take it on." But if you have enough space and are intrigued by the thought of a rose fragrance that drew one discerning rose connoisseur to Desprez's garden, and drove another to pay a fortune for it, you might consider it. "It is a wonderful, wonderful thing when it is in full bloom (the wafting scent alone . . . .)," writes Debbie.

The rose on our cover is 'Jaune Desprez' painted by Anica Bricogne, a pupil of Redouté.

FOUR UNCOMMON NOISETTES

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Many rose lovers who are fond of climbing and clustering flowers are fond of Noisettes and Tea-Noisettes. The Noisette, an original American rose (c. 1810), boasts virtual bouquets of usually small to medium full flowers, fragrant often with a clove scent inherited from *Rosa moschata*. Most are recurrent bloomers. Along with Tea roses, they are best for hot climates.

Noisettes became quickly popular in the American South and the south of France. With their popularity, breeders began to cross Tea roses with them, producing larger, less crowded, more sumptuous and elegant flowers. Among the still favored Noisettes we find 'Blush Noisette', 'Aimée Vibert', 'Bougainville', and 'Narrow Water'. Among the well-known Tea-Noisettes, we find 'Celine Forestier', 'Jaune Desprez', 'Lamarque', 'Marechal Niel', and 'William Allen Richardson'.

But others, less familiar, are also still grown. And so I have chosen to write on four rather obscure roses in this extended family. Whenever I write of less familiar roses, I run into a contradiction, a confusion, or a cul-de-sac. (The cul-de-sac, as I shall show, concerns the stories behind the women for whom roses were named.) But to write of the same roses again and again, even from a different perspective, becomes prosaic if not tiresome; nor does it promote those others roses that are still extant and sometimes even more strikingly beautiful. So uncommon are the four Noisettes which I describe here that none is to be found in the world's largest public rose garden, Europa-Rosarium in Sangerhausen.


Jacques Amyot

Take the Noisette 'Jacques Amyot' of 1850. Some fifty years later in

Philadelphia, H.A. Dreer, a prominent nurseryman, declared it was one of the six best Noisettes to be grown. A short plant with arching canes that can extend five feet, its flowers yield a fruity aroma. The prolific blossoms are a light rose pink, darker at the margins, creamy at the base, rather flat but double flowers about three inches across. A momentary confusion inserted itself when I discovered another rose with the same name by the same breeder, Varangot, a purplish-red Damask Perpetual of 1844—but which seems to have disappeared.

A contradiction about the spelling of the rose name occurs in a fairly recent book on Noisettes, maintaining that it has corrected the spelling of the surname as found in a Soupert et Notting catalogue to "Amiot." Yet there is no reason to suppose that only Soupert et Notting knew the correct spelling. One has merely to consult the title pages of any of Amyot's own works, say of 1565, to see how the man himself spelled his name, not to mention Montaigne's praise of Amyot who was his contemporary. It is *not* spelled with an "i".

The rose commemorates Bishop Amyot of Auxerre in central France who lived from 1513 to 1593. Earlier, he had been a professor of languages at Bourges. He translated *Daphnis and Chloe* into French and numerous other books from Greek and Latin, not least *Plutarch's Lives*, which Sir Thomas North in turn rendered into English, a source for three of Shakespeare's plays. Critics, not least Montaigne, who exalted him above all other French writers, have professed that he raised the quality of French prose.

The second Noisette in this group has often been confused with 'Belle Vichysoise; that rose is 'Cornelie'. A rose of 1858, 'Cornelie' grows thirteen to seventeen feet, nearly without prickles. It has been described as vivid pink, as pink with

violet highlights, and as bright pink with purple shading. 'Belle Vichysoise', on the other hand, is pale pink or pinkish white, and grows six to eight feet high. That suggests the two roses are not synonymous. Furthermore, the 1899 and 1906 editions of Simon & Cochet's *Nomenclature* list them separately and with the differing coloration mentioned above. In addition, Roseriae Ducher in France offers 'Cornelie' for sale, showing a photo of it in vivid purplish pink. The story of its misidentification based on surmise need not concern us here.

