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ROSE LETTER

The Heritage Roses Group

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WOMEN AND ROSES

This volume number of *ROSE LETTER* is devoted to women: women gardeners, women breeders, women botanists, women propagators, women honored by the names of roses.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

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QUEEN INGRID AMONG ROSES

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Long before Empress Josephine chose to plant roses in her botanical gardens—for so they were, with known and exotic plants from nearly every nook and cranny of the earth—others too had planted roses in their gardens. The Romans and the Chinese were among the first to do so. In medieval times, the large property of Count Robert II of Artois (1250-1302) contained a rose garden. King Charles VI of France (who reigned from 1380-1422) redesigned his acreage to hold 300 sets each of white roses and red. The Bishop of Ely Cathedral (1559-1581) maintained a famous walled rose garden. Between 1788 and 1796 Landgrave Wilhelm IX in what is now Germany, near Kessel, wanting roses to bloom naturally in a natural setting, created Rose Island at Wihelmshöhe. In 1804 Empress Josephine began creating her gardens, which contained far more other plants than roses.

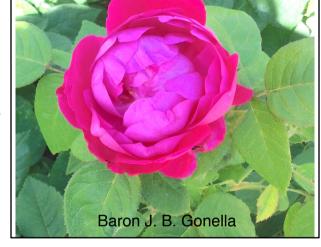
The tradition of nobility growing roses lives on. A more recent enthusiast was Queen Ingrid of Denmark (1910-2000). She was born daughter of King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden and Margreta of Connaught.

In 1935 she married the man who was to be King Frederik IX of Denmark and became one of Denmark's most esteemed queens, known for her artistic sensibilities and her passion for gardening.

Near the end of the 1950s, Queen Ingrid established the rose garden at Fredensborg Palace, laid out in a floral pattern after one designed by Michelangelo. While apparently her choice of roses there was mostly Floribundas and other modern, large-flowered roses of the post-WWII era, her daughter, today's Queen Margarethe II, has altered that choice so that about 45% are Old Garden Roses, 50% are David Austin's English roses,

and 5% are modern.

Here, for instance, we can view several plants of 'Alfred Colomb', 'Baron J. B. Gonella', 'Belle des Jardins', 'Jacques Cartier', 'Magna Charta', 'Mme Isaac Périere', 'Paul Noel', 'Pergolèse', and 'Tuscany Superb'. Even the vegetable garden has an allée of arches festooned with climbing roses.



Queen Ingrid's favorite rose was the

Bourbon 'Zepherine Drouhin'. It scampers over a steel arch at an exit from an enclosed garden at the palace.

When she learned in the 1970s that Valdemar Petersen's collection of historic roses were on the verge of being lost for lack of care, she lent her aid to the Foundation of Dendrology and Environment to preserve this old collection of 778 varieties. As a patron from 1979 to 2000, she helped to relocate the roses to Gerlev Park in Zealand and promoted their management and care.

Valdemar Petersen had founded his nursery in 1930 and began propagating roses. Soon his collection was Denmark's largest, containing also many of the rarest of old roses. After the destruction caused by WWII in France, Germany, Italy, and other countries, it was Petersen who supplied graftwood to those nurseries devastated by the war. Were it not for

him, many fine old cultivars would have disappeared, such as 'Cambrai', 'Louise d'Arzens', 'Mme Ravary', 'Mme Lauriol de Barny', and 'Manning's Plush'

'Manning's Blush'.



Petersen also bred a number of roses, generally using at least one species rose as a parent, roses such as 'Aicha', 'Fenja', 'Menja' and others. Our very own founder Miriam Wilkins ordered roses from him. Valdemar Petersen died in 1985, having sold his nursery to Torben Thim. But these historic roses were not just roses to be sold. They cried out for preservation. And so Queen Ingrid stepped in.

Offering her own garden design at Graasten Palace, the Queen suggested seven large rose beds with about two dozen varied rose bushes in each. Among the varieties were *R. gallica officinalis*, 'Rosa Mundi', 'Louise Odier', and 'Koenigin von Danemark'.

According to a letter and photo by the Queen, at Graasten the rose 'Helena' covered most of an apple tree, like a huge bedspread appliqué. She may have meant the species *R. helenae*, which is white and climbs to twenty feet, but the photo, taken from a short distance, shows the roses as pale yellow, which suggests the *R. helenae* seedling raised by Petersen named 'Samling'. Regardless, either rose is breathtaking on that tree.

Like her mother Queen Ingrid, the current Queen Margarethe II also loves roses. At the latter's summer palace of Marselisborg in Arhus, she had a garden planted in the mid-1970s with Petersen's roses. "When I think of all the years I've spend among flowers in the garden," Queen Ingrid wrote, "I have to say that gardening is a 'disease'." And what a heartwarming and contagious disease it is, not only for the common gardener but also for the nobility.



Nancy Sears Hintlian, Hybridizer

Margaret Nelson

Nancy had a deft touch with roses and often brought beautiful,

fragrant rose flowers to our May meetings, weeks before the rest of us here in the Puget Sound region saw color on our own roses. Nancy's favorites were dark purple or burgundy/red and always fragrant. Her personal collection of species roses, other OGRs and even some modern roses included roses like 'William Lobb', 'Tuscany Superb', 'Violette', 'Excellenz von Schubert', 'The Bishop', 'Nuits de Young' and 'Eugene de Beauharnais'. She often gifted us with runners to get us started on growing OGRs. You could count on her opinion when she told you a rose was wonderful.

Not content with just growing roses, she hybridized some herself and encouraged us to do so by being generous with her own knowledge and giving fascinating and practical instructions at our meetings on how to do the hybridization and start the resulting seeds.

She had many of her successful rose crosses growing in her own home garden in Silverdale, WA, and was still testing the results when she passed away in 2013. She registered four successes; all are described as strongly fragrant. One of these was a Hybrid Gallica, 'Tuscan Beauty' (parentage was 'Tuscany Superb' x 'Big Purple') and was red-



lavender aging to near purple. It must have made her very happy.

