



CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE - ISSUE 22, SEPTEMBER 2020

FOREWORD

It is hard to write in any light-hearted manner about roses when we all are living in a world turned upside down by this Coronavirus pandemic, where the loss of family members, friends and even strangers touches us all in so many ways. On the last page there is an obituary for Eddie Sanchez of New Orleans, whose life in roses and then sudden death must stand for that of so many others unknown to us.

We lead proudly with a survey article "Historic Roses in Finland," by Pirjo Rautio, deceased in 2018. Darrell g h Schramm explores the history of one intrepid rose hunter of China roses. Patricia Cavallo and Dominique Massad recount the history of the Nabonnand family who not only furnished the exotic plants for many of the estate gardens on the Riviera but also created hundreds hybrid roses of which many still flourish. Odile Masquelier tells what she feels about her magnificent garden and her decision to let it revert to its natural state of wildness. We conclude with four status reports from Japan, France, Poland and New Zealand on their heritage roses and conservation efforts, Charles Quest- Ritson's review of "Historical Roses in the Europa-Rosarium at Sangerhausen," a homage to Milton Nurse, long-time much beloved figure in the UK'S heritage rose world, and the obituary of Eddie Sanchez.

We and our authors are always interested in hearing from readers, and any article offered will be most carefully considered. We are Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert and Alan Gilbert, at : alanimet@gmail.com

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HISTORIC ROSES IN FINLAND

By Pirjo Rautio



Pirjo in her rose garden in 2014,
photo by Ilmari Rautio

We do not find records of historic roses grown in Finland from catalogues published before the 1840's. During the nineteenth century roses were mostly grown indoors in large pots.

The relatively tender historic roses commonly grown in Central Europe cannot cope with our severe climate. Over a period of more than twenty years, I have tested the hardiness of many roses in Finland. Most of the varieties I have bought have proven too tender and have died out rapidly.

The roses that flourish best with us belong to the Spinosissima, Rugosa and Gallica groups. Some Alba, Summer Damask and Moss roses also perform satisfactorily. We prefer to grow roses on

their own roots as should the above-ground parts be killed by a severe winter, the plant readily regenerates from the roots. Grafted roses should be planted quite deeply, with the graft union 15-20 cm below the soil surface.

Interest in rose growing took a leap forwards during the 1980's. The Finnish Rose Society was founded in 1989. Since that time, several members have actively traced roses surviving in old gardens and park plantings. Many interesting forms have been brought to light, but only a few historic roses have been satisfactorily identified. Old gardens have revealed a surprising wealth of tough old roses. These comprise some extremely hardy varieties that have survived for decades without any kind of maintenance.

Unfortunately, the names of many of these are lost. If a variety cannot be conclusively identified, it has been given a new name, often according to the location where it was found. As a rule, the founding roses are Spinosissimas or Rugosas, but some Centifolias and Gallicas have also turned up. Such roses almost invariably sucker quite freely, and this trait provides an easy means of propagating them.



'Kirkonruusu'

R. x francofurtana, F: kirkonruusu, Sw: kyrkgårdsros (meaning the "churtyard rose") (*R. cinnamomea* x *gallica*) is fairly widespread in Finland, but it was generally overlooked prior to the late 1980's. In Sweden this rose is frequently planted in cemeteries, but in Finland it is usually found in the grounds of old manor houses. There are two distinct forms of this "churtyard rose": a southern and a northern one. DNA analyses indicate that the northern form has more *R. cinnamomea* influence than the southern form, and probably arose when this latter backcrossed to our native *R. cinnamomea*. The "churtyard rose" forms a lax, untidy bush 2-2,5 m high with large, dark green leaflets. It blooms for about three weeks during July. The flowers are 7-8 cm in

diameter, double, lightly scented, in lilac rose tints. The bush suckers freely, enabling this rose to be spread easily.

Another important Francofurtana is the showy *Rosa gallica* 'Splendens', F: 'Valamonruusu', "Valamo rose". In Sweden this rose is called 'Frankfurt'. 'Splendens' is common throughout Finland, and performs well in northern regions of the country. The Finnish name 'Valamonruusu' arose as a result of a garbled translation: the French 'Rose Pavot' or 'Poppy Rose' became in Swedish 'Valmoros' which was misunderstood by Finnish speakers as pertaining to Valamo Monastery. Although the rose has no connection with the monastery, the name has stuck. On good soil this vigorous rose can grow into an upright bush up to 2 metres high. While in bloom from the end of June for about three weeks it is a splendid sight with an abundance of glowing, carmine-red, almost single blooms, with the golden stamens well-displayed. A good crop of orange, pear-shaped hips follows in September. "Valamo" has spread from one garden to another by means of its freely produced suckers.

'Minette', F: "Mustialanruusu" Vibert, France 1819. Commonly found in old gardens in Southern and Central Finland, and in Sweden as well. 'Minette' is rare in Central Europe. The Finns have considered this rose as Finnish, the Swedes as theirs as suggested by the Swedish appellations *R. x suionum* and 'Svearnas Ros'. In Finland it is generally called 'Mustialanruusu', i.e., "the Mustiala rose", as this rose was sold and distributed by Mustiala Nursery during the early 20th century. Only during the 1980's did Swedish rosarians recognise this plant bearing the name 'Minette' in the collections at Sangerhausen. Vibert, who raised it, assigned his rose to the Centifolias, but in Finland it is nowadays considered to be an Alba. 'Minette' forms a rounded bush to a metre, which suckers freely. The foliage is light green, slightly glossy with leaflets rounded towards the tips. It flowers through most of July. The beautifully scrolled flowers are medium in size, double, a warm blush pink, well scented. The buds tend to ball up in wet weather. A few large orange-tinted hips may set in warm seasons.

'Blush Damask'. This rose has been in cultivation since at least as far back as 1759. It may have arisen as a cross between a Summer Damask and a Gallica rose. 'Blush Damask' has been found in several locations in Southern Finland. It has been variously called 'Tähtitorninkatu', 'Kotka', 'Järvenpää' etc. according to the locality where it has cropped up. Here it is generally classified as a Centifolia. It forms a loosely growing shrub producing abundant suckers. The flower is flat, about 8 cm wide, fully double, often quartered, light pink towards the centre and paler towards the outer margins, strongly scented.



'Splendens'



'Minette'



'Blush Damask'

Most of the old roses found over the past few decades still remain unidentified, so they have been given Finnish names. 'Pikkala' (*centifolia x gallica* ?) resembles the Centifolia x Gallica cross 'Soleil Brilliant' or 'Hypathia', which was raised prior to 1790 in the Netherlands. It was first found on the estate of Pikkala Manor, Southern Finland, and has later turned up in a few other, scattered localities in Southern Finland. It shares Gallica and Centifolia features. 'Pikkala' suckers into a thicket and flowers rather late in the season, from about mid-July. The very double, strongly scented flowers are initially rounded in shape, strong aniline pink with paler marbling, and later open wider to display golden stamens. The pear-shaped hips are set abundantly.

'Litin Tiltu', possibly a Gallica x Rugosa cross, named according to the single locality of Litti in Eastern Finland where it was found. It grows into a well-shaped shrub 1,5 – 2m high and wide. The single, large and showy flowers are a bright carmine-red, opening in July. It occasionally produces the odd bloom during September. A few hips may form.

'Olkkala'. This rose was found as an extensive thicket by an abandoned rail track close to Olkkala Manor, Southern Finland. The results of DNA analyses indicate that this rose is closely related to the "Valamo rose", *R. gallica* 'Splendens'. 'Olkkala' is even more vigorous, growing to over 2 metres on good sites where it rapidly runs riot. It flowers for about four weeks from late June onwards. The medium-sized flowers are single, medium pink, paler towards the middle. In autumn the round, red hips and golden leaf colour are added attractions.

'Lilampi', a Gallica low-growing to 80cm with dark, leathery foliage. The light pink, rounded buds open in early July. The blooms are heavily double, medium pink in the centre and becoming paler towards the petal margins. The blooms also fade as they age.

'Herttoniemi'. This Blanda hybrid was found in the grounds of Herttoniemi Manor, Helsinki. It forms a vigorously growing shrub to 1,5 metres. The fragrant flowers are medium-sized, semi-double, pink but paler towards the margins. Very showy again in autumn when the foliage colours up a brilliant golden-yellow with small, red flattened-roundish hips.



'Herttoniemi'

'Toukoniitty', a 2-metre thicket with erect reddish stems found in Toukoniitty Park, Helsinki. The slightly double pink flowers with pale striations appear in July. In autumn the bush forms a showy spectacle with brilliant orange-red foliage and smallish flat hips.



'Toukoniitty'

Finland is blessed with a wealth of extremely hardy Spinosissima roses. They are trouble-free plants, not fussy about soil type, and easy to propagate by means of suckers. In Finland they bloom in June, in warm seasons often starting to open late in May. In Central Europe, Spinosissimas began to fall out of favour before the middle of the nineteenth century as repeat-flowering roses came onto the market. Meanwhile, the most prolific breeders of Spinosissimas, Robert Brown and Robert Austin, no longer continued their efforts to produce new varieties. It was not until 1850 that Karl-August Freundlich, head gardener of the

Czar of Russia, started breeding Spinosissima roses at Tsarkoje Selo, near St Petersburg. Finland was part of the Grand Duchy of Russia at this time, so several of the roses presently grown in Finland have most likely come down to us from this St Petersburg source. Our beloved "Midsummer rose" and a few other widely grown varieties were already cultivated here during the nineteenth century. The "Midsummer rose" is common throughout the country. Pink flowered Spinosissimas have been collected from the manor estates, rectories and even the farmsteads of Southern and Central Finland.