If not named for the Roman daughter of Scipio Africanus the Elder or her daughter, wife of Scipio Africanus the Younger, it is altogether likely it was named for a contemporary of the breeders Robert and Moreau, Cornelie Le Bas de Courmont, born in 1781. She and her father Charles-Claude Le Bas de Courmont survived the French Revolution, standing in long queues to be dispensed a pittance of food at near starvation. That is all we know of her personal life. Howbeit, we do know her uncle Louis-Marie Le Bas de Courmont, farmer and mayor of Clichy, was guillotined in 1794. And we know she was the cousin of the famous literary brothers Jules and Edmond Goncourt who portrayed her as a character in their forgotten novel *Germinie Lacerteux.* The last to retain the family name (she did not wed), she died in Paris in September 1863.

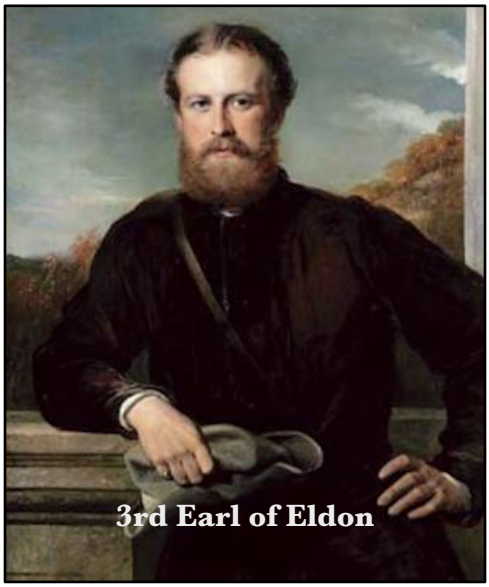
The Tea-Noisette 'Earl of Eldon' was introduced by George Paul & Son in 1871 at the Royal Horticultural Society exhibition. Seedling of 'Cloth of Gold' (aka 'Chromatella'), a free-flowering climber loose in petal and cupping a sweet, strong perfume, it displays a distinct color: coppery apricot or pale buff with orange in England and northern France but paler in Mediterranean climates—chamois-incarnadine or white with a pale yellow or goldish hue at the base of the petals.

Earl of Eldon

The rose was apparently named

for the 3rd Earl of Eldon, John Scott (1845-1926), who inherited the title from his father John Scott, 2nd Earl of Eldon in 1854. Because at first it was assumed the 1st Earl was the source of the name of the rose, the latter perhaps deserves a tangent.

Being the most famous of the earls, the 1st Earl of Eldon, a lawyer and politician, became Lord Chancellor from 1801 to 1827 with a brief hiatus in those years. His most daring act in life seems to have been his elopement with the daughter of a Newcastle banker in 1772, using the traditional ladder set at a second story window to carry her off. He was knighted in 1788, served in the Lower House and then in the House of Lords. But, as an unbending conservative, he was not rousingly popular. He opposed abolition of slavery, of debtors' prison, railway expansion, Roman Catholic political freedom, and the Reform Act to increase the right to vote among the common citizens. Once, riding in an open carriage, he was stoned by a mob but was quick to raise his umbrella to deflect the stones. A ship was named for him—not a rose—which, after leaving Bombay in 1835, caught fire from its cargo of cotton. Fortunately, crew and 35 passengers escaped in three lifeboats before the ship exploded. The three boats, after thirteen days adrift, gratefully having taken along 20 gallons of brandy, some biscuits and jam and canned meats, reached the remote island of Rodrigues, 450 miles away where they were rescued.



3rd Earl of Eldon

But most likely the Tea-Noisette was named for the contemporary 3rd Earl of Eldon. Educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford, he married Henrietta Minna Turnor in 1869 and sired seven children. A handsome man, he gained the title of Honorary Colonel of the First Dorset Royal Volunteers, also serving as Justice of the Peace

for Dorset and for Gloucestershire.

The Earl of Eldon was also the Viscount of Encombe. The Encombe estate is part of the village of Kingston in County Dorset. Although the 1st Earl in 1833 had the old twelfth century village church renovated, in 1874 the 3rd Earl commissioned the architect of London's Royal Courts of Justice to design a new church. A Victorian Gothic structure whose tower peals eight bells, it presents a certain grandeur, symmetry, and harmony. But why two churches of the same denomination? One answer is that, being tradition-minded, the villagers felt no need for a new church and for forty years chose not to attend the new one, St. James. Another answer is that St. James was built for the Scott family and posterity as a private chapel or church, though a rather imposing edifice for only the celebrants of one extended family. A third answer, smacking of gossip, is that the Earl had been found in bed with the Vicar's wife, so out of respect and loyalty to the Vicar, the villagers shunned the new church. The 3rd Earl died age 80 in 1926 and lies buried there in Kingston. In 2002 the Scott family sold the grand house and part of the estate. Today that property is owned by a former airline CEO.