Nancy had many other rose crosses being tested in her garden when she began to show signs of Alzheimer's disease. Fortunately, she had given a few of her hybrids to friends, and her daughter took as many as she could to her own home before the house was sold. Sadly we do not have photos of any right now, but I hope they continue to bloom and are very dark purple, fragrant roses.

Nancy was a Renaissance woman who had careers as a chemist, physician and the state of Hawaii's Coordinator for Job Corps for Women. She did striking oil paintings when she was not gardening and was a member of Heritage Roses Northwest, The Heritage Rose Society, and the Rose Hybridizers Association.

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The Unknown Erlanson

Don Gers

Erlansoniae is the epithet of an obscure wild rose growing in the remote Guadalupe Mountains of west Texas. It is a local variety of *R. mirifica*, itself a subspecies of *R. stellata*, a species of Section Minutifoliae of subgenus Hesperhodos of genus Rosa. Complicated, yes! But genus Rosa is not simple and that seems mainly a consequence of its genes. Roses are polyploids, which means their chromosomes, in addition to being a single set from each parent called

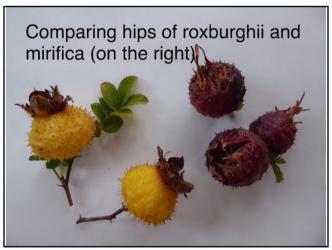


diploids, can also be multiple sets: triploids, tetraploids, penta-, hexa-, septa-, octa- and even decaploid. All these extra genes can produce a complicated variety of prickles, leaves, hips and flowers when rose species cross. In North America alone, the high point was 1918 when botanist Per Axel Rydberg recognized 129 species of native roses.

From time to time, other botanists have tried to wrangle North America's unruly mustang herd of wild roses, culminating with the Lewis, Ertter, Bruneau treatment in the 2014 volume of *Flora of North America*. But they and previous botanists all acknowledge the pioneering work of a young woman connected with the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her name is Eileen Whitehead Grimes Erlanson MacFarlane, which reflects her long life and multiple marriages. She was born in 1899 and died in 2003. Botanist first, but primarily a cytologist focused on cancer research later in life, she published over 70 articles, 24 between the years 1925 and 1966 on Rosa. She revolutionized the study of Rosa. In addition to her microscopic cellular analysis, she introduced progeny testing, hybridization, and transplanting in different environments. She maintained experimental gardens at University of Michigan, Cal-tech at Pasadena and later the Blandy Experimental Farm at the University of Virginia. It was at Blandy she connected with Walter H. Lewis who eventually named the species

Erlansoniae in her honor.

I am growing several plants of variety Erlansoniae, but none have yet bloomed. The stems are smooth with fewer prickles than either *mirifica* or *stellata*. Lewis described a peculiar zigzag growth to blooming canes which I have not yet seen. In addition to subspecies *stellata* and *mirifica* (which means "wonderful") there's a third named for the Grand Canyon where it grows along the rim. *Abyssus* is Latin for Grand Canyon; hence the subspecies is *abyssa* named by A. M. Phillips III in 1992. Its closest to *stellata*, having the same dense "stellate hairs" on the stems. Imagine tiny, upside down umbrella frames, the spokes and handle without any covering.



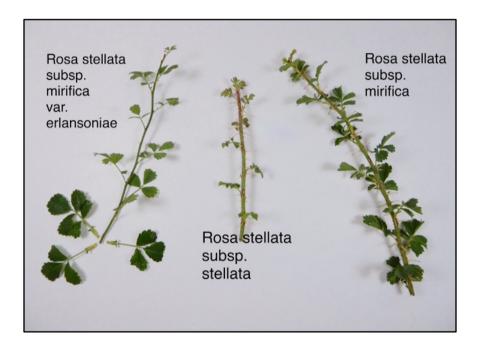
But the main difference is hips so densely prickly the fleshy surface can't be seen. For a comparison, see my photo of *mirifica* hips. The flowers of the *stellata* roses are large and of a saturated purplish rose. Their brilliance matches that of the cactus flowers in the desert, but they're not true desert plants.

On my travels in New Mexico and Texas, I found them growing only in places with a bit of water advantage, like seeps. My *stellata* subsp. *stellata* came from Pat Cole, a former editor of *The Rose Letter*. She braved the White Sands Missile Test Range to collect the seeds in the wild. *Stellata* subsp. *stellata* is much smaller in all its parts than either *mirifica* or var. *erlansoniae*. In my garden I've yet to see the "stellata hairs" on it but that may be because it misses the gypsum of its native habitat in the white sands of New Mexico. Pat, who was studying Rosa and working on her PhD, pointed out the primitiveness of the *stellata* complex believing them the oldest of species roses.

So I'll conclude with a few remarks on the person honored by the epithet *erlansoniae*. Apparently a private lady, there are few details of her life and no photograph. A concise obituary and the brief biographies appended

to various articles she published seem to be the only sources. Her first husband Earl J. Grimes was also a botanist; she published a list of his Indiana plant collections. How that marriage ended I don't know, but apparently it wasn't very long, lasting through her early twenties. Then she married Carl O. Erlanson, another botanist who was pursuing his degree simultaneously with her. That marriage lasted probably 30 years and likely ended by divorce because he was still receiving awards for his work years after she was signing her papers Eileen Whitehead Erlanson MacFarlane. James B. MacFarlane, her last husband, died in 1974.

Achieving little recognition personally, Eileen Whitehead, her maiden name, left a huge imprint on the botany of Rosa. Like her namesake rose, *Rosa mirifica* var. *erlansoniae*, she was assuredly a wonderful Erlanson.



ANNOUNCEMENT: Rosalia, The Rose Festival
Saturday, May 18, 2019
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featuring roses for sale from the Vintage Collection

THE WIDOWS THREE, THE ROSES TWELVE

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Once upon a time in the final quarter of the 19th century, there lived in Lyon, France, the city of silk and roses, three widows. Now, each had married a rose-breeding husband, but alas, each lost her spouse. And so it fell to the lot of each to carry on, and it happened in this wise.

