ROSE LETTER

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ROSE LETTER

The Heritage Roses Group

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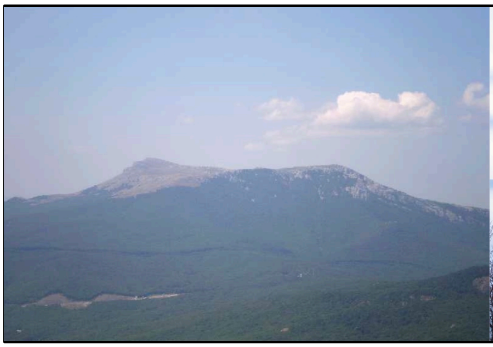
Some Wild Roses of Ukraine and the Caucasus
Don Gers

Crimea, at the northern end of the Caucasus range, is internationally recognized as part of Ukraine but was invaded and annexed by Russia in 2014. Chatyr Dag is its highest mountain containing multitudes of spectacular caves. A wild rose growing on this mountain was described and named *Rosa tschatyrdagi* in 1953 by the Ukrainian botanist Volodymyr Gennadievich Khrzhanovsky, but in the Russian scientific journal where he was published his name was converted to the Russian Slavic, Vladimir Gennadievich Chrshanovski. Even the Ukrainian language is suppressed by the Russians, e.g. Russian "Kiev" vs Ukrainian "Kyiv" and Russian "Vladimir" vs Ukrainian "Volodymyr". The mountain, Chatyr Dag is ancient Tauric with Chatyr meaning "tent" (for the mountain's shape) and Dag meaning "mountain," so the common name of the rose species would be "Tent Mountain Rose". My friend Michael Tallman suggested this homophone to pronounce it: "Rosa shot-her-doggie."



Chatyr Dag, highest peak in Crimea, Ukraine

Seen from Demerdzhi Mountain

Rosa tschatyrdagi is a member of the spinosissima group of roses but separated from the European spinosissima by its glandular leaflets with a fragrance like cedar. My plant was grown from seeds supplied by Hortus Botanicus Nikitensis at Jalta, Taurica (the same Yalta on Crimea where Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met in 1945 to "carve up Europe").

Clockwise: hips, flower, bud, & bush of *Rosa tschatyrdagi*

Farther north into Ukraine on the northwest edge of the capitol Kyiv, is a place called Horenka where members of a Fox News team were killed about a month after Vladimir Putin's February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Here the German-born botanist Wilibald Swibert Joseph Gottlieb von Besser, who spent most of his life in Ukraine, collected and named *Rosa gorenkensis* in 1822. A member of the Cinnamomeae group, it is distinguished by densely glandular and pubescent leaflets. The epithet "gorenkensis" means originating in Gorenka. Again, probably the Russian Slavic form of the Ukrainian name "Horenka".

Southeast from Ukraine, along the boundary of Europe and Asia, a double range of mountains stretch 750 miles between the Black and Caspian Seas. Known as the Greater Caucasus on the north and the Lesser Caucasus on the south, both are snowcapped, in altitude much like

the Alps but only higher. While Mont Blanc in the Alps is 4804 meters (15,774 feet) Mount Elbrus in the Greater Caucasus is 5642 meters (18,510 feet). Here Zeus chained Prometheus for stealing fire for humanity and Jason searched for the Golden Fleece.

Top left" *R. gorenkensis* flower; top right: stems with prickles & leaves; lower right: underside of leaflets, densely glandular, with scent of cedar; lower left: glandular bud.

Five countries encompass the range beginning with Georgia on the west. The flora of Georgia lists 19 species of Rosa. Among them, the endemic *Rosa oxyodon* Boiss, (below) a member of the Pendulinae group with flowers ranging from red to rose on a well-foliated erect and compact bush. The botanist Pierre Boisser gave it a Greek epithet formed from "oxy" meaning sharp and "odon" meaning teeth, referring to the edge of

the leaflets. *Rosa oxyodon* grows from the lower forest margins to the subalpine belt at the top of the mountains. In the bloodless Rose Revolution of 2003 when Georgia finally became free of Russia, red roses were carried to parliament by "sharp tongued" dissidents bringing an end to Soviet domination.

Caucasus Mountains

Top left then clockwise: *Rosa oxyodon* flower, bush, fall color bush, flower and "sharp-toothed" leaflet; pendulous orange-red hips

Rosa marschalliana Sosn., another endemic species was named by the Georgian botanist Dimitrii Sosnowsky in 1943. Sosnowsky had just completed a Flora of Georgia in 1941 and possibly his epithet, marschalliana, was in honor of an earlier botanist, Friedrich August Marschall (von Bieberstein) who compiled the first Flora of the Crimeo-Caucasian region which includes the country of Georgia. Marschalliana is a handsome canina type species with foliage resembling strawberry leaves and beautiful foliaceous sepals enclosing the flower buds.

Top left, clockwise: *Rosa marschalliana* flowers, foliaceous buds, strawberry leaves for comparison with *Rosa marschalliana* leaves

Southeast of Georgia in the Lesser Caucasus is the country of Armenia where a variety or geographic form in the *Rosa pimpinellifolia* group called *Rosa elasmacantha* Traut. was described by Ernst Rudolf von Trautvetter, a Baltic German botanist who specialized in the flora of the Caucasus and central Asia. He also spent many years in Kyiv as a professor and Director of its botanic garden.