Like the last rose, 'Lily Mertchersky' is a Tea-Noisette. And like my maternal grandmother's side of the family, the surname has at least three spellings: the one given here, and Merschersky and Meshchersky. It was bred by Gilbert Nabonnand. After he opened his nursery in 1864 on the French Riviera, he bred mostly Tea roses, capitalizing on royal patronage by naming most of his roses after nobility and others of the well-heeled class, such as this Tea-Noisette. Quite prickly, quite vigorous, quite recurrent, a mildly fragrant climber, the plant bears medium-sized flowers of violet red. In fact, it was introduced in 1878 as the first Noisette of that color. It does, however, fade rather swiftly to mauve.

After the Crimean War, France had acquired Nice; Napoleon III, to show he really valued peace, accordingly invited Russian nobility to the area. Eager for the warm Mediterranean climate, they accepted with alacrity. And the Merschersky nobility owned at least two villas in Nice. Given that little detail and the fact that there were two Princesses Nataliya Merschersky, distant cousins a generation apart, confused

matters for a time in this research.

Lily—Princess Nataliya Alexandrovna Mertchersky—was a descendant of the Stroganovs. In 1877 she wed Fabrizio Ruffo, the Duke of Sasso-Ruffo. No doubt Nabonnand named the rose to commemorate her marriage. The couple brought forth five children, two of whom died in infancy. The youngest daughter Elisabeta (1886-1940) married the son of a grand Duke of Russia, Andre Alexandrovich, in 1918. But they soon fled the Revolution, living on the French Riviera a few years before relocating to England. In absentia, Elisabeta became a Grand Duchess. During WWII in 1940, she was dying of cancer during an air raid on London when a ceiling beam fell and struck her; she died of injuries shortly thereafter.

But how disappointing not to know more about her mother Lily. The four roses discussed here may be uncommon, but what is altogether common is that male history is invariably given more coverage that female history. Typical of most histories, including rose history, is that they continue to frame women in the context of their relationship to famous or once-important men. Why don't we know more about Lily and Cornelie? Why do we know almost nothing about their personalities and networks in which they lived? Their lives are all but absent from this study, and it is not because I did not try to explore their narratives, their lives, to make their stories at least equal to those of the men. A hundred fifty years later, it is still uncommon in 2021 for male writers to understand how important the narratives are—common or not— that show us how women live.

THE MADAME AND MICHELE

Elaine Sedlack

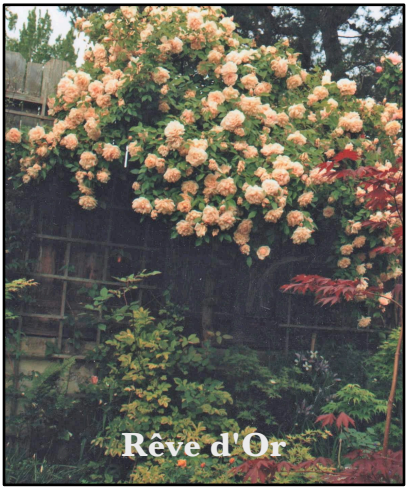
'Madame E. Souffrain',
1897, Prof. J.-B. Chauvry,
Bordeaux, France

This obscure Noisette wasn't listed in the final Vintage Gardens catalog, and there is only a short mention by Dickerson, my two primary sources of information. Being curious, I did a little sleuthing and found that it was one of the special French import roses that Gregg Lowery obtained in 2010 from La Roseraie du Désert, located to the north of Lourdes, in southwest France. I am so glad that Rose Petals Nursery in Florida had the presence of mind to acquire it from Vintage during its short window of availability. They are now its sole source in the U.S. I also became aware of a discrepancy in the name of this rose. Of the four references cited by HMF, the earlier three all list her as 'Madame E. Souffrain'; whereas one publication, *Rosenlexikon* by Jaeger, 1936, lists her as 'Mme. Emilie Souffrain'. In the Vintage list of the French imports, it is listed as 'Mme. E. Souffrain'. HMF gives the name as 'Madame Emilie Souffrain', with 'Madame E. Souffrain' listed as a synonym.