Spinosissima roses are difficult to identify conclusively, as there are very few illustrations or depictions to refer to in old catalogues. We have renamed many of them, usually according to the locality where they were found. I shall present some of the varieties most worth cultivating. *Rosa spinosissima* 'Plena', "Juhannusruusu", the "Midsummer rose" Its origin is still obscure. 'Plena' may originally have been an unnamed seedling that soon spread throughout Finland. In Sweden it is known as "Finlands vit ros", and "Finnish White" can be found in some English-language catalogues. This rose is fairly common in Sweden and Estonia, but in other countries it is rare or unknown. "The Midsummer rose" forms a very prickly, rather erect thicket to 1-1,5 metres, which tends to bow down with the sheer weight of blossom. It flowers for about a fortnight from midsummer onwards. The flowers are loosely double, yellowish towards the centre; the golden stamens are well displayed. The scent is strong and sweet. In autumn the foliage assumes dark coppery and violet tints. A few round, black hips are formed.



'Ensi'

'Ensi' found growing in Ensi Park, Helsinki. It forms a slender-branched, rounded bush to about a metre in height. The leaves are small, greyish-green. The densely double flowers are only 4 cm in diameter, opening pale pink and soon fading to white. No hips are formed.

'Juhannusmorsian' is a lovely rose found at Elimäki, South-Eastern Finland. It forms an erect shrub to 1,5 metres. The large flower is loosely double, opening pink and later fading, strongly scented. The large, round reddish-brown hips are set prolifically.

'Kerisalo' found from Kerisalo, Joroinen, Eastern Finland. It gradually spreads into a shrub up to 2 metres with largish grey-green leaflets, possibly indicating Cinnamomea influence. 'Kerisalo' flowers later than other Spinosissimas, beginning from early July. The beautiful flowers are large, loosely semi-double, lightly fragrant, of a delicate shade of salmon-pink.

'Papula'. This rose has taken its name from Papula Manor, which was close to the old town of Viipuri (Vyborg), now in Russian Karelia. It is recorded that this rose was brought to Papula from Northern Germany in the early 1860's. It was previously known as 'Staffa'. It may originally have been an unnamed seedling. 'Papula' has been found from several manor estates and old homesteads in Central and Southern Finland. It forms a rounded, dense-growing bush or thicket with small leaflets, to 1-1,5 metres. The cup-shaped, light pink flowers are fragrant, fading to almost white and displaying the golden stamens well. The hips are a dark wine-red. Very similar roses, typically called 'Double Blush', are found in all the Nordic countries and elsewhere in Europe. The best known is probably the Norwegian 'Husmoderrose'.

'Ruskela'. This fine Spinosissima was found in the early 1990's in a garden at Ruskela, Vihti, not far from Helsinki. It was later found from Vaalimaa, South-Eastern Finland and from near Vyborg, Russia. It may well originate from St Petersburg. It has been suggested that this rose may be 'Lady Hamilton', but we have not been able to confirm this. 'Ruskela' grows vigorously into a spreading thicket up to 1,8 metres. The leaflets are larger than those of other Spinosissimas and it flowers a little later than others in this class. The charming flowers are cup-shaped, later becoming flattened, 7 cm wide, pink, scented. A moderate crop of dark red, slightly elongated hips generally forms.



'Poppius'

'Poppius' F: Suviruusu,, *R. Pendulina?* x spinosissima (*R. x reversa*), Sweden 1850.

We are uncertain of the origins of this rose. Carl Stenberg, Director of the Swedish Agricultural Academy Experimental Station, dedicated this rose to his friend and principal, the Finnish-born Gabriel Poppius. 'Poppius' grows into widespread bush up to 2 metres with elegantly arching, almost thornless branches that steadily expands through suckering.

It blossoms abundantly from midsummer onwards for about 3 weeks, starting a little later than 'Plena'. The smallish flowers are pink, cup-shaped, loosely double, and slightly scented. The round, brownish-red hips set abundantly.

Rugosas: The Japanese rose, *Rosa rugosa*, had arrived in Europe by the end of the eighteenth century, but breeding work based on this species only got under way in St Petersburg during the 1860's. Around 1870 the Director of the Botanic Gardens of the St Petersburg Scientific Academy, Eduard Regel, released a purplish-red flowered rose as 'Tsaritsa Severa', 'Kaiserin des Nordens' (*R. davurica* x *a rugosa*). The nursery of Regel & Kesselring in St Petersburg sent plants to Finland, where the rose became known as 'Pohjolan Kuningatar', i.e., "Queen of the North". This rose has persisted in Finnish gardens further north as well. 'Kaiserin des Nordens' forms an elegant bush with rather small, fresh green, narrowly pointed leaflets. The smallish flowers are double, dark purplish-red. There is little or no reblooming and no hips are formed.

Various forms of the hybrid group *Rosa x majorugosa* (*R. majalis* x *rugosa*) can be found in scattered localities around Finland. One outstanding selection to be found in several sites is called 'Pietarinruusu', i.e., "The St Petersburg Rose". This may well be one of Regel's roses, but this surmise cannot be confirmed. "The St Petersburg Rose" slowly develops into a large shrub more than 2 metres in height, with arching stems. Suckers are produced prolifically. The abundant flowering begins at the end of June. The flowers are rather large, violet-red, fading as they age. In autumn the shrub stands out as the foliage takes on glowing shades of orange-red. The display is further enhanced by the slightly flattened red hips.

Rugosa roses possess many excellent qualities: they are attractive, healthy, fragrant, very hardy, care-free and easy to propagate via suckers; they have a long flowering period and often show good autumn colouration. A frequent extra bonus is a good crop of ornamental and edible hips. Despite all these sterling characteristics, these roses are not universally popular, and seem not to be generally favoured in Central Europe. In Finland, their hardiness has allowed them to survive in old gardens for long periods. As with the Spinosissimas, we have failed to identify several of these roses, so we have created our own names for them.



'Ristinummi'

'Ristinummi' (*R. rugosa* x *spinosissima*?), a rare find among rugosa hybrids, which may have originated in Russia. It was found growing along a railway embankment at Ristinummi Station, near Järvenpää, Southern Finland. 'Ristinummi' forms a vigorous and rapidly spreading, healthy, erect thicket to 2,5 metres. The large, single flowers are a light shell-pink, yellowish near the centre. A moderate crop of dark red, rounded hips is usually set. The *Spinosissima* influence confers a brick-red or wine-red autumn colouration of the foliage, and there is often a light repeat blooming in September.



'Katri Vala'

'Katri Vala', a beautiful foundling from Katri Vala Park, Helsinki. This rose forms a 2 metre high, freely suckering shrub. The sizeable flowers are nicely doubled, mauve-pink, strongly scented. Few hips are set. 'Martta' found near Oulu. A low-growing, suckering shrub that starts flowering as early as mid-June. The flowers are semi-double, violet red. The flattish hips are freely produced. 'Neuvoksenruusu' ("the Counsellor's rose") (*R. palustris* x *rugosa*) and 'Neuvoksettarinruusu' ("the Lady Counsellor's rose"), *R. x spaethiana* 'Spek's Improved'.

These roses have persisted in old gardens. They were previously used as rootstocks and have survived long after the tender scion perished. They grow into gaunt shrubs 1,5 to 1,8 m high with narrow, greyish-green leaflets. The flowers of the "Male counsellor" are quite large, single, rose-tinted. His female counterpart carries semi-double flowers. 'Pappilan Neito' found in North Finland in Leskelä village, Piippola commune in local gardens and the local parsonage. It grows into a 1,5m bush. The flowers are semi-double, pure white, scented. The large hips are set prolifically, nicely complementing brownish-yellow autumnal colouration.

Several old French near-rugosas are quite widely grown in Finland, including: 'Blanc Double de Coubert' (Cochet-Cochet 1892), 'Belle Poitevine' (Charles Bruant 1894) 'Souvenir de Philémon' (Cochet 1899), 'Roseraie de l'Hay' (Cochet-Cochet 1901). In Germany, *R. rugosa* was often crossed with relatively tender roses such as the hybrid Teas, so that the resulting hybrids are not hardy enough for our conditions: 'Conrad Ferdinand Meyer' (Dr. Müller 1899), 'Dr. Eckener' (Berger 1928).



'Asta'

Not content with growing only these old, historic roses, over the last two decades we Finns have been breeding new varieties suited to our harsh climatic conditions. The breeding team of Joy, Kahila and Kangaspunta have released several fine varieties: Spinosissima hybrid 'Tove Jansson' Rugosa hybrids 'Sointu' and 'Sävel' Modern shrub roses 'Ilo', 'Loisto' and 'Lumo'



'Merveille'

On my own account, I have specialised in further developing the Gallica roses. The following have become popular: 'Asta', 'Auli', 'Charles Baudelaire' and 'Merveille'. Various Damask roses, Rugosas and Spinosissimas are also available in some nurseries.



'Auli'



'Charles Baudelaire'

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We deeply regret to inform that Pirjo Rautio, the author of this wonderful survey of the roses of Finland, passed away in August 2018. This article is based on the lecture she gave at Sangerhausen in 2013. In addition to her life-long involvement in the study of Finland's roses, she had been a devoted teacher of both French and German. Pirjo was also a most active breeder of new roses, and some 100 of her roses are sold in Finland, Germany and Estonia. She also wrote many books in Finnish about roses. Her husband Ilmari Rautio (rautio@paratiisigalleria.fi and www.ilmari-rautio.com) sharing her love for roses, maintains her website (www.simolanrosario.com), with some 10,000 photographs of roses, including all those in this article. Readers may also wish to consult the site of the Finnish Rose society (www.ruususeura.fi).