The Widow Ducher had married Claude who died in his early 50s in 1874. He had produced about eighty different roses in 24 prolific years. In that same city lived the soon-to-be-famous Joseph Pernet. Smitten by their daughter Marie, he wed her in 1881 and added her family name to his own. As Joseph Pernet-Ducher, he went on to breed the color yellow into modern roses.

The Widow Rambaux had also married a Joseph, a gardener at Parc de la Tete d'Or, who had bred a few roses. Among others, he had raised a new seedling, 'Perle d'Or', but was felled by death before he could propagate it, leaving the task to his widow. Their daughter, also a Marie, married Frances Dubrueil, who introduced the rose to the market.

The Widow Schwartz, Marie-Louise, became the second wife of yet another Joseph after his first wife died. He himself died young at age 39 in 1885—but not before he had bred with a magic touch such renowned roses as 'Reine Victoria' and 'Mme Alfred Carriere'. At the turn of the century, the Widow Schwartz retired, leaving the nursery to her son Andre.



The numbers three and twelve occur again and again in old fairy tales, so we should not be surprised that twelve roses remain in commerce today bred by the three widows. Widow Ducher accounts for four of these roses. 'Jean Ducher', a stout, strong Tea bush growing to four feet high, puts forth fragrant roses of pale salmon-yellow with an equally pale peachpink center. Usually the rose sold under that name is really the Tea 'G. Nabbonand'. So beware. It was marketed the year of the husband's death.

More popular today is the golden yellow or amber Noisette or Tea-Noisette 'William Allen Richardson'. It was named for the man born in New Orleans in 1819 who later lived and died in Louisville, Kentucky, where he and his wife Mary cultivated and propagated roses. Importing



roses from the Widow
Ducher, he began a
correspondence with her
and soon sent her a rose
which she planted. When it
sported in her garden, she
successfully propagated it
and named it after him. The
rose is virtually without
prickles. In hot weather, its
color changes rather swiftly
until it becomes a cream
tone, flowering recurrently
until the winter months. A
vigorous plant, it grows to

thirteen feet by seven but withholds fragrance.

Of the widow's 1880 'Mlle Cecile Brunner' I need write little. This pale pink sweetheart rose, a Polyantha, is too well known to most rose lovers for me to whittle words away into a wastebin. Do remember that the climbing form of this loveliness can cover much of a single story house. It is the bush form, however, that the widow produced.

The Widow Ducher's fourth surviving rose is 'Beauté Inconstante'. Incorrectly, the author of this Tea rose is usually given as Joseph Pernet-Ducher, the widow's son-in-law. However, the July 1871 issue of *Journal des Roses* informs us that she bred the rose in 1884. Fabien Ducher, a descendent who now operates the nursery, has affirmed this fact. A 1900 E. Horton & Co. catalogue provides this description:

A wonderful rose, deriving its name of "Inconstant Beauty" from producing flowers of different shades on the same plant. The colours vary from crimson to light pink through shades of tawny red, light yellow with orange and citron-red centre, pale flesh with pink centre, orange chrome and deep rose—all these colours being frequently seen on one bush at the same time.



True, most Tea roses are fairly fickle in their colored attire but none so much as 'Beauté Inconstante'.

The Widow Rambaux posthumously still offers two roses in commerce. One is 'Anne Marie de Montravel', a Polyantha of 1879. Rather like 'Mlle Cecíle Brunner' with paler green foliage, this dense plant exhibits white blossoms, few prickles, and a lily-of-the-valley scent. For whom the rose was named is a riddle which no knight on a charger has chosen to unravel. But it might be named for a woman of the famed Montravel family known for making white wine in southwest France.

The other rose, as mentioned, is 'Perle d'Or', which as a seedling the widow propagated after her husband's sudden death. This so-called



"Yellow Cecíle Brunner," with moderate remontancy and scent, is sometimes attributed to her son-in-law who introduced it. But it was she who had done the work. Credit to whom credit is due.

The Widow Schwartz accounts for half the twelve surviving roses addressed here. She discovered the pink Bourbon sport 'Mme Ernest

Calvat' growing on the fragrant 'Mme Isaac Pereire'. It too exudes a fragrance, hinting—like the Bourbon 'Zepherine Drouhin'— of raspberries. It tends to climb. The leaves are somewhat purple. The rose was named for the wife of a glove manufacturer who, as an amateur horticulturist, was fond of chrysanthemums. Perhaps the widow bought her gloves from Mr. Calvat or sipped tea with the



Calvats while politely admiring their chrysanthemums. The widow entered the rose into commerce in 1888.

Her deep red Hybrid Perpetual of 1890, 'Roger Lambelin' is believed a sport of 'Fisher Holmes' by several rosarians, though Graham Thomas and Charles Quest-Ritson maintain it a sport of 'Prince Camille de Rohan'. Regardless, it is a dramatic, quite fragrant rose whose flowers differ, however, in the white deckled-edge of its petals. That white edging on dark velvety red, is reminiscent of the rose 'Baron Girod de l'Ain', but it is sometimes smudged and the overall shape of the bloom somewhat bizarre or exciting, depending on the observer's taste. It is a curiosity. Lambelin, the man, was a French royalist, that is, a supporter of "the divine right of kings" belief. The rose has outlasted both him and that elitist persuasion.

The next year the Widow Schwartz introduced another Hybrid Perpetual, sometimes also a curiosity: 'Monsieur de Morand', a lovely, large blossom of pinkish cerise shaded with lilac or the palest purple (see next page). As a seedling of the red 'General Jacqueminot', the color seems unexpected. Very fragrant, it sometimes produces six sepals instead of five, one much larger than the others, sometimes even as a full-blown leaf. Quite erect, the plant grows to about four feet. Like many a Hybrid Perpetual, it could do with more foliage. The namesake, Morand, was an amateur horticulturist, often exhibiting his various kinds of flowers at the same shows where the Widow Schwartz exhibited her roses. No doubt they were friends.