One of our Eugene Heritage Rose Group members, Michele Bulgatz, in her ongoing, insatiable quest for apricot-colored roses, searched out this rose and ordered it from Rose Petals Nursery. Since she always referred to it as 'Mme Emilie Souffrain', I adopted this name as well. We informally refer to her, the rose, as Madame Emilie. It was only in the course of researching that I discovered that it was likely registered as 'Madame E. Souffrain', its correct name. Very often roses are named for women but under their husband's name, for example, as in 'Mme. Alfred Carrière'. One wonders, what was Mme. Alfred's given

name?! I think Michele intuitively decided to fully honor Mme. Emilie, and not just as "E.".

After the rose arrived, Michele planted it on an eight foot stump and was very excited when it bloomed for the first time. During this period, her rose group friends received weekly photo updates, as of a new baby! She is encouraging it to ultimately smother the stump. I think Madame Emilie is equal to the task, as the vigorous 'Rêve d'Or' figures twice in her ancestry--both as her mother and her grandfather! The world of cultivated plants is as incestuous as it gets. 'Rêve d'Or' (Ducher, 1869) was the seed parent, with pollen from 'Duarte d'Oliveira' (Brassac, 1879); both Tea-Noisettes. The parents of 'Duarte d'Oliveira' were another Tea-Noisette pair, 'Ophirie' (Goubault, 1841) crossed with 'Rêve d'Or', with the latter used this time as the pollen parent. 'Duarte d'Oliveira' was named in honor of the editor of the *Portuguese Horticultural Review*. 'Madame E. Souffrain' likely gets her more intense pink coloration from her father's side of the family. I can find no information about Mme. Emilie Souffrain, the person.



I remember the huge plant of 'Rêve d'Or' that covered the side of a building at Merritt College in the Oakland hills, across from where the Heritage Roses Group meetings were held, and I also have had personal experience with this rose's vigor. I spent 20 years wrestling it into a nine-foot standard in my previous home in California. So when I read in HMF that 'Madame E. Souffrain' "in the 1900's, was in fashion for weeping standards" it made perfect sense to me.

The photo in HMF by Becky Hook, then the proprietress, along with her husband John, of La Roseraie du Désert, best captures the beauty of this rose, at least at one brief moment in time. 'Madame Emilie' goes through amazing color and floral changes, the thing I love best about the old roses. They are expressions of life's vicissitudes, from

youth through maturity, and beyond that; to the very last petal they are evocative of our fragile existence. 'Madame E. Souffrain' is quite double, with petals that grow smaller towards the center. They are creased and scrunched together, and often quartered, the whole crowded assemblage going in all directions. And the color is remarkable. Sometimes she resembles her mother, sometimes her father and grandfather, or both at once! She can be a creamy cameo pink, or buff to straw yellow, or carmine rose. Most often all of these colors are present, with warm weather bringing out the pink shades.


Mme E. Souffrain

Michele is quite enamored of this rose, of which I don't believe any of us were aware before she acquired it. This brings home to me how in our group we are constantly learning from each other. I am fully appreciative of the wide range of individual skills that our members possess, and what each person brings to the group. Michele's charismatic enthusiasm led to her becoming our designated "Rose Ambassadress." She has a welcoming, generous personality, and has been known to knock on strangers' doors to ask about their roses. I have made many friends since the group formed. It has become a wonderful collaboration, a mutual expansion of our cosmos, both among the people, and the roses.

Elaine Sedlack is the president of the Eugene Heritage Rose Group in Oregon.

The following article does not concern a Noisette, but the plant is just as profuse.


Queen of the Prairies

SECRETS OF 'QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIES' REVEALED

Darrell g.h. Schramm

The entire plant of the 'Queen of the Prairies' rose, from foot to shoulder, recalls a luxurious rose-studded evening coat by Balenciaga. Rosy pink to lilac pink but mauve-pink or even white with age, the petals often show white marks or stripes. The form of the flowers is like a large bowl of stirred taffeta cut-ribbons or like ruched fabric. With three to a dozen roses in a cluster, the blooms are comprised of so thick a ruff of petals that the flowers often bow their heads with the weight. They emerge from big, round buds rather the shape and size of Brussel sprouts but with frilly sepals that barely enfold them. Once open, the blossoms at first are deeply cupped, only then becoming that bowl of ruffled, rosy taffeta. To some noses, the rose is unscented; to others it offers a pleasant perfume. The large, serrated leaves usually appear rather rugose. While the pedicels exhibit bristles or large glands, the plant is indecisive about armature: its canes can display many prickles, but it can also appear "virtually thornless."