FORTUNE'S FIVE ROSES

By Darrell g h Schramm

In 1842 Robert Fortune set out by sailing ship for China, arriving in Hong Kong on July 6, 1843. He had worked in Edinburgh's Botanic Garden for two years, then briefly as the superintendent of hothouses in the garden of the Horticultural Society at Cheswick, London, when he was sent by the Society to find and bring back blue peonies, yellow roses, tea shrubs, and other plants. Fortune would remain for two years but made other voyages of plant exploration in 1848-51, 1853-56, 1858-59, and 1860-61, the latter years to Japan. During those years, he also squeezed in time to explore Indonesia and the Philippines.

Apparently the first rose he discovered was in Shanghai in 1844, the climber to be named *Rosa anemoneflora* Fortune, 'Anemoneflora', for short (also spelled 'Anemoniflora'). It is a vigorous, heat tolerant rose with small, double white—sometimes pale blush or pink—flowers that bloom in large clusters in late spring or early summer. The larger daisy-like petals appear rounded, holding a cup of many narrower but jumbled petals often with, according to Graham Thomas, "frayed edges." Like *R. laevigata* and a few other climbers, its leaf comprises three serrated leaflets on smooth branches that raise themselves to nearly twelve feet. Some rose experts believe it a hybrid of a *Rosa banksiae* and a *Rosa multiflora*.

The following year, 1845, Robert Fortune sent 43 Wardian cases of plants and seeds to the Royal Horticultural Society. Roses he sent were well-watered before being placed in Wardian glass cases, then their damp soil, eight to ten inches deep, was covered with moss and the cases sealed. These containers, according to the Society's journal of May 1, 1846, included "Several Roses, among which is a fine new double yellow climbing kind." He had first seen it in 1844 on entering the Ningpo garden of a high public official of Imperial China, a Mandarin, where it "completely covered a distant part of the wall" as "a mass of yellow flowers" but "not a common yellow . . . masses of glowing yellowish and salmon colored flowers" which the Chinese called 'Wang-jang-ve'. The blossoms varied in their coloration. In 1850 during his second trip to China, he reports seeing this rose again growing with other roses in nursery pots. Though he first viewed the rose in Ningpo and then eighty miles north across a bay in Shanghai, he learned it was a rose from the more northern regions of China. The rose today is called 'Fortune's Double Yellow'.



'Fortune's Double Yellow'
© D. Schramm



Photograph of 'Fortune's Double Yellow'
Pasadena, California ~ 1902

Sometimes also called 'Gold of Ophir' (a reference to the land from which King Solomon's ships brought gold), this incredible rose can cover a garage or large shed in a spectacular mantle or blanket of gold. The variable and fragrant blooms are semi-double but sometimes full on short stems, but the canes are long and flexible and can be trained. As the long-lasting flowers age, the outer petals reflex, creating a loosely open blossom. A plant for warm climates, it continues to bloom intermittently after spring. In its early years in England, it was, writes Graham Thomas, "the most brilliant rose of its time." One such plant grows near me in California on a grassy lot where it covers a thirty-foot tree, lavish with thousands of roses each year that never get pruned.

Chinese rose master Guoliang Wang claims there is a Chinese painting of 'Fortune's Double Yellow' from the Song Dynasty (960-1278 CE). If that is true, this not being a wild rose, the Chinese were cultivating roses a thousand years ago.

Fortune writes of another "fine new double yellow rose" which he saw in Soo-Chow (Xuzhou) northwest of Shanghai. He procured it and sent it to the Horticultural Society as well. His description echoes his first reference to 'Fortune's Double Yellow' but omits the word climbing. Presumably, this rose did not climb, but it was a yellow rose. There seems, however, to be no later record of it.



'Fortune's Five-colored Rose'
© Jeri Jennings

Another rose encountered on his first visit to China was 'Fortune's Five-colored Rose', a Tea rose sometimes called 'Smith's Parish Fortune' or just 'Smith's Parish', although it is not positively certain that the two differing names apply to the same rose. A rose he sent back to England in 1845, it is somewhat a chameleon. The large flowers can be entirely white, entirely red, exactly half white and half red, cream or white with a red-striped or spotted petal, or white with one entire petal red. It does not display five colors but five different patterns of two colors. More accurately this remarkable plant might have been named The Five-patterned Rose. Furthermore, these different patterns appear not so much randomly on the bush as on different areas for each pattern. The flowers may be full or

semi-double and sometimes, in quite hot weather, even single. Overall, those roses with red or magenta coloring, entire or partial, are fewer than the white blossoms. Fortune considered these distinct patterns as different sports all on the same bush. As most of the

others, he discovered this rose in a Ningpo garden. He describes it in his book “Two Visits to the Tea Countries of China” (1853).

Robert Fortune visited Ningpo several times. “At Ningpo,” he wrote, “wild roses are planted which soon spread themselves over the grave [in cemeteries], and when their flowers expand in spring, cover it with a sheet of white.” He seems not to have procured any of these wild roses. But during that first visit, he did see on Kop-lung-soo “some pretty roses on the island producing double flowers of great neatness and beauty, although destitute of perfume. I sent them home to the garden of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick.” Again, these were not named. Are these roses the same as ‘Anemoneflora’? Is there some forgotten record of them in the Society’s archives?

The most historically fascinating of Fortune’s five named roses is the incredible ‘Fortuneana’. One of the healthiest of hybrid roses, and rather similar to a Banksiae rose, it produces very long, slender and pliable canes with double flowers decorated all along the sleeves of each branch. Cream-colored roses, they exhale a wisp of violet fragrance. Three lanceolate leaflets to a leaf, the foliage is light green and shiny. Easily, even in poor soil, this huge plant can parade more than a thousand roses. It requires very little care, yet will grow spectacularly over a pergola or arch.



‘Fortuneana’ in front of the author’s home

Though some Western rose specialists believe it to be a hybrid of *R. banksiae*, it is, according to Chinese experts, much older than the several Banksiae forms. In fact, ‘Fortuneana’ is not one specific rose variety but a small class of roses found in China, a class known as Tu Mi (or Tumi). According to Dr. Guoliang Wang, Chinese rose authority and botanist, “A distinctive Tu Mi flower culture of the Song Dynasty was born a thousand years ago” when these roses spread from southwest to northeast China. Indeed, a large Chinese scroll painting 1000 years old clearly depicts a large ‘Fortuneana’ in front of a temple, both still to be viewed to this day. Therefore, whatever date we Westerners attach to this rose—1845 or 1850—the date 1000 is probably more accurate.

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Darrell g h Schramm is the editor of “Rose Letter “ of the Heritage Roses Group, the oldest such group and oldest antique rose publication in existence, begun by Miriam Wilkins. He is also on its national board and on the board of The Friends of Vintage Roses, headed by Gregg Lowery, as well as editing its newsletter. He is also a published poet and frequent lecturer on old roses. His lovingly illustrated book “Rainbow: A History of the Rose in California,” published in 2017, was reviewed in BAON#16. His email address is schrammd@sonic.net.

THE ROSES OF THE NABONNANDS

By **PATRICIA CAVALLO** and **DOMINIQUE MASSAD**

The name of Nabonnand evokes a lot of memories for rose lovers living in the south of France. They admire these roses with such delicate and refined flowers spilling over high stone walls, these opulent and generous bushes encountered along a cemetery path or among the wild grasses in old abandoned properties, these prolific climbers which scale ancient olive trees and palm trees soaring into the blue sky. Over nearly a hundred years ago Gilbert Nabonnand and his sons Paul and Clément were indeed at the origin of the greatest number of them. Their characteristic Tea, Noisette and Gigantea roses mark the gardens of the Côte d'Azur.

Gilbert (aka Philibert) Nabonnand, 1828-1903



Gilbert Nabonnand
© Family archives

Gilbert Nabonnand was born on May 20, 1828, in Grézolles in the Loire department. At the age of 16, he worked and studied first in Lyon under Boucharlat Aîné, one of the founders of the *Société d'Horticulture Pratique du Rhône* and a passionate collector and pioneer in the culture of cineraria, pelargoniums and fuchsias, then with Jean-Baptiste Guillot *père*, the eminent rose grower who owned a general nursery and cultivated many other plants at that time. One can imagine that these two successful men would give Gilbert Nabonnand the incredible entrepreneurial spirit that would characterize him throughout his life.



'G Nabonnand'
© P. Cavallo

He then moved to the south of France, near Avignon where he worked as a general horticulturalist and sold fruit trees, conifers and other shrubs. On January 18, 1854, he married Elisabeth Meunier in Sorgues. (Gilbert already called himself *Philibert* since he signed the marriage certificate with this new first name.) The marriage was unfortunately short-lived; his wife died on August 26, 1856, leaving him alone with their daughter Marie-Louise (1855). A year later, on August 12, 1857, he married Thérèse Bertaud in Barbentane, they would have three children: Elisabeth (known as Isabelle) in 1858, Paul in 1860 and Clément in 1864. The next stage in their lives took place on the French Riviera.

Cannes and Lord Brougham

Lord Henry Peter Brougham and Vaux, then Chancellor of England, fell in love with the city of Cannes and in 1835 acquired vast grounds covered with olive trees which

stretched from the sea to the top of the hill of La-Croix-des-Gardes. There he built the Villa Eléonore-Louise (dedicated to his deceased daughter), a sumptuous Italian-style residence, whose construction was completed in 1849. In 1855, Lord Brougham called on the young renowned horticulturist from Avignon, Gilbert Nabonnand, to create and install an exotic garden on the grounds of his new residence. For more than ten years, Gilbert worked on the development of plant collections: palm trees, mimosas, eucalyptus, araucarias, wisterias, magnolias and a magnificent rose garden that would be the pride of successive owners.