Rosa elasmacantha has two kinds of prickles, small acicles densely crowded along the stem and, scattered broadly, platelike triangular ones for which it was given the Greek name "elasmacantha" from "elasmos" meaning "hammered metal plate" and "acantha" meaning "prickle or spine." I've yet to see these unusual triangular prickles on my plant, but they may eventually appear as the species matures.

***Rosa elasmacantha* flowers and prickly stems.**

***Rosa sachokiana* flower on left with foliaceous buds and glandular leaflets**

Some botanists consider *sachokiana* identical to *Rosa glutinosa* Sm. (aka *Rosa pulverulenta* M. Bieb.) also from the Caucasus mountains. But *glutinosa* has very prickly stems, hips and sepals clearly distinguishing it from sachokiana's smooth stems with scattered prickles mostly at the nodes. Except for its glandular quality, sachokiana's features look closer to *R. canina*, the Dog Rose, which should at least make it a variety or subspecies. Possibly it's even a hybrid of *canina* with *pulverulenta* (syn. *glutinosa*).

Rosa glutinosa

Many more species have been named throughout the Caucasus--I will exaggerate and say, almost as numerous as its mountain peaks. And that probably explains why. Each is isolated from its neighbors by rocky cliffs and deep chasms, limiting crossbreeding and the interchange of genes. Travelers noticed the same phenomenon among the languages of isolated mountain villages. (Arab geographers called the Caucasus Jabal al-Alsun, 'mountain of languages'). Some villages only 50 miles apart speak yet an entirely different language. Pliny (Roman, died 79 AD) quoted Timosthenes (Greek, ca. 270 BC) noting the ancient Greeks counted three hundred separate languages of the Caucasus. He continued that the Romans, in his day, traveled with a mere 130 interpreters!

Several more species from the region, left to right: *Rosa roopae*, *Rosa foetida*, *Rosa korschinskiana*

Added to the diversity of languages and culture, the Caucasus is blessed with an abundance of plants of which 40% are found nowhere else. Only recently has the world's attention turned to cataloging and conserving it all. But sadly, the region is rife with strife and has been for hundreds of years. In the Greater Caucasus to the north lies Chechnya, its capital Grozny almost completely erased by Vladimir. Likely no wild roses are left there.

But something remarkable happened with the wild rose I'm growing from the outskirts of Kyiv in Ukraine. The first flowers it opened this spring looked like typical five-petalled blossoms, but they were not. Hidden beneath was another layer of five petals! Symbolic of Volodymyr and the people of Ukraine, a lot more to them than Vladimir expected.

A FEW FINE BARBIER ROSES

Darrell g.h.Schramm

The Barbier rose story began with Albert Barbier (1845-1931) who initially worked as a gardener in Orleans, southwest of Paris, for the Transon Brothers & Dauvesse nursery Eventually, in 1874, he became General Manager. By 1894 he launched out on his own, and with his brother Eugene and his two sons René and Léon, formed his own nursery, Barbier Frères & Compagnie. (On the side, Albert also served the town of Olivet as city council member and Mayor.) Over the years the company occupied five different locations where, Albert being a pomologist, it grew apples, apricots, peaches, pears, and other fruit, including berries, asparagus, rhubarb, and nuts. One fourth of the crops was devoted, however, to roses.

Albert's oldest son René was the rose hybridist. (That is not to say that Albert was not involved in some of the hybridizing.) He had begun by crossing different species roses with *R. rugosa*, but the results were not encouraging. When five of his ten seeds resulted in flowers pollenized with a cluster of *Rosa wichurana* or its close variant *R. luciae,* a wild rose René had imported from M.H. Horvath in the United States in the 1890s, he soon experimented in crossing Tea, China, Polyantha and other cultivars with the wichurana. Those first five seedlings became 'Albéric Barbier', 'Paul Transon', 'François Foucard', 'René Barbier', and 'Elisa Robichon'. In the U.S., breeders Michael Walsh, Michael

Horvath, and Walter van Fleet had been breeding ramblers, using *R. wichurana* and other species. (Walsh used mostly Hybrid Perpetuals on *R. wichurana*.)

The wichurana rose had been introduced to the botanical garden of Berlin in 1870 and to Belgium where the botanist François Crepin received it in 1871. It was Crepin who first described it in a Belgian journal in 1886. *R. wichurana*, named for the Prussian judge and botanist posted to Japan, Max Ernst Wichura who had sent it to Europe, exhibits a naturally prostrate or scrambling habit of great vigor, its long trailing canes clothed with disease-free foliage. The pure white flowers of *R. wichurana* usually bear five petals but occasionally six or seven, nestled against the glistening dark green of the leaves, leaves with a sheen as though varnished. Hybridized, the plants often display a delicacy in their flowers, blooming—with some exceptions—for one long season. Barbier tended to use *R. wichurana* var. *luciae*. Generally, they can be left to care for themselves over several years, after which one may wish to remove old and dead growth.

Alberic Barbier

René Barbier's first three roses were introduced in 1900: 'Albéric Barbier', 'Paul Transon', and 'René André', all wichurana ramblers, and all still popular. 'Albéric Barbier', which I grow, is, along with 'Albertine', definitely the most popular. It was named for Albert Barbier's father, grandfather of René. Its yellow buds become fully double flowers in a creamy white shade with a softly glowing yellow center, growing singly

and in small clusters. A fruity fragrances adds to their appeal. The pliable canes are long, thin, and armed with hooked prickles. This exuberant plant usually offers a small crop of flowers in the fall.