The origin of 'Queen of the Prairies' goes back many years. It began with Mrs. Caroline Herbemont of Columbia, South Carolina, the first female rose breeder in the United States. By 1830 she had raised a number of new roses. One of them, listed only as 'Herbemont's', may

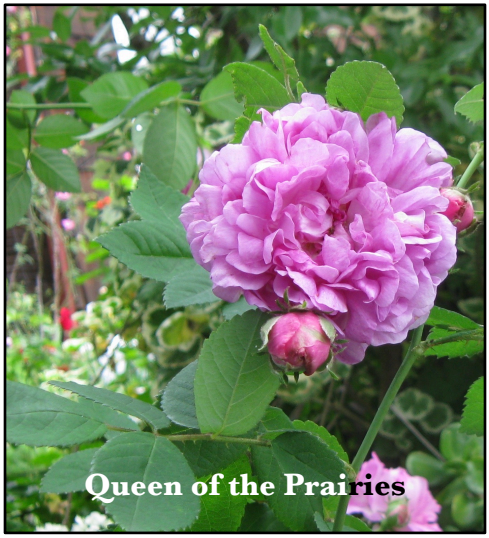
be 'Herbemont's Musk Cluster' which found its way into William Prince, Jr.'s nursery catalogue in 1825, a strongly fragrant double rose in huge white clusters growing in profusion, eight to ten feet high. Another, the Noisette 'Herbemont's Caroline', was listed in his catalogue of 1835 under Chinas, among which he included musk roses and Noisettes. Listed in later catalogues was 'Herbemonti Grandiflora', a seven-foot tall plant of double, deep pink flowers. Some time before or in the mid-1830s, after his brother John left the partnership, Samuel Feast planted both 'Herbemonti Grandiflora' and 'Herbemont's Musk Cluster' at his nursery in Baltimore. The latter rose had been quite intransigent to root from cuttings, so Feast used charcoal to root those cuttings successfully. Meanwhile, Caroline Herbemont died in 1837.

In approximately 1836, from an acquaintance, a Mrs. Hannah Levering, who had moved from Baltimore to Lancaster, Ohio, Feast received seeds of *Rosa setigera* (then called *R. rubifolia*). At that time this wild rose was also referred to as The Prairie Rose or Climbing Prairie Rose, not to mention Michigan Rose, Kentucky Rose, and one or two other names. Two forms exist: one with glabrous foliage, the other with downy leaves (*R. setigera* v. *tomentosa*).

Whether native or otherwise, Americans from Canada to Florida and Texas, from the East Coast to the Great Plains were familiar with *R. setigera* before Michaux published his description of it in 1803. Growing five to twenty feet tall, it develops deep to pale pink flowers with white undertones, sweetly fragrant, and very hardy. A dioecious plant, meaning each rose shrub is only all male or only all female, it is the only such rose. Male plants produce more flowers than female and are more attractive to bees. Hips will form only on female plants but only if both sexes are present. The sexes are difficult to differentiate. Sepals are very narrow, downy, and glandular. Prickles vary—some canes can show many prickles while others almost none. *R. setigera* prefers some light or filtered shade.

This wild rose appears much like *R. multiflora*, but its pinkish flowers are larger and do not form pyramidal clusters in white. *R. setigera* bears mostly three leaflets to a leaf, sometimes five, while *R. multiflora* bears seven to nine leaflets. The stipules of *R. setigera* are awl-shaped; those of *R. multiflora* are linear and toothed.

Samuel Feast permitted a few of the wild Setigera roses to climb over a bed of his Noisettes, which no doubt included the Herbemont roses. Rosarian and nurseryman Charles Mason Hovey, who knew and several times visited the Feast nursery, writes that without "the once famous 'Herbemont Musk Cluster' and 'Herbemonti Grandiflora', the parents on one side of Mr. Feast's . . . Prairies, perhaps we should never have had those grand acquisitions." (Another of those "grand acquisitions" still available today is 'Baltimore Belle'.)