Lord Brougham died in 1868. Thirty years later, his nephew Lord Henry-Charles Brougham and heir to the property, published a book in which nearly 200 roses from the estate were described, many of them Gilbert Nabonnand's creations. His gardener Jesse Busby also became famous by creating several hybrids of *Rosa gigantea*, including the famous 'Follette', one of the emblematic roses of the Riviera and the lesser known 'Eléonore'.

In Golfe-Juan: a growing reputation

Lord Brougham's sponsorship introduced Gilbert Nabonnand into the society of winter visitors, who enjoyed entertaining in their magnificent mansions surrounded by parks, whose ornamentation greatly contributed to the owners' reputations. To develop his landscaping activity in this rich environment, Gilbert decided to settle in Golfe-Juan in 1864. He imported and acclimated hundreds of trees and exotic plants, which he offered for sale in his *Etablissement d'horticulture du Golfe-Juan: Nabonnand*, from where he designed the landscapes of parks and gardens in the area around Cannes: Villa Alexandra, Château Saint-Georges, Château de l'Aboucas (owned by Madame de Rozières), Villa Laure Parc Bruny among the most famous.



View of Golfe-Juan
© Family archives

The variety and quality of the plants featured in his establishment were remarkable: palm trees interspersed with eucalyptus, callistemon, camellias, heather, pittosporum, ficus, camphor trees, avocado trees, guava trees, persimmons, mimosas, and ferns. In 1874 his collection of conifers was awarded the Silver Medal at the Horticultural Exhibition in Cannes.

Gilbert Nabonnand, no doubt struck by the vigorous development of roses on the Côte d'Azur, decided to embark on hybridization from varieties obtained by his competitors. His first rose, 'Golfe-Juan', dedicated to the place, was marketed in 1872. It was a re-

blooming hybrid with full, ruby red flowers with very large overlapping petals. The year 1874 will see the creation and diffusion of three new Tea varieties: 'Mme Freeman', 'Duchess of Edinburgh' (better known as 'Prince Wasiltchikoff'), and 'Isabelle Nabonnand', and a Bourbon rose 'Madame Valton'. Production took on another dimension in 1878, as no less than fifteen new varieties were marketed, including a Hybrid Tea 'Cannes La Coquette' and three Tea roses: 'Madame Nabonnand', 'Paul Nabonnand', and 'Clément Nabonnand'. Several dozen new roses followed, the majority of which belong to the Tea and Noisette rose classes. His establishments were then no longer just horticultural outlets; the title *Les Roses du Golfe-Juan* appeared at the top of the catalogs to finally become the main appellation/name. His catalog from 1883-1884 is entirely devoted to roses, offering nearly 900 varieties of Tea roses, supplemented by 300 in other classes.

In 1886, a visitor to his Sainte-Anne estate located in Antibes related that *circa* 8,000 mother plants of roses were grown for propagating and that up to 200,000 plants were sold to trade, mainly varieties noted for their winter flowering.

Gilbert Nabonnand was promoted to Officer of Agricultural Merit in 1890, and the notables of the time either visited or placed orders with the *Nabonnand Etablissements*, including King Leopold of Belgium who came personally to Golfe-Juan in 1896 to acquire plants to ornament the royal gardens.

The participation of Nabonnand father and sons in exhibitions now extended beyond the regional area. In 1898, the newspaper *Le Courier de Cannes* informed its readers of the successes they had achieved in Paris: "The skillful rose horticulturalists of Golfe-Juan obtained the highest award at the Paris Horticultural Exhibition, a gold medal for a collection of wonderful roses, comprising of 800 varieties."



'Général Gallieni'
© D. Massad



'Comtesse de Caserta'
© P. Cavallo



'Monsieur Rosier'
© P. Cavallo

Gilbert's Legacy

Among the roses created by Gilbert Nabonnand and his sons before 1903, the best known and still in cultivation are: 'Général Schablikine' (1879), 'Marie d'Orléans' (1883) and 'Archiduc Joseph' (1892), three popular Teas which would have been enough to ensure Gilbert's fame; 'Comtesse de Caserta' (1877) and 'Paul Nabonnand' (1878),



'Wasily Chludoff'
© P. Cavallo

both pale pink Teas; '(Mlle) Franziska Krüger' (1879), a cream quartered flower Tea tinged with pink; 'Reine Olga de Wurtemberg' (1881), a fragrant crimson-red Noisette hybrid; 'Nardy' (1888), a Tea-Noisette with globular, yellow blooms that turn pink depending on the temperature; 'Papa Gontier' (1882), 'Madame la Princesse de Radziwill' (1886), 'Bardou Job' (1887), and 'G. Nabonnand' (1888), all Tea roses; 'Wasily Chludoff' (1896), a medium-pink climbing Noisette perfectly suited to grow over pergolas, 'Général Gallieni' (1899), a Tea with blooms of an unusual mix of yellow, pink and carmine; 'Noella Nabonnand' (1900), a Tea with a powerful scent of rose emanating from a crimson corolla and 'Lady Waterlow' (1902), a strong growing hybrid Tea with very refined yellow flowers tinged with pink.

To this day one can find in the catalogs of some rose growers specializing in old roses a splendid variety with fragrant flowers marketed under the name of 'Isabelle Nabonnand'. Often this rose is actually 'Souvenir de Gilbert Nabonnand' or 'Clementina Carbonieri'. The true variety should have pink buff-colored flowers and a scent of violets.

Gilbert Nabonnand always included his two sons with his work and in his latter years, he handed them the reins of the family establishment, before passing away on January 6, 1903, in Mandelieu, near Cannes, at the age of 74. His sons continued the company, which was renamed in March 1903 as *Les Roses du Golfe-Juan, P&C Nabonnand et Cie.* (with a silent partner, Eric Jung from Elberfeld, Germany who invested funds in exchange for a stake in the business). Their association lasted until 1908, when the brothers separated amicably, each to manage his own establishment.

Paul Nabonnand, 1860-1937

Paul was born on September 8, 1860, in Avignon. The rose 'Paul Nabonnand' was dedicated to him when he was only 18 years old. After the separation (noted above), his new establishment was named *Aux Roses de la Côte d'Azur - Cannes Eden*, also in Golfe-Juan. The garden, located in the best sheltered and temperate part of the Mediterranean coast, was considered as one of the most interesting on the French Riviera with its extremely rare tropical plants: beautiful specimens of ferns, cycads, palm trees, and a large number of trees and shrubs from Australia and New Zealand. While Paul's



'Paul Nabonnand'
© P. Cavallo

catalogs obviously offered roses, they also included other collections: mimosas, anemones, anthemis, irises, hyacinths, carnations, violets.

Paul was a scientist, and his hybridizations gave remarkable results for roses as well as flowering trees and other exotics; among which *Acacia x nabonnandii*; *x Butiarecastrum nabonnandii* (of which there are several examples on the Côte d'Azur) and *Phoenix x nabonnandii* (the specimen offered in 1933 to Queen Elisabeth of Belgium still exists in the greenhouses of Laeken); and *Citrus x nabonnandii*, an orange with very fine skin, very sweet and of an exquisite taste which ripens in December.

He was particularly known for hybridizing *Rosa gigantea*, a rambling rose native to Burma and northeast India, which bloomed for the first time in 1898 in Lord Brougham's Park. The first hybrids of *Rosa gigantea* were obtained by Henri Cayeux in 1898, then by Paul Nabonnand around 1900. For the many crosses he made, he chose as "father" varieties of Tea roses. He marketed a small number of his varieties, most of which have now disappeared: 'Fiametta' (1922), his wife's name, a warm yellow highlighted with cadmium; 'Lady Johnstone' (1922), safflower pink aging to a lilac pink; 'Noella Virebent' (1922), dedicated to his daughter-in-law, flesh pink with a brighter center; 'Comtesse Prozor' (1922), soft chrome yellow; 'Comtesse de Chaponay' (1924), cream- pink with a bright salmon center. Two hybrid varieties of Gigantea still marketed in Europe are mis-named as 'Emmanuella de Mouchy' (1922), carnation pink and 'Senator Amic' (1924), Nilson cochineal red. He also created 'Rosette Delizy' (1922), a bright yellow Tea edged with crimson, and apricot on the reverse of the petals apricot (still marketed today).

Paul was Vice President of the *Société d'Horticulture de Cannes* when he died on March 27, 1937, in Golfe-Juan.

Clément Nabonnand, 1864-1949

Gilbert Clément Nabonnand, known as "Clément", was born on February 10, 1864, in Avignon. The rose 'Clément Nabonnand' was dedicated to him when he was 20 years old. Passionate about nature and a poet at heart, Clément was more oriented towards the development of parks and gardens and the marketing of plants and roses, than towards new creations, although his hybridizations did have excellent results. It is therefore regrettable that he did not pursue the work his brother had begun using *R.*



Paul Nabonnand
© Family archives



'Frau O. Plegg'
© P. Cavallo



Clément Nabonnand
© Family archives

gigantea which might have resulted in re-blooming varieties in this class.

His first establishment, *Estérel Parc*, was located for more than fifteen years in the town of Mandelieu near Cannes. Later he transferred production to the town of Villeneuve-Loubet, first at the *Mas dou Loubet*, then at the *Mas di Roso*, while his commercial activities would gradually extend to the whole of France, Europe and across the Atlantic, especially in South America. *Mas di Roso* was a veritable acclimatization garden for rose bushes, but also for mimosas, cypresses, grapefruit and dwarf orange trees. The estate was occupied and the fields mined during World War II, causing irreversible damage. Clément died there in 1949, ending a century of creations by the Nabonnand father and sons.