'René André' aside, 'Paul Transon' develops into a vigorous large-flowered climber to ten feet with somewhat crumpled blossoms in salmon-coral or coppery pink, its center yellow, but all colors fading to creamy tints with age. It carries a mild, sweet scent, some say of tea, others of apple. 'Paul Transon' flowers mid-season and, in Graham Thomas' words, "produces so many late flowers it might be called recurrent." Branches and leaf stalks, both green and somewhat red, are

dressed in small, shiny leaflets of dark green. Scattered prickles show red.The rose honors Paul-Emery-Michel Transon, born in Orléans, France, in 1837, into a nursery family. He worked alongside Albert Berbier before the latter left to found his own establishment. From 1896 to 1898 he served as Mayor of Orléans.

Barbier produced only two roses in 1901, one of which was among his favorites, 'François Foucard'. Early-flowering, it continues blooming into autumn. Semi-double blossoms, strongly scented, begin as lemon yellow, age to white outer petals with a lemon center, then to cream. The flowers are borne solitary and in trusses up to five. A robust climber with lovely foliage, the plant grows to twelve feet or more. Unlike most wichurana/luciae ramblers, it does repeat in autumn, no doubt


François Foucard


Leontine Gervais

thanks to its Noisette parent. It is sold only by Burlington in the United States and by two roses nurseries in France. François Foucard was the grandfather of René and father of Josephine Desirée, his mother, and wife of Albert Barbier.

In 1903 the nursery introduced 'Léontine Gervais', named for the mother-in-law of René. Semi-double, globular or cupped blooms display a loose flounce of petals of a silky softness, nuanced in peachy pink with a yellowish glow in the center. Some copper tones are also evident. The pink shades are reminiscent of its parent 'Souvenir de Catherine Guillot', one of seven Barbier roses with that parent. Its scent varies from mild to sweetly fragrant. Irregularly supplied with slightly hooked prickles, it climbs to twelve pendulous feet with canes easily trained. The summer flush is lush; the fall somewhat stalled. It bears tangerine-shaped hips. Along with 'Auguste Gervais', David Austin considered 'Léontine Gervais' one of the most lovely of wichurana roses. Caution: it is often confused with 'François Juranville'.

‘François Juranville’ made its debut in 1906. On a bush fifteen to 25 feet high by ten feet wide, its roses can be described variously as fawn or coral pink, or peach or salmony pink, all with yellowish white undertones, fading to pale rose or strawberry pink. The large, full or loosely double blossoms come in small trusses, blooming on next year’s growth, and convey a scent of fresh apples. The plant sports few prickles. Profuse and vigorous, if not rampant, the canes and foliage reach to the ground. Though shade tolerant, the plant does require good air circulation to prevent mildew; it is not good near walls or solid fencing. Some random later bloom does occur. It is sometimes confused with ‘Paul Transom’, which, however, is light pink or with ‘Paul Noel’ which is salmon pink with smaller flowers, or with ‘Léontine Gervais’ whose flowers are smaller yet and often disclose some copper tones. The rose was named either for a professional gardener (1814-1893), or for François Louis Juranville (1881-1960), son of a viniculturist in Orléans.


François Juranville

In 1907 René released a rambunctuous, if not majestic, rambler, a cross of *R. luciae* and a seedling of the Tea rose ‘Papa Gontier’. He named it ‘Alexandre Girault’. Girault was a common name in Orléans and the village of


Alexandre Girault

Loiret, but it is not clear to which family this Alexandre belongs. The rose shows a distinct rich pink or deep carmine, almost red, salmon yellow or orange at the base, but somewhat variable; the crimson fades to lilac with age. The full blossoms reveal smaller central petals, loosely set and somewhat quilled, ornamented with a green eye. The plant flowers profusely, sending out a strong fragrance. Few prickles were assigned to the easily trained canes, which can reach twenty feet. 'Alexandre Girault' does not favor rain nor hot sun. Several plants adorn the embracing arms of the trellises, outspread on both sides, of the entrance to the gardens of L'Haÿ-les-Roses near Paris.

Around 1911, Barbier acknowledged a certain lack of hardiness in his hybrids; consequently, he experimented by mating *R. luciae* with the more vigorous Moss rose, but chromosomal incompatibility made it difficult, and only two such combinations were mildly successful. He then switched to crossing Luciae with Hybrid Teas, which created several hardy and beautiful roses


Auguste Gervais

In midst of World War I, having bred another fourteen roses or so, René Barbier in 1916 introduced, in David Austin's words, "one of the most beautiful of the Wichurana class," 'Auguste Gervais'. Beautiful in hot weather, the flowers bloom for an extended period. Creamy crepuscular or coral colored, delicately blending to a chamois and creamy white, they offer a strong scent. Rather flat, the large semi-double or double flowers form clusters of ten to twenty. 'Auguste Gervais' is a strong climber. It

was named either for a Democratic senator and journalist, Auguste Louis Joseph Gervais (1857-1917) who, given Léontine Gervais's connection to the family, was probably René's father-in-law, or for the 29 year-old man killed in 1915 during WWI.