Queen of the Prairies

Although three or four recent sources surmise that 'Queen of the Prairies' is the hybrid of *R. setigera* and a Gallica, Hovey further and clearly states that Feast "raised many hybrids between the Michigan Rose and 'Herbemont Musk Cluster'." We now know that the other parent was a Herbemont rose, mostly likely the once famous 'Herbemont Musk Cluster.'

'Queen of the Prairies' was Feast's first hybrid from *R. setigera*, but initially—in 1839—he called it 'Beauty of the Prairies', a name occasionally used today. In 1844 he changed the name to 'Queen of the Prairies'. The date usually given for this rose, like that of most of Feast's roses, is 1843. If Hovey is to be believed—and he was a contemporary and a friend— the date of origin is 1839. Furthermore, in *The Magazine of Horticulture and Botany* of April 1842, edited by Hovey, an unnamed writer (Hovey himself?) wrote that three years ago—which would make it 1839—he had received "a small lot of roses" and that

one of those seedlings "superior to any of them" was called by Feast 'Beauty of the Prairies'. Although breeder and nurseryman Robert Buist of Philadelphia acquired the rose in 1842, Hovey was the first to advertise and sell it in his 1845 catalogue.

Now two once hidden facts of 'Queen of the Prairies' have been revealed. First, the other parent of the rose was not a Gallica but an Herbemont rose, quite likely 'Herbemont's Musk Cluster', and, its date of origin is not 1843 but 1839. It also strikes me that it was two women who provided that parentage, Mrs. Caroline Herbemont and Mrs. Hannah Levering. Invariably it seems a great victory when women emerge from the shadows and are crowned with laurels beside the men. Along with Sam Feast, these two women will come to mind whenever I gaze at my 'Queen of the Prairies.'

ROSA MAXIMOWICZIANA

Darrell g.h. Schramm

For Don Gers

It is a rose little known and therefore little discussed. If true that familiarity breeds contempt, then its lack, as pertains to this rose, should breed attention if not regard or esteem.

When I first saw this wild rose with its huge yellow boss of stamens nearly half the size of the flower, I felt a surge of joy, a joy inspirited by beauty. This species rose is *Rosa maximowicziana*. The name appears daunting, a mouthful, a series of hurdles for the tongue, but it is not. "Maxy-moh-wick-zee-anna": Say it slowly once, then twice or thrice more but faster, and you'll find it flows so glibly off your tongue you'll feel you scored a victory.

The rose was named for a great Russian-German botanist Carl Johann Maximowicz (1827-1891), a species he collected on a plant-finding expedition. Not yet 25, he served as curator of the herbarium in St. Petersburg's Botanic Gardens. About two years later, he set out for

the Far East and collected plants for three years in the vicinities of the Ussuri and Amur Rivers of Inner Mongolia, near the northern reaches of the Sea of Japan. From 1859 to 1864 he journeyed overland across Siberia, studying flora and collecting seeds and shrubs. It was during this second expedition in 1860 when, in southeastern Manchuria near the border of China, he chanced upon the species rose named for him by Edouard Regel. (Regel wrote a major work in 1878 on roses, recognizing 58 species, in his *Tentamentum Rosarum Monographiae.* It is in that work that *R. maximowicziana* was first described.)

British botanist Sir Joseph Hooker, director of Kew's Botanic Gardens from 1865 to 1885 and Charles Darwin's best friend, thought *R. maximowicziana* synonymous with *R. wichurana*. Though they share similarities, he was mistaken. A few other species are sometimes associated with *R. maximowicziana*. *R. kelleri* Baker is one, but it is more a relative of *R. spinosissima*. *R. jaluana* Kom. is another, but it is closer to *R. macrophylla* Lindl.

Rosa jackii Rehder (1910) is, however, a near relative or variant, often labeled as *R. maximowicziana* var. *jackii*. But unlike the dense armature of *R. maximowicziana*, *R. jackii* manifests few prickles and no bristles, and its stipules show some lacination, similar to but less profuse and deep than that on *R. multiflora*. On the other hand, *R. jackii* var. *pilosa* Nakai is a synonym.