The following year, 1892, she introduced yet another Hybrid

Perpetual, 'Mme Henri Perrin'. Its large flowers wear a lilac pink, the outer rim of petals more silvery, inner petals sometimes a twisted scarf of white. Only one nursery—in France—carries that rose today. Apparently Madame Henri Perrin may have been the wife of a minor painter or of the Henri Perrin on the board or staff of Le Nord-Est, a Republican newspaper published from 1871 to 1884 in the Ardennes department of northern France.



The widow's Tea rose 'Dr. Rouges' arrived in 1893. This is a plant dipped in cranberry juice. The double or triple pinwheel-like blossoms show off a pale raspberry red with a touch of vermillion, the canes—until older—a rosé wine red, the new leaves a maroon red—another curious rose. Falcate prickles decorate the slender canes, and the stipules suggest some *Rosa multiflora* influence. Though virtually without scent, it's a lovely decorative

rose inclined to climb. It grows in the Sacramento Historic Cemetery Rose Garden.

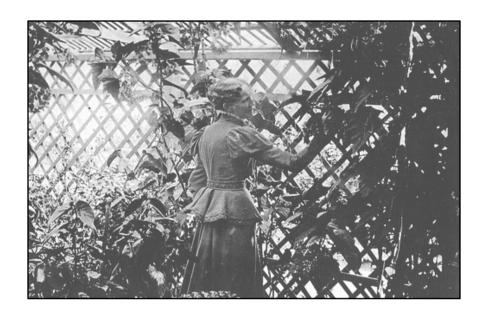
In 1900 or 1901, Widow Schwartz brought a Hybrid Tea into the market, 'La Tosca'. A delicate pink tinted a blush white, the fragrant flowers open loosely and solitary on strong stems of a tall, bushy plant. As of 2018, it is still being sold by a lone nursery, Rogue Valley Roses in Oregon. The rose was named for Victorien Sardou's drama *La Tosca*, a tragic play of violence, betrayal, and passion. No doubt the widow had seen and/or read the play. Puccini based his opera on Sardou's drama; the opera's first performance occurred on January 14, 1900 in Rome.

The year 1900 also marks the year the Widow handed her nursery and gardens to her son but continued to advise him for many years. She died, age 86 at her estate in Sainte-Foy-les-Lyon in 1938.

Now, the widows have long since departed, but these twelve roses remain despite bearing on their floral shoulders many long years, between 118 and 144, in fact. And their robes are not ragged—true, a bit thin for at least half of them. But 'William Allen Richardson', 'Mlle Cecíle Brunner', 'Perle d'Or', 'Mme Ernest Calvat', and 'Roger Lambelin' wear their mantles well. My favorite of the twelve, and the only one of them I grow, is 'M. de Morand', abandoned by America, like Snow White by the Queen or Cinderella by her step-family. But it is still appreciated and sold in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. It's up to us, lovers of old roses, to allow them all to live happily ever after.



M. de Morand



Theodosia Burr Shepherd

Late in the 19th century, an enterprising woman born in 1845 in Iowa, having settled in Ventura, California, for her health, lamented that California could count very few rose cultivars as its own. Though breeders in Maryland, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania had produced a fair number of new roses before the turn of the century, California proffered only about ten. In Ventura, Theodosia Shepherd, virtually starting the flower seed industry in California, had begun a business selling seeds and bulbs in the mid-1880s called Shepherd's Gardens. The pioneer flower-seed grower, she was, in fact, the first floriculturist to start a market of seeds for the eastern states.

She hybridized a begonia (her favorite flower), a poppy, and 35 varieties of cosmos. and offered them for sale. Soon she offered roses for sale as well. When she incorporated the gardens, she changed the name of her firm to Theodosia B. Shepherd Co. Deciding not to wait for others to hybridize a new rose, she eventually produced a Polyantha named 'Shower of Pearls'. (Some speculation credits her as having bred several more Polyanthas, but the records are not clear.) Shortly thereafter, in 1906, she introduced an orange-gold Tea or Hybrid Tea appropriately named 'Shepherd's Oriole'. Clearly she was ahead of the famous Joseph Pernet-

Ducher in producing a deep yellowish modern rose. (In 1900 while striving for a rich yellow rose, he had engendered a pale reddish yellow flower, 'Soleil d'Or'. His truer yellow 'Rayon d'Or came out in 1910.) No doubt Theodosia Shepherd would have gone on to breed more roses had she not died in December of 1906.

Sometimes called the "Flower Wizard of California," she was a feminist who also wrote and lectured and hoped that her daughters would find an alternative to the drudgery of housework and develop an interest in growing flowers, saving seeds, and gardening. Remains of her garden can still be seen on the grounds of the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura.

FROM OUR READERS

As usual, the last issue of Rose Letter was interesting and entertaining, but once again you piqued my interest with 'Magna Charta' only to let me down flat by declaring that it is a Hybrid Perpetual. In the sense of fair play, you really ought to preface your articles with warning labels like cigarette packages for the sake of us poor folks Down South who can't grow HP's.

I particularly like your article on the roses associated with the Armistice year. I find the history of roses almost as much fun as the roses themselves in the garden, particularly now in the middle of a truly BEASTLY summer, which isn't over yet, and all the roses look like death warmed over.

Margaret Garnier, New Orleans

I had been given an OGR which had been passed around by two other rose growers before I received it. The top died out and what I was told 'Dr. Huey' came up. However, it rebloomed and smelled rather nice. No one knew what it was, and then I happened to pick your August *Rose Letter* up and viola! 'Gloire des Rosomanes'! So thank you for the timely information! Unfortunately I had to dig it up as it was too big for the location but hope someone else will want to try it. I am hoping that all the nice things you wrote about it will make it easier to find a new home for it.

Margaret Nelson, Heritage Roses NW



DR. FELICITAS SVEJDA

Perhaps the most enduring name among women hybridists is Dr. Felicitas Svejda. Not only did she breed many hardy roses and other plants, but she also developed the insect-resistant rose germplasm L83. Born in 1920 in Austria, Svejda earned her PhD at the University for Agriculture and Forestry in 1948. For one year she worked at a Plant Breeding Research Station in Sweden but a year later moved to Canada in 1953. Employed first as a statistician at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm, she transferred to the Genetics and Plant Breeding Institute in 1961, becoming chief of the rose breeding program. The program, which had been suspended after the death of rose breeder Isabella Preston was now resuscitated under Svejda's directorship.