'Souvenir de Gilbert Nabonnand'
© P. Cavallo

Among Clément's rose creations still on the market are: 'Marguerite Desrayaux' (1907), a Noisette with pale pink flowers; 'Souvenir de Gilbert Nabonnand' (1920), an excellent Tea with very fragrant flowers, ranging in color from yellow to orange passing through pink and coral; 'Irène Bonnet' (1920), a hybrid climbing Tea and a prolific bloomer; and 'Marie Nabonnand' (1941), a hybrid Tea (initially named for 'Philippe Pétain') with very scented corollas of red tint carmine.

Through their work, these three rose horticulturists contributed so greatly to the development of varietal types particularly suited to Mediterranean climatic conditions that contemporary landscapers ought to rely on more, both for urban areas and in private gardens. The city of Hyères on the coast has done so along one of the main avenues planted with Nabonnand rose varieties which provide a constant field of color throughout the season. In Grasse, the *Domaine Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier*, owned by the Amics in the 1870s, has regained its magnificence after 15 years of restoration. This 8-hectare estate dotted with olive trees and Mediterranean species, hosts superb landscape creations: a garden created by Russell Page in the 1940s, a perfume garden, a melliferous meadow, a monumental rockery, a Provençal garden, a rose garden in honor of hybridizers, but also a unique



Domaine Saint-Jacques du Couloubrier
© D. Massad

collection of Nabonnand roses, thus helping to promote an invaluable horticultural heritage. This garden is also an example that one can have a beautiful garden without the use of chemicals.

Nabonnand varieties and their hybridizations

NOTE: In this concluding section, Nabonnand roses that are still available are in **bold** type.

The following pictures are shown
in alphabetic order



'Archiduc Joseph'
© P. Cavallo



'Comtesse de Noghera'
© P. Cavallo

After moving to the Côte d'Azur, Gilbert cultivated a special clientele. From December to March, the French Riviera saw a flow of wealthy individuals from all corners of Europe and America, who spent the winter in its summer-like weather. English or Russian aristocrats, French bourgeois, American industrial magnates, celebrities from the world of arts, all competed in the construction of sumptuous residences in the midst of remarkable gardens. With their very long flowering season extending into winter, Tea roses and later Gigantea hybrids were perfect. During their almost century-long careers, the three Nabonnands obtained 257 varieties divided into 7 families.

1) Teas are the most strongly represented: 195 in number. The first were in 1874 ('Mme Freeman', 'Duchess of Edinburgh' and **'Isabelle Nabonnand'**) and the last in 1922 (**'Rosette Delizy'**). Regarding the origins of the different roses, only a small number of ancestries were recorded by the breeders, but the homogeneity of the creations allows us to make some observations. At first, Gilbert used the varieties obtained by others, including breeders from Lyon such as Levet ('Souvenir de Thérèse Levet', 'Mathilde Lenaerts'), Ducher ('Marie van Houtte'), Schwartz ('Reine Maria Pia'), Lacharme ('Mme Lombard'), Damaizin ('Madame Charles'), breeders from Angers such as Beauregard ('Safrano'), Coquereau ('Chromatella') or from Dijon



'(Mlle) Franziska Krüger'
© P. Cavallo



'Lady Waterlow'
© P. Cavallo



'Marie d'Orleans'
© P. Cavallo

such as Jacotot ('Gloire de Dijon'). The most widely used varieties were 'Marie Van Houtte', 'Reine Maria Pia' and 'Gloire de Dijon'. For the latter, the Nabonnands would classify the varieties, either as Teas or as Noisettes, without justifying the precise reasons for their choice.

They then mainly began using their own creations, 'Prince Wasiltchikoff', '**Archiduc Joseph**', '**Général Schablikine**' and '**Isabelle Nabonnand**', to obtain new roses. It is within this group of Tea roses that we find the greatest number of Nabonnands that are still grown today, such as '**Papillon**', '**(Mlle) Franziska Krüger**' and '**G. Nabonnand**'. Many of these Teas would be appreciated as cut flowers, such as '**Paul Nabonnand**', once shipped by train to Parisian florists. It is interesting to note that Gilbert and his sons were interested in Tea roses at a time when they were starting to decline popularity being replaced by hybrid Teas and that his sons would be the only rose growers in the world to continue creating Teas at the start of the twentieth century.

2) A total of 13 Noisettes also form a class appreciated by the Nabonnands since they are well adapted to the Mediterranean climate. There are Tea-Noisette roses with a basic yellow color, such as 'L'Idéal': others from 'Gloire de Dijon', including '**Nardy**', 'Docteur Antoine Carles' and 'Ketten Frères'; Noisette roses in shades of red or pink like '**Reine Olga de Wurtemberg**', 'Antoinette Massard', '**Wasily Chludoff**', '**Marguerite Desrayaux**', 'Marie Lavalley'; and more atypical hybrids of Noisettes such as 'Madame Emile Duneau' with large Bourbon-type flowers.

3) Bengals, closely related to Teas, are represented by only six roses, including the very beautiful '**Bardou Job**' still cultivated today. The other five—'Louis Humbert', 'Louis Chabrier', 'Souvenir du Centenaire de Lord Brougham', 'Président Magnaud', 'Nabonnand'— seem to have disappeared.

4) The Hybrid Perpetuals are well represented in the Nabonnand list although they were put on the market when the fashion had passed. This is the case of 'S.A. Prince Youssouf Kamal' (1922), resulting from a cross between 'Souvenir de Madame Chédane Guinoisseau' and 'Ulrich Brunner'. Among the 15 varieties, '**Frau O Plegg**' still exists, a variety from 1909 sometimes classified in the Bengals class.

5) Bourbons constituted another small part of Nabonnand production since there are only three varieties from Gilbert: 'Madame Léonard Lille', 'Madame Valton' and 'Paul Bestion'.

6) Of the eight Hybrid Teas recorded, all seem to have disappeared with the exception of '**Marie Nabonnand**', whose sweet scent still perfumes many gardens (thanks to its reintroduction by Peter Beales under the incorrect name of 'Monsieur Tillier') and '**Lady Waterlow**'. Both are atypical but very interesting for southern gardens.

7) Gigantea hybrids were Paul's specialty, all of which were released between 1922 and 1924. To create the six varieties listed in the Nabonnand anthology, he used as a mother a *Rosa gigantea* which he crossed with varieties of Tea: '**Archiduc Joseph**' for 'Noella Virebent', or Tea hybrids such as 'Margaret Molyneux' (Dickson) for 'Fiametta', 'Beauté Lyonnaise' (Pernet-Ducher) for 'Lady Johnstone', 'General Mac Arthur' (E. G. Hill & Co.) for '**Sénateur Amic**' and '**Lady Waterlow**' for the very beautiful and fragrant '**Emmanuella de Mouchy**'.



'Marie Nabonnand'
© P. Cavallo



'Noella Nabonnand'
© P. Cavallo



'Nardy'
© D. Massad



'Souvenir de Germain de Saint-Pierre'
© P. Cavallo

8) To conclude this list, it is necessary to cite **'Comte d'Eprenesnil'**, a hybrid of Rugosa, put on the market in 1881 by Gilbert, a relative rarity for the time.

* * *

Patricia Cavallo, born in Antibes on the French Riviera and a descendant of Clément Nabonnand's second wife Marie Lanoir, grew up immersed in the family's colorful history. She sought out the profusion of roses they created, even while pursuing her professional career in systems engineering in the private sector and government. In 2007 she founded "Les Amis des Roses Nabonnand" (www.roses-nabonnand.com) and began to document and photograph the existent Nabonnand roses in Europe and other countries including in Latin America. Her articles and photographs have appeared in various rose publications, and she, along with her co-author Dominique Massad, are frequent rose conference speakers. Her email contact is: patricia.cavallo@gmail.com

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Dominique Massad, a native of Marseille (and descendant of Pierre Guillot, the great rose breeder from Lyon), his life's interest has been in developing new roses. He has created to date more than 190 new varieties. Between 1980 and 2009 over 50 of his creations were released by the Roseraies Guillot . By 2008, wishing to concentrate more on original and unusual roses, in partnership with Jean-Pierre Dittiere, founded "Pétales de roses" (www.petales-de-roses.com). He regularly collaborates with another descendant of a great dynasty of rose breeders, Fabien Ducher (www.roseraie-ducher.com). Dominique continues to create as well as write from his garden in Allauch, near Marseille. His articles have been featured in BAON as well as in many journals and reviews throughout the world. His email is : dmassad@free.fr

LA BONNE MAISON, *The garden over time evolves and changes before it disappears*

By Odile Masquelier

My garden made up of collections brought together with joy, patience and passion over more than forty five years will, within a few months, evolve and become simpler before it turns into a “Green Area,” then becoming wild and, in all likelihood, disappear. Never having been in the hands of a landscape designer or a professional gardener, the garden has adjusted itself to errors and creative whims.



'Mme Grégoire Stachelin' covering the house

Now, as over the past two seasons, it is undergoing change; adventitious weeds are creeping into the vacant spots left by delicate perennials, “*the little wayward ones,*” as Jelena De Belder called them.

Shrubs: *Viburnum*, *Peonies*, *Hydrangea*, *Choysia*, *Cotinus*, *Sambucus*, *Physocarpus* and *Phlomis* endure and still perform their role. It must be admitted, however, that clematis are disappearing and that undivided bulbs are suffocating, irises are stifled and day-lilies crushed against one another.