Belonging to the Synstylae section of roses, *R. maximowicziana*

grows as a dense, arching or rambling shrub, about six feet high or more. Its upper stems are unusually dense with a covering of bristles and grey, curved prickles—defining traits. The peduncles and pedicels, on the other hand, are glabrous, sometimes showing a few scattered glands. Seven to nine leaflets comprise the serrate and dark shiny green leaves, lacking sheen on the reverse; they are shaped ovate or obovate, the apex coming to a sharp point. According to Martin Rix, the narrow stipules are entire and display glands or hairs on the margins. In contradiction, W. J. Bean asserts that, like *R. multiflora*, the stipules are toothed, though not so deeply as those of the latter. If Rix is correct, then perhaps Bean was observing *R. jackii.*

The white flowers bear petals notched at the apex. More or less fused into a column, the protruding style is surrounded by brilliant yellow stamens. The sepals are slightly foliaceous. The plant flowers June to July and then produces ovoid hips, red, thick, and smooth.

Like Rugosa roses, *R. maximowicziana* has been found growing in sand dunes along the sea, as well as on open slopes, stream sides, and in sandy soil of pine woods. It is native to Korea, Manchuria, and East Russia, especially near Vladivostok along the Sea of Japan. In the far Western World, it is recommended for northern coastal areas of Scotland, New England, and Canada.

This wild rose boasts at least two offspring, one rose single in flower, the other double. Bred in 1955, the single is known as 'Skinner's Rambler'. Somewhat fragrant, the light pink flowers grow in clusters on a large rambling plant about twenty feet long. It offers some scattered later bloom. It is quite hardy to zone 2b. 'Skinner's Rambler' has been used a number of times in Canada as a parent in crossbreeding with other roses. Though no longer sold, *Modern Roses 12* lists it.

Product of 'Skinner's Rambler' is 'White Mountains' of 1958. White with pale pink outer petals, the double flowers furnish 45 petals that with age acquire a tinge of green. While this rose also is no longer in commerce, it can be viewed in a number of private and botanical gardens in Canada and in the United States—in Albuquerque; in Ithaca, NY; in Minnesota; in Kentucky and elsewhere. One hopes it will be used in cross-breeding again.

FROM OUR READERS

Darrell! What a beautiful (and beautifully written) remembrance of Bill !—Dr. John Walther. CA [Bill Grant's executor]

I enjoyed your bourbon newsletter, and noticed that Gloire des Rosomanes is not included--noticed that Gregg [Lowery] thinks it might be a China. — Susan Walker, CA

I've never written to tell you how much I enjoy your articles both in the *Rose Letter* and in the Vintage newsletter, so it's about time I did. Two recent articles in particular struck my mind. I thoroughly enjoyed your affectionate and respectful tribute to Bill Grant, whom you described as your mentor. The other which made such an impression on me is the one on identifying a Bourbon vs a Hybrid Perpetual. I've never been able to do that, sliding one category into the other in my mind. I'm going to be re-reading that article over and over until it begins to become second nature.
In any case, I wanted to thank you for providing me with such enjoyable and informative reading material. I hope that writing them brings you as much satisfaction as reading them does to me.—Paula Larkin Hutton, CA

I just love the "Rose Letter". Thank you. —Peggy Martin, LA

I enjoy the Rose Letter. Too old to grow many roses these days, but enjoy reading & the pictures. —D. Taylor, SC

I have enjoyed reading the recent edition of the Heritage Rose Group's "Rose Letter". It has gotten me interested in trying a Bourbon rose, although I don't know how well they hold up in our months-long humidity. But I would like to try at least one. I really enjoyed learning about 'Sir Joseph Paxton' and and 'Souvenir du President Lincoln' in that first article. There were even some facts in there about Lincoln that I had never heard. Interestingly, just a week or so ago, I saw a post about 'Souvenir du President Lincoln' from the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, VA as a "sneak preview" to their annual rose sale in April. (They will be offering five plants of it.) —Kim Chaney-Bay, TN

Thanks for all of your great articles on roses. Lots of time, effort, and dedication went into all of them. Appreciate your knowledge and experience related to the roses. Best wishes—Barbara Gordon, CA

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ROSE LEAF RAG

A RAG TIME TWO-STEP

BY

SCOTT JOPLIN

COMPOSER OF "CASCADES" "SUNFLOWER SLOW DRAG" ETC.

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