Here Felicitas Svejda created the Explorer Series of winter hardy roses, about 25 of which were named for early Canadian explorers. Aiming to create durable, everblooming roses, she crossed hardy hybrid teas and shrubs with *Rosa acicularis* (the Arctic Rose), *R. rugosa*, and *R. kordesii*, and sometimes a few other species as well. Many of the *R. kordesii* crosses function well as climbers and pillar roses.

At least 26 of her nearly fifty roses are still available. Pink 'John Davis', rose-colored 'William Baffin', primrose-hued 'J.P. Connell', and

crimson 'Champlain' are all shrubs. The rose-colored 'Charles Albanal', the cerise 'David Thompson', the white 'Henry Hudson', the pink 'Jens Munk', and the paler pink 'Martin Frobisher' are all Hybrid Rugosas, the first and the last named wafting a strong perfume. 'Henry Kelsey' and 'John Cabot' are climbers. And while the mauve 'Alexander McKenzie' is called a modern shrub, it can grow fourteen feet high and even wider—it's a huge plant. Some of the roses released after Dr. Svejda's retirement are named after Canadian artists.

Using cuttings from the original roses, an Explorer Rose Garden was inaugurated in Ottawa in 2005; two years later an Explorer Rose Garden was established at Government House in Victoria, British Columbia. If we consider cold hardiness, vigor, disease resistance, and abundant blooms, Svejda's roses are among the best and most enduring modern roses today.

National Officers of the Heritage Roses Group

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ERRATA: In our August 2018 issue, the #2 should be deleted from the title of the article by Don Gers. The title should read simply "Donahey's Comic Strip Rose." We apologize for the error.

Caroline Herbemont

In 1808 Caroline Neyle of Charleston, widow of Bartlee Smyth, married the viticulturist Nicholas Herbemont, a founding member of the South Carolina Agricultural Society. Whereas he was the first American to make wine in the French manner, Caroline Herbemont was the first known American woman to breed roses. An heiress, she brought to her marriage a huge city block estate in Columbia, South Carolina, where the couple lived at Laurel Park.

There in the 1830s or earlier, she produced several of her own roses. One was 'Herbemonti Grandiflora', a seven foot high shrub with double, "deep rich pink flowers that bloomed in masses covering the entire plant," its only flaw, apparently, being the short period of bloom—ten days. Evidently, according to Gideon R. Smith, a neighbor, it was a hybrid. Another of her roses, listed in William Robert Prince's catalogue of 1846, was the noisette 'Herbemont's Caroline.' Because her husband planted roses as well as grapes, figs, plums, and other fruit, a couple of authors assume that a third rose 'Herbemont Musk Cluster' was his creation; however, other sources, some nearer her lifetime, including one written a year after her death, attributes 'Herbemont's Cluster' to her. In fact he clearly states she raised it from seed. The flowers were initially described as "double the size of the common white musk cluster, equally white, much more fragrant, . . . more prolific and a perpetual bloomer." Buist lists this white musk in his American Flower-Garden Directory from the third edition, 1845, to the sixth edition, 1862. In 1853, one writer for the Philadelphia Florist & Horticultural *Journal* praised the excellence of this white, clustering musk. But Prince's nursery in 1846 described the rose as "blush," selling it for 37 cents. Parsons in 1860 described it as "blush white" and Peter Henderson in 1880 as "deep carmine, semi-double." Was this pinkish form the same rose? According to her friend writing in the July 1837 issue of The Magazine of Horticulture, Caroline Herbemont had produced a few other roses as well. So perhaps the blush or carmine musk was a different musk-cluster? Or are we to take note of Buist's sage words that "blush roses frequently bloom entirely white" and vice versa?

'Herbemont's Musk Cluster' must have been outstanding. Karl King of Kentucky writes that Samuel Feast used it as a co-parent with *Rosa setigera* for some of his roses. In 1984 Charles A. Walker, Jr., wrote of seeing a rose

grown in the garden of a Mrs. Ruth Westwood of Newberry, a town about forty miles from Columbia, a rose that he suspected might be 'Herbemont's Musk Cluster'. If the rose has survived, perhaps it waits to be rediscovered. Mrs. Caroline Herbemont died in 1836.

WIFE AND DAUGHTER: TWO SPECIES

Among the many roses that E.H. Wilson discovered or observed during his travels in China, two species were named for his wife and his daughter. Wilson encountered *R. murieliae* Rehd. & Wils., named for his daughter, while collecting plants for the Veitch Nursery in England. He observed it several times in both 1903 and 1904 in western Szechwan, China. Similar to *R. davidii*, this rose has greyish green leaves and white clusters of flowers. The plant grows five to ten feet high and eight feet wide. It exhibits nine to fifteen leaflets. Experts in the field consider it an elegant species.

Rosa Helenae, collected in 1900, is a twenty foot high wild rambler whose young shoots are protected by short, falcate prickles. Its leaflets number primarily five to nine but most often seven, sharply pointed, finely serrate. The summer-flowering roses are small, about an inch and a half in diameter, white and fragrant. The buds are rather globular, while the hips are eggor pear-shaped, red-orange or scarlet. This rose is related to the

Himalayan species *R. brunonii*. Wilson found it growing in the mountains from Shensi south through east Szechwan and Hupeh. It is named for his wife Helen, who with him was killed in a car accident on October 15, 1930.





Gertrude Jekyll, Garden Goddess

Anita Clevenger

When I first began learning about roses after I began volunteering in the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, one of my favorite rose books was Gertrude Jekyll's *Roses for English Gardens*, written in 1902. Miss Jekyll (pronounced JEE-kul, by the way) was a woman after my own heart, loving roses for their versatility in the garden, their exuberant displays, and their ease in growing. I like her relaxed, non-toxic approach to pest control. In the chapter "The Enemies of the Rose," her solution to most diseases and pests is syringing, or directing forceful sprays of water to knock them off. She also advocates hand-picking some of the larger insect pests or "skillfully applying the finger and thumb" to remove aphids, which she calls greenfly. While Miss Jekyll mentions how to grow roses for the show table, this book is really about growing roses in the landscape. Many of her ideas still resonate with me today.

