

# ROSE LETTER



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*Rosa hugonis*

# ROSE LETTER

## The Heritage Roses Group

©

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## Ménage, Lelieur, and 'Rose du Roi'

**Darrell g.h. Schramm**

In March of 1771, Jean-Baptiste Ménage (1744-1832) bought the ancient Chateau de Soucelles. Situated in a region of France once inhabited by Celts, it is located fifteen kilometers north of Angers. The castle having fallen into disrepair, Ménage in 1776 began reconstruction, which included additions such as extensions to the chateau, a temple with Ionic columns, a chapel, and a large dovecot which still stands. It was probably

during this time of renovation that he began his famous rose collection.

Ménage became the mayor of the village of Soucelles with its 400 or so citizens (today it is home to about 2600 people), serving from 1808 to 1830. Some time after Napoleon was exiled in 1815, he was granted the title of Count.

From 1790 to 1810 he became renowned for owning one of the first important rose collections in France. This, by the way, was before Empress Josephine established her garden; she did not buy Chateau de la Malmaison until 1799 and did not begin collecting roses until 1804. The famous rose breeder Jean-Pierre Vibert obviously felt that Ménage should not be forgotten, and in 1847 named a rose for him: 'Ménage'<sub>2</sub>

We are fortunate to know the names of some of the roses in his collection. Jules Gravereaux, around 1900 while compiling his list of roses that he believed were grown by Empress Josephine, came across an inventory of roses grown at Chateau Soucelles between 1790 and 1810, a list that is now lost. In his book catalogue *La Malmaison: Les Roses de L'Imperatrice Joséphine*, Gravereaux names fourteen different roses known to have been in Ménage's collection.

Five of those were Gallicas. Four were Chinas: 'Bengale Angevin', 'Bengale Bichonne', 'Bengale Cent Feuilles', and 'Bengale de Cels'; three were Centifolias: 'Nympe', 'Parure des Vierges' and 'Unique Rose'; one was a Moss: 'Mousseuse Blanche Nouvelle'. The most important one for our



**Chateau Soucelles**

consideration was a Damask Perpetual (though Gravereaux does acknowledge that it could be a Portland): 'Rose du Roi.' This last rose raises a pertinent question, for the usual dates given for 'Rose du Roi' are 1819, 1815, and 1812. As I've written elsewhere, the rose was growing in the royal gardens of Saint-Cloud in 1812 and called at that time 'Rose Lelieur'.

In *The Rose Amateur's Guide*, Thomas Rivers wrote that "this fine rose was raised from seed, in 1812, in the gardens of the palace of Saint-Cloud, then under the direction of Le Comte Lelieur." He goes on to declare it was reputedly raised from the seed of *Rosa Portlandica*. Jennifer Potter somewhat echoes Rivers' information in her 2010 book, asserting, "Le Comte Lelieur (or strictly speaking, his gardener, M. Souchet) bred a seedling at the imperial flower garden of Sèvres in the Parc St Cloud around 1812." First grown in the Napoleonic era, this

rose when Louis XVIII ascended the throne after Bonaparte's defeat, had its name changed to 'Rose du Roi'. Or, as we shall entertain, was it changed *back* to 'Rose du Roi'?

Because of the confusion surrounding the provenance and dates of this rose, it behooves us to sally down a crooked side path. Three other roses named 'Rose du Roi' were extant before and after the Damask Perpetual or Portland under consideration. One was named by Philip Miller in his essay on ornamental trees and shrubs from the seventh edition of his *Dictionary* in 1759. The description is vague but implies it was a rose from Holland. Could it be the same rose Ménége was growing? Why not? But if so, why did he not mention its distinctive feature, its recurrent bloom? Louis Noisette mentioned a bone-colored Damask named 'Rose du Roi' in his 1825 catalogue, and Prevost describes a pink Gallica (becoming lilac pink with age) in his catalogue of 1829. Clearly, these latter two roses are not to be confounded with the 'Rose du Roi' of Ménége or Lelieur. (On the other hand, Prevost also describes a bright red Portland of that name, more vivid in its repeat-flowering, which describes my own rose and the one under discussion.)

Now, if Rivers is correct, the rose is definitely a Portland. And if Potter is correct, did Count Ménége give the seedling to Count Lelieur? Or was it a cutting of the rose he gave, one that Lelieur nursed and named for himself until it was renamed—once again—for the king? At any rate, here we learn that 'Rose du Roi' was in



existence as early as 1810! This lovely rose, of all those thus far named, is still with us today, more than 205 years old! Personally, it remains one of my favorites.