Verdun

'Verdun' is one of eight Polyanthas René Barbier introduced, this one in 1918. It commemorates the nearly ten month Battle of Verdun during WWI in France, a battle of a horrific million casualties. It was not the first time Verdun was under seige. In 1792 the Prussians laid seige to the city. Despite insistence by the citizens and the Defense Council, Commandante Beaurepaire refused to surrender to the enemy. He was found dead on the night of September 1 and 2, supposedly by suicide. Yet details of his death vary and certain omission of facts of that night raise questions. His statue today stands on the Verdun Bridge in the city of Angers. 'Verdun', the rose, generates generous clusters of large globular flowers of a vivid or carmine red, sometimes more carmine purple, with a small white center. Floriferous and in almost continuous bloom, the short plant grows from one foot to eighteen inches high. It does well in containers and the borders of flower beds.

René offered no rose in 1919, the year after The Great War when Max Weber wrote, understandably, of the disenchantment of the world. Two roses came out in 1920, a red-orange rambler and a Hybrid Perpetual. But the following year, as if energized and dancing with the spirit of peace, he released a most stupendous rambling rose.

In 1921, having crossed *R. luciae* with the Hybrid Tea 'Mrs Arthur

Robert Waddell', René Barbier placed the fine rambler 'Albertine' on the market. A favorite of England's Queen Mother, of George Orwell, and many other English gardeners, it is one of the most popular of Wichurana roses. A multitude of trusses in pale, coppery rose pink, with some slight yellow shading and salmon reverse, the large petalled flowers, both semi-double and double, grow on reddish wood. They contain a rich, strong scent. An atypical rambler with sturdy, stiff canes, branching and bushy, it can reach 25 feet; however, it can be grown as a dense shrub of about five feet tall. It was named for the daughter of Albert Barbier, René's sister who died at age 34 in 1906. The Royal Horticulture Society in 1993 bestowed on it an Award of Garden Merit.

By the time of his death in 1940, René Barbier had bred about sixty different roses, including some Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas, but none were as successful as several of his ramblers. His last rambler, really more a climber, 'Paul Dauvesse', was introduced in 1933. This yellow beauty with inner quilled petals is still sold by two rose nurseries, Trevor White Roses in England and Loubert in France. Today somewhat more than half his roses are still extant. Though the nursery closed in 1972, many of Barbier's roses can viewed in Rosearie du Val-de-Marne.

Albertine

ROSES IN THE DESERT

Joan Harland


R. woodsii v. glabrata

The desert, with its blistering heat, harsh winds, scant water, and poor soil, can discourage roses. In hot weather (90°F/32°C and above), roses can be damaged in two ways: by water loss (resulting in leaf scorch, twig dieback, wilting, and drop in internal turgor pressure of plant cells) and by dormancy (caused by heat slowing down or even permanently denaturing plant enzymes). Not surprisingly, although there are nine rose species that are native to California, only one is found in the desert, by springs at the border of the Mojave Desert. This is the 'Desert Rose' [*Rosa woodsii var. glabrata* (Parish) D. Cole, *R. mohavensis* Parish synonym, or previously, 'Mojave Rose']. It blooms once in May to June, has small single pink blossoms (one inch) and small leaves (0.2-0.6 inch) on a short, glabrous plant.

Further afield, *R. persica*, *R. foetida*, and *R. damascena* are all thought to have originated in the deserts of Persia. *R. persica* was previously known as *Hulthemia persica* and is sometimes not considered to be a true rose. Like the 'Desert Rose', it's a short plant with single, one inch blossoms (yellow blend with a maroon center), and blooms


R. persica

once, but instead has simple leaves without stipules. According to Kim Rupert, "It's called the most noxious weed in Iran - it prefers dry, sandy soil of low fertility." The features of both the New World *R. woodsii var. glabrata* and the Old World *R. persica* help them prevent desiccation – but do not bring to mind a tropical haven.


Eram Garden

Still, lush roses not only grow in the desert, but evoke Paradise gardens in a desert climate, such as those of Persia and Spain. Today, the Eram garden in Shiraz, Iran, is a lovely example of a traditional Persian rose garden, thought to have been established over 800 years ago, featuring 200 different varieties. The most commonly grown roses there are the bright pink 'Gul-i-Mohammadi' (*R. damascena* or 'Red Damask') and the double 'Persian Yellow Rose' (*R. foetida persiana*). In the Moorish gardens of the Generalife and Alhambra in Granada, Spain, the Damask Rose (*R. damascena*) is still grown today, next to fragrant jasmine, rosemary, and orange trees. Another rose widely used there on pergolas and around ancient cypress trees is the climbing *Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea' (Yellow Lady Banks' Rose).


R. banksiae Lutea

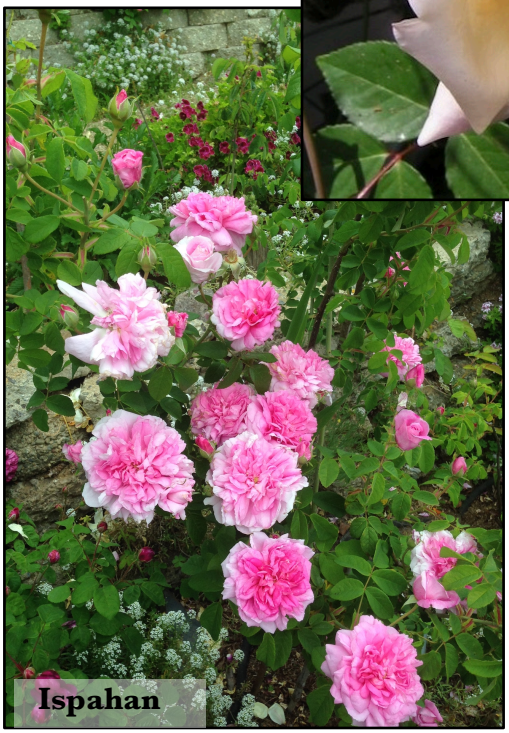
How does one select a heat-tolerant Old Rose for a garden? Often, catalog descriptions are written for cooler, wetter climates, and can't be relied on for picking roses for a desert climate. Even if a non-heat-tolerant rose survives, it will probably

produce fewer blossoms and/or blossoms that fade. When using USDA Climate Zones as a guide, generally speaking, the more cold a rose can take, the less heat it can tolerate. A rose rated down to Zone 3, say, is less likely to do well in hot climates than one rated down to Zone 5.