As a California gardener, one of my favorite chapters is "Roses in English Gardens of the Riviera." Jekyll's clientele and contemporaries ran away from dreary, cold English winters and spent several months enjoying flowers and mild weather in vacation villas on the Mediterranean. Since these weather refugees were there from just before Christmas until early May, they needed roses that would "flower freely" in the late autumn or early spring. The Mediterranean climate provided an opportunity to grow tender varieties that didn't do well in England. Old rose lovers in California recognize many of the roses that she recommends, including Banksiae roses



to run up trees and spill over walls. In the Riviera and in England, Miss Jekyll believed in growing climbing roses with abandon, and felt that rampant climbers were the "joy of the gardener" in the Riviera. Some are modernday favorites, such as 'Lamarque,' which she declares one of the best white climbing roses. She touts 'Gloire des

Rosomanes' as "the most perfectly perpetual winterblooming climbing red rose yet raised," finding it "particularly brilliant and fragrant." Miss Jekyll believed that the thin petals of China roses make them less suitable for the south because they are "too fleeting." Instead, she states that "Tea roses give us more beauty." She was writing at a time when Nabonnand had recently introduced many Tea roses with greater petal substance and a variety of vibrant, even coppery, colors, greatly suited for Mediterranean gardens then and now.

Reading old rose books is a form of time travel. In 1902, Hybrid Teas were revolutionizing roses with their long stems, more substantial petals and frequent rebloom. *R. multiflora* had been introduced from Japan, and its

offspring, cluster-flowering climbing hybrids and small shrubs known as Polyanthas, or as Miss Jekyll prefers, "pompons," were in vogue. It is interesting to read names of roses that are now lost, and to recognize other

familiar, favorite

Miss Jekyll considered many of the species roses to be worthy garden plants. We often shy away from them because they are large and onceblooming, but she planted them at the edges of gardens as they transitioned from more formal garden beds to wilder places.



Upton Grey transition to species & wild garden

Roses can serve various purposes in the garden. Miss Jekyll describes growing them as low or high hedges. Roses can screen a view, cover an unattractive garden structure, or transform an ugly or uninteresting house into a place of charm.

Climbing roses are a topic of much interest to Miss Jekyll, and she writes about how to grow them on pergolas, pillars, trellises and arbors. She recommends growing them into trees or allowing them to fountain on the ground without any support at all. While she is willing to let nature take its course in general, with little intervention by the gardener, she describes using a forked, fourteen-foot long pole to redistribute a climbing rose in a tree "like painting a picture with an immensely long-handled brush."

Miss Jekyll's first passion was for painting. Even though she had to give it up when her eyesight began to fail, she continued to apply her theories of color and design to gardens which still influence our gardens today. She believed in having cool colors at the end of borders, transitioning to everhotter colors in the middle. She combined textures of plants, too. She famously partnered with architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, and through her plantings complemented the Arts and Crafts houses that he designed. Though a prolific author, she designed more than 400 gardens, few of which remain today.

The garden at the Manor House of Upton Grey is called "The Gertrude Jekyll Garden" by its owner, Rosamund Wallinger. I had the opportunity to visit this garden in 2010. Ms. Wallinger moved there in 1984, when only traces of the original garden design remained after decades of neglect. She tracked down Miss Jekyll's original plans for this garden in Beatrix Farrand's Reef Point Collection at Berkeley and set about restoring it as closely as possible. She was able to find many plants that were thought to be lost altogether. Upton Grey has the only Jekyll-designed wild garden still in existence, and the gardens demonstrate nearly all of her rose-growing concepts.

Ms. Wallinger, by necessity, has not followed all of Miss Jekyll's plans. In some cases, they lack detail. In other cases, plants designated were found not to thrive or are not available. Miss Jekyll wanted gardeners to learn on their



own. She writes that "the very essence of good gardening is the taking of thought and trouble. No one can do good decorative work who does it merely from a written recipe." She wants gardeners to learn as they go, and to make their gardens their own.

Short, dumpy Miss Jekyll, peering at the world through her thick wire-rimmed glasses, is an unlikely figure to be a garden goddess, but she definitely is to me and many others. She wore the same pair of men's garden boots for forty years. A painting of these boots now hangs in England's Tate Gallery, and the boots themselves are displayed in a museum. Amazon describes *Roses for English Gardens* as "timeless and practical." So was its author.

IMAGE CREDITS

Pages 2, 3, 5 bottom, 10, 12 top, 14, 26--Darrell Schramm

Page 4--Kathleen Earley

Page 5 top--Margaret Nelson

Pages 7, 8, 9--Don Gers

Page 11 top--David Giroux

Page 11 bottom--Margaret Furness

Page 12 bottom--J. Horace McFarland

Page 13--Judy Eitzen

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Page 17--Ron Robertson

Page 20--Andre Eve

Pages 21, 22, 23, 24 Anita Clevenger

Page 27--Journal des Roses, Aug. 1885

Page 29 top--Elaine Sedlack

Page 29 bottom, 30, 33--Etienne Bouret

Page 32 Urszula Tretowska

Front Cover: 'Mlle Marie van Houtte', Journal des Roses

April 1880

Back Cover: Journal des Roses, Oct. 1878

SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN WOMEN

Darrell g.h. Schramm

Once upon a time, not all that long ago, a brilliant man in Catalonia bred brilliant roses. In December of 1937, Walt Disney's first feature film *Snow White*, was shown to a delighted world, so the brilliant man Pedro Dot introduced in 1938 a rose named 'Snow White'. She was, of course, a brilliant white. Now, this fragrant Hybrid Tea went on to become quite popular in the marketplace and home, entertaining gardeners for about fifty years. By 1986, however, she was gone; no one knows why she disappeared. Perhaps it was because other breeders had absconded with her name—another Hybrid Tea in 1941, a Polyantha in 1946, a Miniature in 1955, then yet again a Hybrid Tea in 1987. These were very early cases of stolen identity.