***Rosa banksiae plena* climbing through trees**

For the past year, exhausted by drought, sharp changes of temperature and lack of maintenance, the garden has had to give away and surrender itself to “Mother Nature.” The Mixed Border is becoming simpler; foliage plants now predominate: the leaves of *Salvia*, *Nepeta*, *Teucrium*, *Thalictrum* and *Euphorbia*.

Various perennials once deemed invasive are now welcomed and have become naturalized with the aid of our homemade compost: *Althea rugosa*, from the Caucasus sown more than thirty years ago to brighten up the clematis, *Campanula Alliariifolia* with its great spikes of little white bells that can withstand anything, *Heucherella* and *Tiarella*, *Teucrium hircanum*, *Chamomilla vulgaris*, the scented-leaf Geranium *Macrorrhizum* and *Brunnera macrophylla*, the Caucasus forget-me-not.

The maintenance of a garden without chemical weed-killers and phytosanitary products requires much time and energy. Insufficient help is sorely felt despite the goodwill and kindness of volunteers, and I have had to resign myself to seeing certain climbing roses being in the way or, worse, blocking it, seeing labels dropping to the ground and getting lost, the paving stones in the *Secret Garden* turning into meadow, the bryony and bindweed comfortably installed. You have to accept, to do your best, mindful of Didier Wirtz's motto: *"The Gardener is a living actor who leads a living ensemble, and both are destined to pass."*

I try to remain serene and think positively about the young people I trained and who helped me in the garden over so many years. Several of them went on to set up their own businesses. Over and over again I repeat to myself this sentence of Laure Parisot: *"Life is an ongoing exchange. We receive and learn to give. And to give is also to pass on, including passing on knowledge. Passing on knowledge is part of the fundamental exchange of life."* I also think of all the encounters, the great friendships, of travel on account of the garden, and I say *Thank You!*



Two statues of lynxes, flanked by wisteria guided visitors back towards the house



One of the many paths in the garden, this one bordered with 'Raubritter' and *Pennisetum*

* * *

Odile Masquelier is one of the most famous rose specialists in Lyon, France's City of Roses, and her personal garden has been a "must-see" for decades of visitors, both French and from a multitude of countries. It was a highlight for participants in the WFRS Conference in Lyon, in May 2015. Odile's long interest in heritage roses led her to found the rose group "Roses Anciennes in France," of which she was the first president. She is an author of two books as well as having written articles which have appeared in rose journals throughout the world. Additionally she has worked with the City of Sakura Rose Garden in Japan, where many of her roses are on display. This article first appeared in the RAenF annual bilingual Bulletin of December 2019, translated by Derrick Worsdale. Her contact is: contact@labonnemaison.org and the web site is: www.labonnemaison.org

“Historical Roses in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen”

By Hella Brumme & Eilike Vemmer

Reviewed by Charles Quest-Ritson

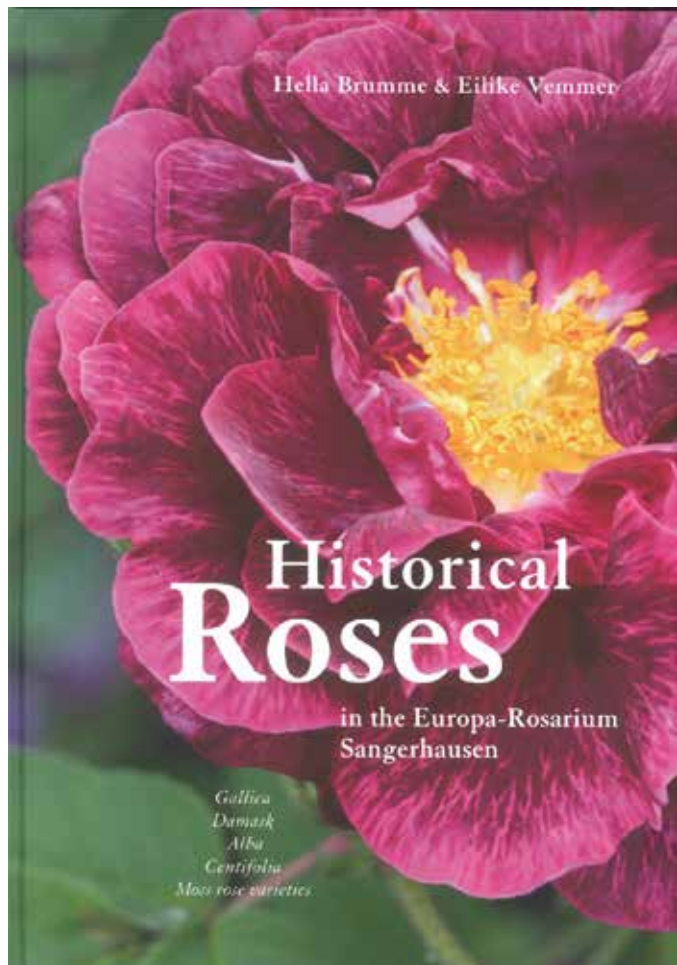
The long-awaited English edition of this important work was published in June, and makes fascinating reading for anyone who loves old roses and wants to know more about them. Sangerhausen's collection of Gallicas, Damasks, Albas, Centifolias and Moss roses is one of the most comprehensive in the world. It has also been the source of many of the roses one sees in heritage gardens and specialist collections in Europe and beyond.

When Hella Brumme was the garden's director she established an in-house electronic database of the whole collection of roses at Europa-Rosarium, backed by meticulous descriptions of every cultivar, innumerable photographs and as much as was known about its origin and history in cultivation. The knowledge acquired over 20 years of observation and research is the basis for this book, which can therefore be confidently relied upon as a state-of-the-art summary of our knowledge today. You may not agree with every fact or opinion that the writers propose, but the more you read this excellent study the more you will learn.

The book begins with a series of very useful pictures of the typical features of the different classes - the leaves, buds, hips and flowers of the Gallicas, Damasks, Albas, Centifolias and Moss roses in the Sangerhausen collection. Then follow the five main chapters, each devoted to one of the five groups and preceded by a most readable introduction. Every cultivar is treated to a detailed account of its habit of growth (leaves, stems, prickles) and an accurate description (plus a photograph) of its flowers. These descriptions include such details as the colour of the undersides of the petals that are so important in distinguishing one cultivar from another. By comparing such details, it is possible to identify cultivars that have often been confused in the past - 'Jenny Duval' and 'Président de Sèze', for example. And some of the more intractable conundrums are solved with very detailed descriptions in a separate chapter entitled 'Easily Confused Roses' towards the end of the book. There are essays, too, on Found Roses, unidentified roses at Sangerhausen, and roses in the collection that are wrongly named.

This is not a pretty-pretty book - the design and layout are perhaps a little brutal - and it contains little or nothing about cultivation or the ornamental use of roses in private gardens; in short, no overblown language or romantic tosh. Just facts. The text has been well translated from the original German by multi-lingual Helga Brichet who, as readers will know, has been both President of the World Federation of Rose Societies and Chairman of the Conservation Committee. Helga has an idiosyncratic choice of words that stops you in your tracks and makes you think: 'wonderous' is much more evocative than 'wondrous' or 'wonderful' and her description of the habit of growth of 'Trigintipetala' as 'dishevelled' is spot on.

The five groups that make up this study - Gallicas, Damasks, Albas, Centifolias and Moss roses - represent only a small proportion of the total number of rose cultivars at Sangerhausen. It is to be hoped that this monograph will prove to be just the first in a series that documents in detail the riches of Europa-Rosarium's collections. The great mass of Hybrid Teas, Polyanthas and early climbing and rambling roses in Sangerhausen's garden is much more important and has too often been overlooked by rose-lovers committed to the conservation of old roses. It is these later roses, dating from the 1880s to the 1930s, that are the real jewels in Sangerhausen's crown. Many more of them are no longer offered by nurserymen or safely in cultivation than the popular early 19th-century roses that this book celebrates. It is they who cry out for study, publicity and conservation. But their needs can in no way detract from the great achievement of Hella Brumme and Eilike Vemmer in bringing together such a fine record of the old roses at Sangerhausen.



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*For almost thirty years, Charles Quest-Ritson has been one of the English-reading world's most prolific and versatile authors on all rose-related subjects, from books, the RHS Encyclopedia of Roses, co-author with Brigid Quest-Ritson, to guides to the great gardens of Europe, plus articles and reviews.
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CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE ROSE COUNTRY REPORTS

Prior to the now-postponed meeting of the Conservation and Heritage Rose Committee during the convention last May and June in Brussels, Chairman Brigid Quest-Ritson had asked each of the country representatives to provide in advance a short summary of related activities and possible successes in their country. Some 15 were received, and they are being circulated via the internet to each representative. Meanwhile, with the concurrence of the C&HR Chairman and the individual delegates, BAON publishes in this current issue some representative contributions which we think should interest all WFRS members and our readers. We hope you enjoy these four: Japan, France, Poland, and New Zealand. Others may follow in future issues.