In fact, most roses favor warm climates. And dry air both kills many rose diseases favored by humidity (rust, black spot) and discourages aphids. An obvious choice is *R. banksiae*: Besides its use in the Generalife, the largest rose in the world is thought to be the Tombstone Rose (another *Rosa banksiae,* the white 'Lady Banks Rose') growing in Tombstone, Arizona (USDA Zones 7–10). The Tombstone Rose was planted in 1884 and now covers 5,000 square feet, with a trunk 14 feet in diameter.

Based on the advice of experienced gardeners, Old Roses that do best in warm weather include


Mlle Franziska Krüger


Ispahan

China roses (e.g., 'Old Blush,''Archduke Charles,' 'Eugene de Beauharnais,' 'Le Vesuve,' 'Mutabilis,' 'Pink Pet,' and 'The Green Rose'), Tea roses ('Le Pactole,''Francis Dubreuil,' 'Mlle. Franziska Krüger,' 'Mons Tiller'), Noisettes ('Champneys' Pink Cluster'), 'Fortuniana', and Polyanthas, as well as *some* damasks ('Autumn Damask,' 'Ispahan'), Portlands ('Rose de

Rescht,' 'Yolande d'Aragon'), Bourbons, Mosses ('Salet'), Hybrid Musks ('Felicia'*), Hybrid Perpetuals ('Baronne Prevost', 'Reine des Violettes,''Marchesa Boccella,' 'Paul Neyron,' 'Sidonie,' 'Vick's Caprice'), and species (*R. banksiae banksiae, R. banksiae lutea*). (Note that the above rose varieties favor hot desert regions, but not necessarily cold desert regions.)


Felicia

As a rule, Albas, Centifolias, Scots roses, and Rugosas (rated down to Zone 3) and *some* Gallicas, Damasks, Mosses, Hybrid Perpetuals, and Portland Damasks (rated down to Zone 4) are less likely to succeed in a hot desert.

What is the future of rose-growing in the face of climate change and hotter temperatures? There is hopeful news. In 2020, Chinese scientists [Jiang et al., *Scientific Reports,* volume 10, Article #2445 (2020) https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-58745-6] studied the higher heat-tolerance of some Chinese roses, and discovered that gene variants with higher gene expression of the heat-shock protein 70 (that is, a protein made in plant cells in response to high temperatures) correlated with the rose's increased heat tolerance. So, in the future, such high-expressing heat-shock genes could be introduced into roses to improve their heat-tolerance and, probably, drought-resistance. We may be able to grow more roses than before.

***Editor's note**: I would add 'Penelope' to that, which I have seen growing healthily and full in a shadeless front yard in hot Sidona, Arizona.

Rosa gallica officinalis

ROSES FOR HEALTH: EAST AND WEST

Elaine Sedlack and Darrell g.h. Schramm

For centuries in Europe, the rose, both flower and fruit, was cultivated for its medicinal properties. Dioscorides, a Greek physician, botanist, and pharmacologist of the first century CE wrote *De Materia Medica* a book on about 600 plants, including roses, that can be used medicinally. In medieval times, monks, considered the horticulturists of the time, raised roses in monastic gardens for use as herbs and medicines. At some point it became known that roses were helpful in treating and curing scurvy; the prime constituent in the treatment, it was learned, is vitamin C. Today we know of the extraordinarily high content of vitamin C in rose hips, a fact that England capitalized upon during World War II to provide the vitamin for English children, since fruit was then hard to come by.

What do past and present research have to tell us about how roses may be good for our health? To assimilate some of this information, I pored through a dozen of Professor David H.S. Richardson's summaries of "Recent Rose Research" in *American Rose* as well as a few other works.

How could roses not be considered to possess medicinal properties? Anything that brings such all-encompassing pleasure certainly must have health benefits! The motto of the Herb Society of America is "Herbs for Use and for Delight", referring to this convergence between pleasure and function with the title of John Parkinson's life's

work on medicinal plants. The name of the Gallica rose with the longest documented history of cultivation in the western world, 'Officinalis' is, in fact, a reference to its inclusion in the "official" pharmacopeia.

Appreciation of the many beneficial properties of native plants is as old as human time. In the Middle Ages, when the alchemists were developing a rudimentary knowledge of chemistry, China already had an established system of traditional medicine which incorporated almost five centuries of empirical knowledge. In the 16th Century, at the same time that John Parkinson was compiling his *Materia Medica*, a famous Ming Dynasty herbalist, Lǐ Shízhēn, was traveling through China's provinces collecting information with the same purpose. Most botanical gardens in China today include a medicinal garden. More often than not, the garden will feature a statue of Lǐ Shízhēn. The gardens are often named Bǎi Huā Yuán, or the "Garden of 100 Herbs", a reference to a mythical third century herbalist named Shén Nóng, translating to "Divine Farmer", who was said to have sampled 100 herbs to test their properties.