So, having disposed of Snow White—a pretext for the following—I am left with the freedom to discuss the seven other roses.

'Baronne Prevost' is the oldest of the seven roses and one of the oldest Hybrid Perpetuals, introduced in 1842. Jean Desprez, its breeder, sold it in 1841 to Monsieur Cochet who put it on the market. The large, lilac pink blossoms, their 100 or so petals arranged around a small knotty button of stamens in the center, flower eagerly in spring and lushly in

autumn on thick canes armed with huge prickles. As if to compensate for the formidable armature, they release a strong Damask perfume. The plant grows to five feet, somewhat open in the center. It should be pruned high and lightly.

The rose was named for a woman from the Guenoux family. Her brother Eugene was a breeder of dahlias, and as a horticulturist he knew and was a friend of Desprez who chose to name the rose for the baroness. Baronne Prevost had married into an ancient landholding family founded in 1086, their family seat in Poitou of west-central France where the towns of Poitiers and Angouleme are located. Major-General Augustine Prevost, who helped the American colonists fight in the Revolutionary War, was a member of that family.

A different sort of rose is the Boursault 'Mme de Sancy de Parabere'. Graham Stuart Thomas pronounced it "the most important Boursault" and "a gracious beauty," though he lamented the supposed lack of scent in the flowers. (Others would disagree with him about that.) The Boursaults are a small class of roses developed mostly in the 1820s with *Rosa pendulina* as a parent. Few are still extant.

'Mme de Sancy de Parabere' is usually assigned the date 1874, the year after the horticulturist Monsieur Bonnet of the nursery firm Bonnet & Fils acknowledged the rose on his property. The first record of this rose seems to be that in Journal des Roses of August 1885. According to this reference, nurseryman Ferdinand Jamain had seen the rose growing in Bonnet's garden in 1973. Bonnet did not know what it was. Bonnet gave the rosebush to Jamain who, at the suggestion of Madame Bonnet, named the rose 'Mme de Sancy de Parabere'. Subsequently, Jamain presented a bouquet of the flowers to the Central Society of Horticulture of France for identification, but none



there recognized the rose. Later a Monsieur Bachoux observed that this was a rose cultivated for forty years on the property of a M. de Boismilon. Jamain concurred that this was an old variety. "It is without doubt some very old rose," he wrote, "which could have been neglected and which would have been lost from sight." The date of the rose, then, could be as early as 1845. In fact, as E. F. Allen wrote in the *Rose Annual* of 1973, "Until more evidence comes to light, the date of introduction must be altered to 'before 1845'." A Sleeping Beauty of a rose, now awakened.

This climbing rose produces the largest flowers of the Boursault class, in clear, cerise pink, very floriferous. The reverse side of the petals is a silvery pink. Within the circumference of the quite large, outer petals is nestled a ruffle of small petals. The flowers do emit a fragrance. The plant is vigorous, very cold hardy, virtually without prickles, and an exceptionally early bloomer. It grows to fifteen feet. To root it from cuttings is easy.

Of note is the name: Although the caption under the chromolithograph omits the first *de* in the rose's name, the name throughout the article in *Journal des Roses* is 'Madame de Sancy de Parabere'. The woman seems to have been Charlotte Lavinie Lefebvre nee Desouettes, de Sancy de Parabere (1815-1884). She was a Dame of Honor in Empress Eugenie's court. Mme Bonnet, who suggested the name, must have been a friend or admirer.

Not much more is known of the namesake for the Tea rose 'Catherine Mermet' bred by Jean-Baptiste Guillot fils. The breeder was married to a Catherine, but her maiden name was not Mermet. A Catherine Mermet, daughter of Claude Mermet, did marry a Pierre Guillot, son of Francois and a different Catherine Guillot, but not Pierre Guillot, son of Jean-Baptiste Guillot fils, creator of the rose. Did the latter name it for the above mentioned Catherine Mermet before she was wed? Certainly the Mermets and Guillots knew each other and were inter-related. But because there are several Pierres and Catherines in the family mix, it is unclear which Catherine graced the name of the rose in 1869.

The rose became a favorite among florists, and its success may have encouraged other breeders to raise Tea roses, for until 1870 new Teas numbered only 64, but in the next decade the number rose to 158, then in the decade of 1881-1890 to 262, and by the end of the century 402. The scrolled bud and higher bloom yield of 'Catherine Mermet' suggests such encouragement. Teas soon became almost as popular as Hybrid Perpetuals.



Rapunzel had let down her hair.

As late as the 1980s, Meilland in France used 'Catherine Mermet' to breed the World Rose Federation Hall of Fame rose 'Bonica'. The color is quite similar to it, a rather polite pink, but 'Catherine Mermet' is far more elegant. On the other hand, the arrogant Andrew Foster-

Melliar in 1902 described the color as "a dull and dirty sort of cream." The fact is that this rose varies in depth of color, sometimes even showing a luster in its petals. The plant, low and spreading somewhat, brandishes reddish, falcate prickles. Open, the flowers discharge a pleasant scent. One rosarian in 1893 opined, "A glorious flower, truly the Queen of the Teas."

When the climbing Hybrid Tea 'Reine Marie-Henriette' was released by Antoine Levet in 1878, the *Journal des Roses* published the entire correspondence with the royal Belgian court regarding the dedication of this rose to the Queen. Belgium being a fairly new country, Marie Henriette was crowned as its second Queen. Born Marie Henriette von Lothringen (1836-1902), she was the daughter of Duchess of Württemburg, Marie Dorothea and Archduke Joseph (honored by the Tea rose 'Archiduc Joseph'), Palatine of Hungary. Her arranged marriage to the heir to the throne was unhappy, to say the least. She was the sad Cinderella with no

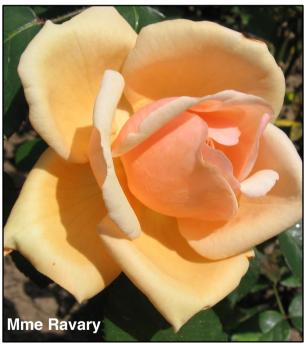
Prince Charming in her future. As Queen she distracted her misery by painting, playing music, riding horses, and enjoying her dogs. Her husband King Leopold II, the ogre of fairy tales, was the notoriously brutal enslaver of the people in the Belgian Congo. Though he owned the Congo as personal, not



national, property, he never set foot in it, never saw the whip lashes, spilled blood, and rapes for which he was responsible. Sleek, early advertising painted him as a "philanthropic" monarch. His citizens knew better.