JAPAN: HERITAGE ROSES REPORT

From Yuki Mikanagi (mikanagi@chiba-muse.or.jp)

A Rose Variety from Japan Decorating Nanyang City, China:

When I attended the regional convention held in Nanyang from April 27 to May 1, 2019, I saw innumerable tree roses planted along city streets, leaving an indelible impression on all the attendees from abroad. There were red and pink HT varieties, all budded on tall rootstock canes of *Rosa banksiae*. The size and the shape of the flowers as well as the growth habit of the two varieties seemed to be identical. I wanted to know the names of these varieties, and asked Dr. Guoliang Wang from Nanjing. To my great surprise, the red one was 'Hi-Ohgi' ('Fei-Shan' in Chinese), raised by the late Mr. Seizo Suzuki of the Keisei Rose Nursery in Japan in 1981, and the pink one was its sport, found in China, and named 'Fen-Shan'. 'Hi-Ohgi' ('Fei-Shan') means a red fan, and 'Fen-Shan' means a pink fan. I thought it was a new style of rose cultivation, and Chinese friends from Nanyang told me that they are selling tree roses to many other cities in China. I felt very happy to learn that 'Hi-Ohgi' was one of the varieties loved by many people in China, and imagined the days in the distant future when it will be admired as a precious heritage rose.

Damage by Typhoons:

In September and October 2019, large typhoons hit many areas of Japan, and caused severe damage to rose gardens there. The City of Sakura Rose Garden was one of those which suffered devastating damage. Thanks to the hard work of garden staff and volunteers, as well as to the help of donations from many rose lovers, not just from Japan but from many other countries of the world, the collection of rare heritage roses in the garden was saved, and nearly all the arches, pergolas and fences there had been restored by the end of March 2020.

COVID-19:

Though most rose gardens in Japan were closed from the beginning of April to prevent the spread of the infection of this new coronavirus, some were reopened in mid-May, and after the lifting of the state of emergency on May 25th, nearly all of them were reopened. The spring flowering season finishes in the beginning of June in the southern

areas of Japan, including Tokyo, but it was lucky that the visitors were able to admire the roses there, even for just one or two weeks.

POLAND: HERITAGE ROSES REPORT

From Ewa Jarmulak (ejarmulak@gmail.com)

In recent years, interest in historical roses in Poland has clearly increased. As the Polish Rose Society, we publish an annual magazine "Róże" (Roses), in which we regularly publish articles about old roses together with a detailed description and photos of old varieties. So far, three issues of the magazine have been published, where the following classes were discussed: *Rosa gallica*, *Rosa damascena*, and *Rosa x alba*. This year we will deal with the topic of *Rosa centifolia*. In this way, we spread knowledge about these beautiful, often forgotten varieties of roses.

In the Polish rose community there is a large group of people interested in the topic of historical roses and keeping collections of old varieties in their gardens.

1. Particularly noteworthy is the Polish Private National Collection of Malgorzata Kralka in the town of Wygledy near Warsaw, in which 1,200 varieties have been collected on an area of 0.50 ha.

2. Another important place is the National Collection of Rose Cultivars in the Center for Biological Diversity Conservation in Powsin near Warsaw. All classes of roses are gathered here. The number of species is over 1100, with a large group of old roses. The garden area is 1.3 ha.

3. Yet another place worth attention is the Private Old Rose Garden in Lancut, Subcarpathian Province. This garden contains historical and contemporary varieties, which at first were planted there in the 1930s.

4. The fourth important place is the Palace Garden in the Wilanow Castle, Warsaw. Established in 1855-1856 for August and Aleksandra Potocki, which was restored in 2009-2012. Part of the garden is a collection of old roses systematically renewed according to the original plantings.

FRANCE: HERITAGE ROSE REPORT

From Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert (alannimet@gmail.com)

While there are numerous Rose Associations in France, this report focuses on the two WFRS Associate members, plus several brief updates on rose science in France.

Both Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val-de-Marne (www.roseraie.valdemarne.fr) and Roses Anciennes en France (www.rosesanciennesenfrance.org) have similar goals: to safeguard and increase the awareness of heritage roses, to arrange group visits to gardens (private as well as public) in France and elsewhere. Both associations have excellent websites in both French and English to help viewers identify old roses, hold classes on rose pruning, lectures and publish bulletins. The first, located near Paris at l'Haÿ-les-Roses has links with other associations as does Roses Anciennes en France, based in Lyon. The last page of the annual bilingual RAenF bulletin also lists the lost roses which have been reintroduced into commerce. Since the last WFRS Conservation

and Heritage convention, each has successfully accomplished at least one major and notable project :

Roses Anciennes en France helped organize a field trip to the Isle de la Reunion in 2017 (see their Annual 2017 and a summary in the SFR Annual 2018) as well as the scientific report below). The results of this trip were to be given in Brussels in June this year by Pascal Heitzler.

Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val-de-Marne, under the guidance of Paul Lefebvre, acted to save the roses (both old and new and all of interest) in the JUMAJU collection after the death of its owner and the site being put on the market. With a grant of € 3,500 from GREVES, an institute devoted to saving bio-diversity, and with the help of Roses Anciennes en France and the SNHF (Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France), the most rare and unique roses were saved from being plowed under. They are now under the guardianship of Jérôme Chéné of the Loubert Nursery where they will be grafted and safeguarded. This excellent venture was reported in their March 2019 bulletin.

Researches and discoveries regarding heritage roses from the French scientific centres during the past two years:

> Publication of several rose genomes from a sample of rose species and old cultivars (in Lyon and Angers). The genes of the old China rose “Old Blush” has been carefully annotated throughout its seven pairs of chromosomes.

> Publication of the molecular mechanism at the origin of the presence of extra petals in doubled and semi-doubled roses (Lyon). A more accessible summary of the story has been published in the Rose Anciennes en France Annual (Dec 2018).

> Publication on the genetic origin of the 2-phenylethanol production (Univ. of St-Etienne). The geraniol and the 2-phenylethanol are the two main constituents responsible for the characteristic odor of rose. The production of geraniol has been published in 2015 (also at St. Etienne) and involves an unusual NUDX1 enzyme for its release in rose flowers.

> The conclusion of the Roses Monde project (in Angers) was presented at the SNHF in March 2020. It is a multidisciplinary project that brought together genetic, economic, historic, social and geographic data on the evolution of the production systems, marketing, breeding selection and cultivar protection (as intellectual property) during the 20th century

> *Rosa arvensis*. During the past twenty years, a thorough collection of the main synstylae species of Europa has been made: both of varieties similar to old lost forms and other are not yet recorded mutants (many holotypes) and primary natural hybrids. Altogether, this work reconstitutes most of the lost intra-specific biodiversity that was recorded between 1800 and 1940. Starting from scratch, the species has been genetically worked out (by Pascal Heitzler) and the species has now been given the statute of a genetic model, the first case among wild roses.

> The several members of the Lyon-based Society Roses Anciennes en France were invited to the Isle of Reunion for the bicentenary of the discovery of the first Rose Bourbon, the Rose “Edouard” by the botanist Jean-Nicolas Bréon, to provide expertise to identify the old roses collected by the Botanical Garden of Reunion. A “safeguard project” has been planned, and DNA authentication of this Bourbon rose’s founding pedigree has been proposed, with the data agreeing with Bréon’s earlier work.

While France is justly proud of its efforts both scientific as well as the work done by the many associations to understand, promote and conserve roses, concerns remain. All nurseries have been facing hard financial challenges. Collections such as that held by the nursery “Roseraie du Desert” (currently on the market) are at risk of being broken up and lost. Additionally, climate change with a prediction of a third year of drought and watering ban in certain areas will only add to the common myth that roses are difficult

plants to care for. We look forwards to seeing our Heritage rose friends from across the world at the next Conservation and Heritage convention as soon as it is rescheduled.

I am indebted to Pascal Heitzler for his input into this report which could not have been compiled without him.

NEW ZEALAND: HERITAGE ROSES REPORT

From MURRAY RADKA (murrayradka@gmail.com)

INTRODUCTION.

This year sees the tenth anniversary of the Register Team's work to secure the New Zealand collection of heritage roses. The idea for a national register was mooted in 2010 during the Dunedin celebrations for the 30th anniversary of HRNZI as a response to the rapidly dwindling supply and predicted permanent loss of many or most of our well-loved varieties. The situation was not good then, but we could not have known how much worse it was to become. Although late to the rescue, we are grateful now that we began the fight back when we did.

FOCUS 2020

While our broad goals have remained constant throughout the past ten years—i.e. find, register and save our endangered roses—our process has had to remain fluid within that period so that we might respond to changing circumstances and challenges as they arose. A narrow view and fixed mode of operation would not have worked for us nor produced the results we have achieved. With the demise of D&S Nurseries last year and the need now for Tasman Bay Roses to delete less popular varieties, the importance of the public gardens has become paramount, so that in the past twelve months our emphasis has been largely on building and cementing our connections with the managers of these public collections and developing mutually supportive relationships with them.

We began with a two-day seminar in 2019 involving the managers at the Wylde Willow Garden in Dunedin where we held full and frank discussions, allowing them to describe and discuss the problems they face on a day-to-day basis to maintain their collections

and us to explain our purpose and need for their support. The seminar achieved our goals and was an unqualified success.

THE REGISTER

Maureen Viggo, a Dunedin member, has joined our team and brings her own special expertise to the group. Two things stand out with Maureen—her passion for the roses and her knowledge and care when identifying an unknown variety. Another person we are very proud to welcome is Clare Haig, the Nelson convener and a member of the National Executive who has taken on the role of liaison between the Register and the administration. Clare and our new President/ Maria, attended our November meeting at Brandy Hill so that they might familiarise themselves with the team and with our work. We greatly appreciated the gesture and hope to welcome them back again.

Inger Gledhill continues to manage the online register. She created the original document from detailed research and her work now involves adding, deleting and responding to requests for information. Recently she went through the document deleting references to D&S Nurseries and has added Wairere Nursery. Inger has noted that since Clare's interview on National Radio she has received offers of assistance from across the country which is another indication of how our work, when understood, captures the imaginations of many people. As we find, confirm the identity and distribute lost or rare roses, Inger makes the changes to the status of these roses on the Register and also aims to make the updated version available online once a year. Our Register is unique and has created significant international interest.