Some consider that the different bases of Western Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) both drew foundational principles from Indian Ayurvedic beliefs, though they ultimately diverged significantly. In the West, Hippocrates' model of four humors, and the Eastern TCM five element theory are both thought to derive from Ayurvedic principles. In Western medicine, the practice is to apply a specific plant to treat a single symptom; whereas TCM is based on a holistic, Daoist view of the body, and the principle of Yin and Yang: the interconnectedness of all life. Thus, the Eastern and Western medical philosophies are seemingly looking through the opposite ends of a telescope. This can be very esoteric, but the appreciation of plants' healing powers is at the heart of each approach. More than 25% of medicines are directly derived from plants.

Species roses appear to be the most often used in research. That choice may be because the healing power of wild flowers has been found to be a part of many ancient cultures, including Ancient Egypt, Crete, India, China, and Russia. *Rosa canina*, the Dog Rose, surfaces often in this respect. In one study, for instance, rose powder from its hips improved the rheumatoid arthritis of 89 patients because it has "anti-inflammatory and cartilage-protective properties." Though it requires

further study, powder from *R. canina* Lito hips, "Litozin," may also help reduce osteoarthritic and other back pain. Indeed, it has been used since the Middle Ages for rheumatism.

Rosa damascena occurs almost as often in the literature as *Rosa canina*. Its rose oil has long been used for medicinal purposes. Unadulterated rose oil from this flower (such as 'Autumn Damask', 'Celsiana', 'Leda' 'Marie Louise', 'Trigintapetala') contains antibacterial, antioxidant and anti-HIV properties. It is also good for anxiety disorders—its calming effect has been part of the ancient literature for centuries. At least one recent scientific study supports aromatherapy, indicating prolonged inhalation of its rose oil alleviates stress. Extracts from this rose used in flavoring yogurt may be beneficial in controlling both obesity and diabetes.

Rosa X centifolia ('Centifolia Major', 'Bullata'. Cristata', 'Petite de Hollande', 'Rose des Paintres' and such) contains high levels of vitamin C in its petals. Made into a powder, it is used in India for its anti-inflammatory qualities in controlling pain and in caring for the skin. When its petals are distilled for their oil through a steaming process, much petal waste is left behind. This rose waste is very effective when used in displacing copper and chromium from wastewater, usually more so than other biological matter is able to do. Within the first thirty

minutes of wastewater treatment, at least 98% of those toxins are removed. A very beneficial rose indeed.

Recent research on health properties using *Rosa gallica* informs us that a tea made from its petals, which contain tellimagrandin and six other hydrolysable tannins, is used to treat diabetes Type II in western China.

In TCM, the prescription itself also reflects the holistic basis of the medicine; plants are seldom used singly. Instead, a tea based on ancient formulas will be brewed using a combination of multiple herbs which work together synergistically.


Rosa rugosa hedge

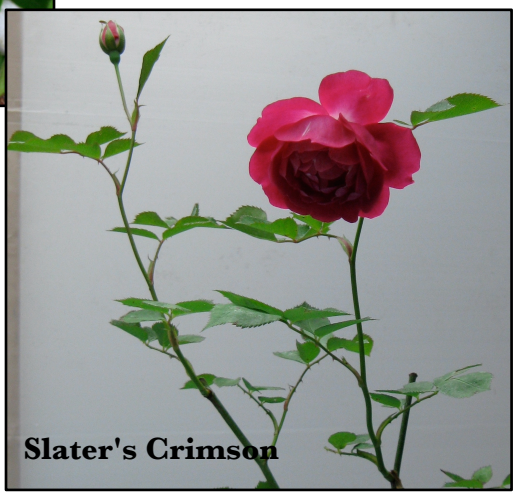

Rosa laevegata

In TCM, three main rose species are used medicinally. They are categorized under three (of the total of 18) different traditional "function groups". Because China is so large, sometimes a different rose species is substituted interchangeably, depending on what grows in a particular province, but the function group is the same. These three TCM groups in which roses are included, and the specific rose used in each, are "Herbs for Regulating Qi" (*Rosa rugosa*); "Astringent Herbs" (*Rosa laevigata*); and "Herbs for Regulating Blood" (*Rosa chinensis*). Because roses have been cultivated for centuries, the China rose is a double form, not a true wild species, since the medicine evolved parallels the cultivation of the Chinese rose.

"Herbs for Regulating Qi" are those that affect the way energy moves in the body. They redirect energy to eliminate stagnation associated with pain and distention and feelings of constriction in the chest. Méi gui huā, from *Rosa rugosa*, is produced from the spring-harvested dried flower buds of this species. It is used to relieve stagnation of qi, sometimes expressed as depression; it regulates blood circulation, and can control pain.


Rosa chinensis

"Herbs for Regulating Blood" includes herbs that either stop bleeding or hemorrhage, or else invigorate the blood., Yuè jì huā, from *Rosa chinensis,* also uses the flowers. The flower buds are gathered in June or July in fair weather. Then the buds are opened and dried in the shade. It is used for irregular menstruation, to invigorate blood, and to reduce swelling. The cultivar most often used is 'Slater's Crimson'.