But the Belgians loved their Queen, loved her for her kindness, loved her for her tireless generosity to charities, and admired her for her accomplishments. Even earlier, before becoming Queen, she had been acknowledged and honored with the rose 'Duchesse de Brabant'. Pope Leo XIII also recognized her goodness and awarded her the Golden Rose in 1893.

The rose itself sends out large, conspicuous blossoms of a pure, deep, cherry red aging to fuchsia or magenta. They are sweetly scented. Nearly without prickles, the plant grows to twelve feet. A child of 'Mme Berard' and



'General Jacqueminot', the rose is a triploid with 21 chomosomes but does at times produce hips. The autumn bloom is particularly fine. Prone to fungus, it stays healthier in hot, dry climates of the South and the Central Valley of California. Some 35 years after its introduction, it was less often seen in gardens, but this rose has been discovered growing in the California gold mining towns of Sonora and Tuolumne and in Geyserville, CA.

Another Hybrid

Tea, but not a climber, is 'Mme Ravary'. The color is hard to ascertain; some rosarians describe it as orange-yellow, others old gold yellow washed with apricot, and another as chamois pink. In autumn the color is paler. In a cool, somewhat shady location, its color reaches for perfection in, as Gregg Lowery asserts, "a glistening porcelain finish."

The semi-double blooms, large and expansive, flaunt themselves on short, erect stems beset with numerous prickles. Buds and half-open flowers expand quickly, lasting a good four days in a vase. The leaves, glossy and dark green, clothe the plant well. It shuns mildew and withstands rain.

Bred by Pernet-Ducher, its coloring prefigures his 'Soleil d'Or' and the purer yellow he sought in this class of roses. He released the rose in 1899. That was the same period of the infamous, anti-Semitic Dreyfus affair in France when Captain Alfred Dreyfus, accused of being a spy for Germany, was court-martialed and unjustly convicted. A Major Ravary of the Paris Military Tribunal was assigned in December 1897 to conduct a judicial investigation concerning possible forgeries of documents in the case. The only Ravary I have been able to locate in France during this time, it is likely, since the Dreyfus Affair created a national furor that divided the country, that he was the husband or relative of Mme Ravary. Major Ravary reported his findings inaccurately, claiming there was no evidence of forgery.

When the the renowned and respected novelist Emile Zola was taken to court for publishing on the front page of a leftist newspaper his "J'Accuse", which accused specific men in the military of having framed Dreyfus, Major Ravary was called to the witness stand. In response to a lawyer's question about justice, he retorted, "Military justice does not proceed like your justice!" And he was right, for he abetted the cover-up of various Generals, Lieutenants, and other officers in their collusion of lies, forged documents, and other criminal conduct. If indeed this man was closely linked to Madame Ravary, she must have been humiliated, and finally in 1904 shamed and outraged when the truth was revealed. Is she the Red Riding Hood betrayed by the Big Bad Wolf?

Of the namesake for the Hybrid Rugosa 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup', a Danish rose, we have more precise facts. In Torben Thim's recent *The History of the Rose in Denmark*, we learn that Hastrup's Nursery was established around 1870 and by 1903 was selling 800 varieties of roses. Second generation owner Knud Julianus Hastrup, more grower than breeder, chose one of his seedlings in 1913 that became internationally known ('Frau Dagmar Hartopp' in some countries—a surname that apparently does not exist) and that he named for his wife.

The compact plant is shorter than the species and many other Hybrid Rugosas—three to four feet. It exhibits slightly arching branches studded with straight, small and large prickles as well as bristles. The dark

foliage, typical of rugosas, shows itself as shiny, leathery, wrinkled leaves that usher in autumn colors in the fall. The single flowers tend to appear like exquisite, resting butterflies, delicate, veinous pink, the edges often shaded somewhat darker. A sweet scent adds to its beauty. It blooms consistently into autumn when large, true red hips emerge. On its own roots, it seems not to sucker. Like most Rugosas, the plant insists, happily, on being disease free.



The youngest of these older women and roses is Mrs. Sam McGredy. Breeder Sam McGredy IV asked his mother Ruth to choose a rose growing in his selected seedling collection which would be named for her. Dismissing all viable roses on display, she chose one that had been set aside as not good enough. Introduced in 1929, it proved to be one of the most popular of the firm's roses—certainly the most famous into the 1970s. In McGredy's own words, "[I]t was in its day phenomenal—there has never been a rose of so good a colour, or of such a colour, a kind of copper scarlet flower in copper beech foliage." Others would describe it as "copper orange red," "reddish copper outside and coppery orange inside," "orange-red, shaded apricot, reverse of petals red." Regardless, the color is rather dazzling.

The flowers are delicately scented, growing on strong, erect stems of

a vigorous, upright plant which display a modicum of translucent prickles. The foliage, abundant and disease resistant, is glossy and of a reddish bronze-green. Truly, a remarkable rose, still in commerce today. Despite its health and long popularity, however, it has never produced a good seedling. Although Peter Harkness wrote that "the only reason it was marketable in the first place" was its unique color, its vigor and health are clearly other reasons for its long-lived popularity.



Once upon a time, a lovely girl more attractive than the Queen, decided to leave her hideout in the woods where she scrubbed and cooked for seven silly men of short stature. Bored with their overly protective parenting, she ventured farther into the world. One day she chanced upon a colorful meadow. Enchanted, she realized seven lovely women lounged becomingly in various stages of habiliment, each beside a breathtaking rosebush. One of them, an old baroness, beckoned her a welcome, and with that invitation, the girl grew to know a world of sisters that became a refuge and a home.

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