ISSUES

Propagation: We have been very fortunate to secure the services of three propagators to replace Doug and Sue Pacey. Two of these are professional budders and one operator does cuttings for us. It is early days but the results so far have been excellent with a wide range of roses propagated.

Ageing: An issue that became apparent this year are the problems we face because of ageing plants and growers. When a variety becomes rare, we check the Register for people or gardens that still grow it. This year we were able to find all of the rare plants somewhere around the country but ran into problems obtaining suitably healthy bud wood or cuttings. Ours is an ageing population and the people who grow roses in large numbers tend to have had them for years and no longer bother to upgrade when a plant is old or sickly, probably because many of our members are in the older age group as well. This is true also of the public collections where many varieties have been in the ground for years and are at risk. Our seminar highlighted this issue and we are gratified that our concerns were taken on board and there are now monitoring and replacement plans in most of these gardens. The Register Team has been active in helping to identify at-risk varieties and finding replacements to support the public collections.

Ordering: At present a glitch has appeared with our ordering address. Until this is resolved members are encouraged to make their requests directly to one of the team

members or to the National Executive. If it can't be resolved a new address will be opened and members will be informed.

Anonymity: The Team has struggled with this issue. We want to acknowledge publicly the individuals who have helped us either with information or bud wood, but to do so would mean identifying the area or person who has a rare rose and many of you have asked us to keep that information private. Consequently we had to make a blanket rule that such information must be kept confidential — meaning we can only acknowledge privately and generally.

NEW RELEASES: In 2019, thanks to the generosity of one of our new propagators, we were able to gift in excess of 100 rare roses to the public collections and to various members who had expressed an interest in these varieties. While we do not expect to receive the next crop of plants for free, we do hope to make this an annual event whenever we have surplus roses from the previous year's propagation to distribute.

NEW ROSE FINDS

- “Charles Lefebvre”: Discovered by our members growing in the South Island region, this is a healthy, deep, blackish red Hybrid Perpetual.
- “Christopher Stone”: Not always easy to grow but a very beautiful example of a 1930s deep red Hybrid Tea.
- “Ethel”: an obscure and very beautiful Rambler.
- “Frühlingsschnee”: the only white form of the Frühlings (spring) roses. An earlier introduction proved not to be correct. We now have all forms of these Kordes roses except for Frühlingstag.
- *R. carolina*: the true *R. carolina* has eluded us for years but we believe this seed import to be correct.
- *R. macrophylla*: the Himalayan rose. From imported seed, this variety grows in the hills of Brandy Hill and is particularly striking when in flower but noticeable all year round with strong growth, lovely foliage and large hips.
- *R. nanothamnus*: From seed brought to New Zealand by an expedition sponsored by Lady Ann Berry. This obscure rose is a dwarf, white form of *R. webbiana* that flowers early and reliably. The foliage is ferny and delicate looking, and this rose is the Queen of our hill during its flowering season.
- *R. prattii* (white): the usual form of *R. prattii* is of slender, willowy growth with deep-pink to red flowers. Daphne discovered this variety growing in Timaru. It is a seed variation which has the growth habit of the original but is a delicate, stunningly beautiful white rose.
- *R. Roxburghii normalis*: a special clone of this lovely rose that came in as a seed.

RECOGNITION: Our 2019 Pratt Family Scholarship recipient, Ann Speight, continues her survey of Central Otago locations for historic roses. This is a massive project taking Ann to far flung, often isolated destinations for just one rose. The roses are in cemeteries, on historic farms, on the roadside, and around deserted cottages and buildings. She propagates the cuttings, collects the stories wherever possible and keeps immaculate records. I have been the lucky recipient of many of her successes

and have yet to identify many of them. One group that excites me very much are those that resemble Penzance hybrids and I suspect she may have found "Amy Robsart" and "Greenmantle".

In conclusion our team has been gratified over the year with the widespread support of the public gardens' managers and the active participation of many of our convenors who are surveying their members and districts, helping with the discovery of lost varieties and supplying us with bud wood. A number of individual members have also been very generous to the cause with bud wood. To all members, convenors and members of the public who have fed us information, supplied us with bud wood or contributed in any way please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

Ngā mihi nui.

A FEW LAST WORDS

The WFRS President Henriane de Briey and Executive Director Derek Lawrence confirm the new date for the **19th World Rose Convention**, now scheduled for **Adelaide, Australia, from October 27 to November 3, 2022**, with the hope, that we all share, that by that time the plague will have been tamed, borders again opened, and air travel resumed. Although there is not yet any firm decision as to date or locale, the next heritage rose event will probably not be until 2023, three years since the Brussels conference was cancelled.

We direct our readers to the website of the World Federation of Rose Societies (www.worldrose.org) and to its official publication **World Rose News**, edited by Steve Jones, where you can find the latest information regarding the varied WFRS activities, (rose trials, the Breeder's Club and its events) and how they may be affected by the Covid-19 worldwide epidemic. It also contains interesting articles of interest to any lover of roses. Also, there is a special section devoted to activities of the Conservation and Heritage Committee, with the current and all back issues and a search index for BAON, as well as access to the popular rose search site "Help Me Find" and the data bases for the *Europa-Rosarium* in Sangerhausen, Germany, and *La Rosarie du Val-de-Marne* in France.

Finally, as we wrote in BAON's last issue, we've decided it is time we turn over the editorship of BAON to new blood, effective with issue #24 next September 2021. If you have the desire to create a journal about the diverse world of old roses, please contact in confidence the C&HR Chairman Brigid Quest-Ritson (questritson@aol.com) and/or the Executive Director Derek Lawrence (dereklawrence@talktalk.net), or Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert and Alan Gilbert (alanimet@gmail.com)

IN MEMORIAM: MILTON NURSE

At the age of 84 and a few weeks, our dear colleague and friend to many, Milton Nurse, quietly slipped away from life just before breakfast on the 26th of March 2020. Although he had had a slight chest infection, apparently his death was not from corona virus. It seems that he simply stopped breathing and died peacefully in his bed: a very gentle ending for our most gentle of colleagues. He had spent many months in hospital with various ailments and latterly in care homes, eventually becoming wheelchair-bound and getting more absent in his mind, but he was a great favourite with his carers who all loved him for his sweet nature.

Milton had been a professional editor for many years with the industry journal *Metal Bulletin Monthly*, retiring as Associate Editor. He joined the Historic Roses Group (HRG) shortly after it was founded in 1990, and took over editing the *Historic Rose Journal* from Rosemary Foster in September 2000. In 2005, impressed by his professionalism, Brigid Quest-Ritson, chairman of the HRG, recommended him as editor of the Royal National Rose Society's resurrected but short-lived *Rose Annual*. According to Charles Quest-Ritson, "He made a good job of it and of editing the *Historic Rose Journal*, which is a thankless job, because members take it for granted and don't realise how many hours of work it requires." Doing both simultaneously was a huge undertaking. Latterly he even took over the layout and design of the *HRJ* himself, teaching himself new software to do so.



Milton at Hinton Ampner

In addition Milton masterminded the production of the revised fully illustrated HRG booklets on old roses, also supplying many of the photographs himself, as he was an enthusiastic photographer with an enormous and invaluable photo archive of rose images. Milton was also a gifted and knowledgeable writer on old roses, contributing highly readable articles for both *The Rose* magazine of the RNRS and the *Historic Rose Journal*.

Despite being modest and self-effacing to a fault, Milton was always very convivial, with natural charm and a delightful sense of humour. As well as roses he loved classical music and the arts, especially cinema, and was an active supporter of many arts organisations like the British Film Institute. A convinced Europhile and an intrepid traveller, Milton had countless friends and colleagues all over the world, as well as family members in Britain and Australia. Many rose-lovers are witnesses to Milton as



Milton at Stowe Hall

a thoughtful and quietly enthusiastic participant on the annual Historic Rose Group tours in Britain and abroad, and at many WFRS conferences. The last one he attended was in 2018 in Denmark, where, despite a terrible fall on the cobblestones of Copenhagen which had him hospitalized, the very next day Milton was up and about again, dumbfounding everyone with his bravery, spectacular bruises and undimmed cheerfulness.

As Vice-Chairman of the Historic Roses Group Milton bore witness to the progress of the HRG over the years, and as Editor of the *Journal* and HRG publications he made a huge contribution to its success. Members as well as his friends and colleagues will remember him with great affection. Fortunately, as we have Milton to thank for so many beautiful photographs of roses over the years, these lovely images will be a lasting memorial to him.

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From a longtime friend and the Historic Roses Group (<https://historicroses.org>)

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OBITUARY FOR EDDIE SANCHEZ

We want to remember Eddie Sanchez, a longtime member of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society, who passed away on April 8, 2020, after a two-week battle with the Corona Virus Covid-19. He was 74, very active and vigorous, and a long-time rose gardener, specializing in the English roses of David Austin. With his wife Sue, they had a small business maintaining other rose gardens as well as their own which had about 200 different species growing in their relatively small back yard located near Lafrenierre Park. He will be deeply missed and remembered by all those who knew and loved him.



**Eddie and Sue Sanchez
in their rose garden**

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The Editors want to note that the New Orleans area in Louisiana has one of the highest rates of infection and mortality from this epidemic in the United States. Certainly many gardeners and rose lovers have fallen ill in this worldwide pandemic, and possibly this obituary for one, Eddie Sanchez, can remind us of the many other unknown victims of this coronavirus. Our thanks to Leo Watermeier of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society.