Slater's Crimson

"Astringent Herbs" are those used for treating disorders in which bodily substances are discharged abnormally, or when organs slip from their proper positions. *Rosa laevigata*, Jīn yīng zǐ, is the rose hip from this species. It is used to "control the essence", a reference to yin energy, which is primordial and is stored in the kidneys; to astringe the intestines and stop diarrhea; and to decrease urination. Its roots, called Jīn yīng gēn, are used for gynecological infections; two of the components contained in the roots have anti-fungal

properties for treating thrush resulting from *Candida albicans*. In short, a western analysis of *Rosa laevigata* reveals the following: The tannin has an astringent, antidiarrheal effect; its decoction can inhibit Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, tetanus, leptospira and influenza virus; its decoction has anti-atherosclerotic effect.

Furthermore, the leaves, pollen, and hips of *Rosa multibracteata* are used in Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces of China not only for medicine and vitamins, but also for stabilizing soil. In China's In Xingjian Province, the hips of *Rosa multiflora* provide herbal medications for blood, menstrual, and other disorders, including hepatitis.

Should you wish to try a remedy mentioned above, keep in mind that doing so one time only will probably be of little benefit. Make a practice of it for a certain duration, much like following a doctor's prescription. One way to ingest the properties of these roses is to make a tea from the petals or the hips or both. Generally, dried rose petals are used for rose tea. If you wish to use fresh petals, choose those free of pesticides, clean them under running water, then use one to two cups of petals to three cups of water. Boil five minutes. Strain. Drink. If using rose hips, use about five dried and seeded hips to two cups of cool water. Bring to a boil, then simmer 30 minutes. Drink.

However, to produce the essence of a rose, which is probably more effective, fill an enamel saucepan three-fourths full of freshly picked, unsprayed whole flowers. Cover them with spring water. Bring this to a boil, uncovered, then simmer for 30 minutes. Cool. Filter the essence into glass bottles to half full. Add brandy to the other half. The brandy preserves and stabilizes the flower's essence or "energy field." (It was a professor of anatomy at Yale, Harold Saxton Burr, who in the

1940s discovered that plants and animals are surrounded by electrodynamic L-fields, or energy fields.) As an alternative, the sun method rather than the boiling method can be used. Simply float the petals of the rose in a glass bowl of pure spring water for three to four hours outside in the sunlight. Remove the flowers with a twig and discard them. Pour the essence into bottles as before—equal brandy to flower stock.

Because of medicinal properties found in certain roses, we can think of many a rose as an herb. In short, roses speak not only to beauty, love, and decoration, but also to health.

From a new member:

What wonderful narratives of Roses. I just read Darrell's terrific memoriam on roses of 1922, available in 2022. Darrell's wit & intellect blossom throughout the article. How lucky I am to have met Darrell here in Vallejo. You publish a wonderful rose letter . . . amours of our floral heritage.

Be well,

Topher Delaney

We welcome letters to the Heritage Roses Group or Editor

Problems with Roses? Problems in your garden? Consider the words of writer Oliver Burkeman:

"A life devoid of all problems would contain nothing worth doing, and would therefore be meaningless."

SUTHERLAND ROSES

Darrell g.h. Schramm

The Sutherland roses are rapidly becoming extinct. Why have we allowed scented, beautiful and reasonably healthy roses to disappear? The Sutherland-Leveson-Gower family was one of the wealthiest and most powerful of noble families in England during mid-19th century .They had carried the titles of earl, baronet, marquess, count and countess until 1833 when King William IV bestowed on George Granville Leveson-Gower (counter-orthographically pronounced Lew-son-Gore) title of Duke. Unfortunately he died a few months later; consequently his son George (1786-1861) became the 2nd Duke of Sutherland.

Ten years earlier, he had married his cousin Harriet who, of course, became the Duchess of Sutherland, for whom in 1839 a rose was named. Their grand estate in Staffordshire, Trentham Hall, displayed huge Italianate gardens and art by the likes of Poussin and Gainsborough. (While the gardens remain, the mansion was demolished due to urban expansion in 1912.) The duchess and the duke were known for their liberal politics as well as their love of art. Their London residence, Stafford House, contained paintings by Hogarth, Raphael, Titian, Van Dyke, and others. In fact, Stafford House, on the grounds of St. James Palace, became an important social center, hosting Chopin, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Giuseppi Garibaldi, Henry Adams, English aristocracy and other notables.

Although Parliament had abolished slavery in the British Empire in July of 1833, the very month and year the 2nd Duke inherited his title, the Duchess of Sutherland was instrumental in creating a petition against slavery within the United States. Her art of persuasion garnered enough signatures to distress Southern slave owners and those English politicians who favored the South. Attending her garden party with his father Charles, Minister to England, Henry Adams first met the duchess in 1861. The Adams family had always been staunchly anti-slavery, reason enough to be guests of the duchess.

The rose in her honor had appeared 22 years earlier, a Hybrid

Perpetual, large, glossy pink, bred by Jean Laffay (1794-1878), father of Hybrid Perpetuals. Strongly perfumed, the flowers sit on short, upright and glandular-pilose stems. The sepals, long and narrow, enlarge themselves at the tip. The green foliage is finely dentate and glandular along the leaf edge. This beauty can be seen growing at Quarryhill (Sonoma) Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and San Jose Heritage Rose Garden. Surprisingly, 'Duchess of Sutherland' is not grown in the famous gardens of Mottisfont (England) nor at Rosarie de l'Haÿ (France). In the U.S. it is sold only by High Country Roses and Freedom Gardens.

Duchess of Sutherland

Because the duchess evinced a strong interest in both architecture and gardening, she no doubt grew her namesake rose. She also served as Mistress of the Robes for Queen Victoria, becoming the queen's closest friend. When Prince Albert died in 1861, Queen Victoria chose to spend the first several weeks of her widowhood only with the Duchess of Sutherland. Indeed, it was mutual commiseration, for the Duke of Sutherland died that same year. Her fourth child George Granville William succeeded as 3rd Duke.

The tenth child, Lord Ronald Charles Sutherland Leveson Gower was born in 1845. A sculptor and historian, he would go on to publish much of the duchess's correspondence in *Stafford House Letters,* dying in 1916, but not before he had published his *Reminiscences.* His male lover Frank Hird would later be buried with him. That year, 1845, was, by many accounts, the year Jean Beluze produced the Bourbon rose 'Leveson-Gower' (sometimes spelled Leweson Gower). It may have been named in celebration of Lord Ronald's birth.

On the other hand, if the rose was created in 1846, as other accounts assert, it may have been named for Granville Leveson-Gower,

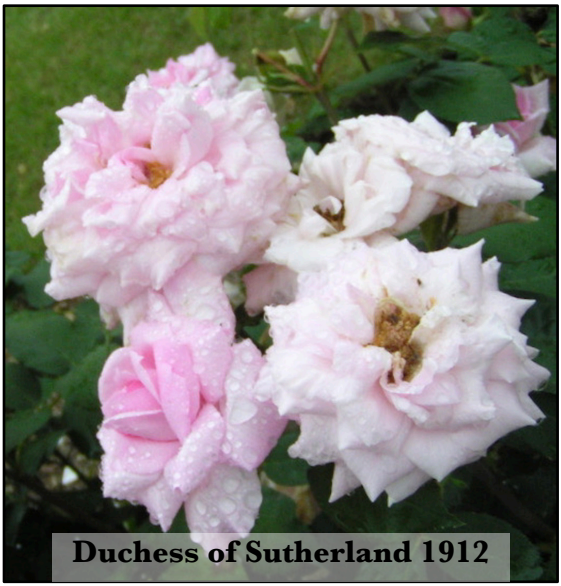
1st Earl Granville and ambassador to France, who was known for his rose garden and who died in 1846. In 1809 he had married the daughter of the 5th Duke of Devonshire who was also the niece of the woman who had been his lover until then and with whom he had fathered two children. According to historian David Wetzel, Granville was "the original stuffed-shirt—starch outside, sawdust within."

The rose can range in color from light pink to salmon pink to violet pink. Large and full, the flowers exhale a sweet fragrance. Its very few prickles will not deter picking the long stems for a vase. Alternatively, the rose is called 'Souvenir de la Malmaison Rouge'. I first saw it in New Orleans' Armstrong Park, and then at Mottisfont. It can also be viewed at Europarosarium, Sangerhausen and at Rosarium Petrovic, Serbia, which also sells it. Three rose nurseries in Florida still carry it, as does one in France and one in New Zealand.

Attesting to the respect or admiration of this noble family, two other, now vanished roses, were introduced by breeders, one 'Leveson Gower', a fawn pink Tea in 1842 and the other 'Souvenir de Leweson Gower', a dark red Hybrid Perpetual.

But in 1912 Alexander Dickson II brought out a Hybrid Tea, also christened 'Duchess of Sutherland', this one a warm pink rose blooming on long stems among glossy, olive-green foliage. Usually it shows some

lemon yellow shading and invariably volunteers a sweet fragrance. The rose was still being sold in 2019, but I do not know if it still is in commerce; however, it can be seen at the Carla Fineschi Gardens in Italy, at Europa-rosarium in Germany, and the Rosarie at l'Haÿ-les-Roses in France. Nonetheless, the woman behind the rose is fascinating.


Duchess of Sutherland 1912

Millicent Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (1867-1955), a beautiful British socialite and social reformer, became a duchess when she married the 4th Duke of Sutherland. They begat four children, the second child George Granville becoming the 5th Duke. Millicent lost her title when her husband died in 1913. At the onset of World War I, she organized an ambulance service, taking it to Namur, Belgium, where she and her staff cared for and nursed the wounded in a convent. She and her unit were eventually captured by the advancing Germans, but she escaped. Then, not a woman to be daunted, she set up No. 9 British Red Cross Hospital in Calais.

In October 1914 she married Major Percy Fitzgerald but in 1919 divorced him for his philandering. Soon thereafter she wed Lt. Col. George Hawes, a distinguished soldier and officer, but divorced him in 1925 or -26 for his homosexuality. They did, however, remain friends. As a social reformer, she successfully opposed the use of lead paints in ceramic glaze and advocated better working conditions in the potteries. Under the *nom de plume* Erskine Gower, she wrote two novels and other works, including several memoirs, quite aware of her interesting life.

In 1940 she was again captured when Germany occupied France but, via Spain and Portugal to the USA, once more escaped the enemy. She returned to France in 1945 and died there ten years later.

More than a hundred years have elapsed since a rose was named for anyone among the Sutherland-Leveson-Gowers. Today the Sutherland clan, allied now with the Egertons, who once were Leveson-Gowers, remain influential as one of the wealthiest families of the sceptered isle. But what also remains is the happiness some of us first felt on drinking in these roses and the conversion of that happiness to a beauty that has, within us, taken root.

IMAGE CREDITS

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