As for Count Jean-Baptiste Lelieur (1765-1849), being an intermediary twixt Ménéage and King Louis XVIII, he requires more space in this account. As Chief Administrator of Imperial Nurseries, Gardens, and Parks under Napoleon, he created the Royal Flower Garden in Sevres. One of the first propagators of the dahlia, he also had a penchant for roses. Francois Joyaux informs us that he published a pamphlet dedicated to Empress Josephine in 1811, noting that he intended to create new rose varieties in tribute to her. Indeed he did hybridize a number of roses which he grew among the collection at Versailles.

Among these were the Gallica ‘Grandes Feuilles’; two Damasks, ‘Quatre-Saisons Lelieur’ (aka ‘Damas Lelieur’) and ‘Douce Mèlie’; four Chinas, ‘Gracilis’, ‘Mèlie’, ‘Bengale Lelieur’, and ‘Purple Rose of Lelieur’; an Alba ‘Carnée’, and an Alba-Spinosissima hybrid ‘Catel’. More importantly, he also *renamed* the Alba rose of 1823 first known as ‘Josephine de Beauharnais’, bred by Vibert in honor of the Empress’s granddaughter, crown princess of Sweden. But in honor of his own wife, Lelieur changed the name to ‘Belle de Segur’, creating a confusion that has lasted nearly two centuries.

That source of confusion may well raise a suspicion. If Gravereaux is to be trusted, and I believe he is, then ‘Rose du Roi’ was growing at Chateau Soucelles no later than 1810 and perhaps even five or ten years before that. Did Count Lelieur actually acquire a seedling, a cutting, or even a shrub from Count Ménéage and then change its name to ‘Count Lelieur’ as he had done to Vibert’s rose?

To complicate matters, Gravereaux further informs us that this ‘Rose du Roi’ was described by Dumont de Courset. Georges Louis Marie Dumont de Courset (1746-1824) was a French agronomist and

botanist. At his chateau he installed a huge botanic garden with a wide diversity of plant species, about 3600, in fact, widely known in France. (Perhaps while in exile Louis XVIII had visited it? Certainly a



Dumont de Courset

possibility.) De Courset is remembered for his multi-volume work of descriptive botany of about 8,700 plants, foreign and indigenous. The first edition was published in installments from 1802 to 1805. Since the second edition did not begin to appear until 1811, and ‘Rose du Roi’ was blooming at Chateau Soucelles in 1810, the description Gravereaux refers to would have come from a volume between 1802 and 1805.

Consequently, that would mean ‘Rose du Roi’s’ date of introduction is 1804 at the very latest. Gravereaux does not note a difference between Courset’s rose and Josephine’s rose, so they must have been the same. Given these facts and this logic, the most we can state, however, is that the date of this rose is *pre-1805*.

And yet . . . and yet, it is altogether possible that the rose Courset described, which is the rose that Ménage and Lelieur grew, is the same rose Philip Miller named and somewhat vaguely described in 1759. Just a possibility.

We left the gardens at Soucelles having listed a number of roses growing there. The other roses were Gallicas, the most popular roses of the time: ‘Achille’, ‘Estelle’, ‘L’Empereur’, ‘Assemblage des Beautés’, and ‘Duc de Guiche’. The latter two, like ‘Rose du Roi’, continue to be sold today. And like that of ‘Rose du Roi’, the dates generally given for them need to be corrected as well, before or *circa* 1810.

Deservedly, Empress Josephine receives the attention and credit

for stimulating interest in roses and rose breeding, but there are rosarians who assume she was the first to create a garden flaunting its roses. Yet, and here we consider only France (for a much earlier rose collection existed and still exists in Wilhelmshöhe, Germany), Admiral Bougainville and his wife Madame de Bougainville also, in 1805, with the help of Christophe Cochet, had created a renowned garden with roses. Similarly but even earlier, so had Jean-Baptiste Ménéage. Credit to whom credit is due.



Assemblage des Beutes

## **Celebration of Old Roses!**

Sunday, May 21, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Over 100 feet of beautiful roses on display! Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses. **Rose experts will be available to answer questions.** Vendors will sell crafts, perennials, china, books, greeting cards, calendars, honey, jam, jewelry, & clothing all inspired by roses. Tool sharpening on site.

**Talks and demonstrations are scheduled.**

### **Children are welcome!**

Children will receive a free rose plant (while supplies last).

Admission is FREE! Food and soft Drinks.

[www.celebrationofoldroses.org](http://www.celebrationofoldroses.org)

EL CERRITO COMMUNITY CENTER on Moeser at Ashbury. Take Hwy 80 or 580 to El Cerrito, Central Ave exit. Go east of Ashbury, then left to Moeser.





## **Mrs. Denny's Rose**

**Margaret Nelson**

Louisa Boren Denny is credited with bringing and planting the first seeds of the 'Sweetbrier' rose into the Seattle area. This rose is *Rosa rubiginosa*, also known as the 'Eglantine' rose of Shakespeare's England. The name has also been spelled 'Sweetbriar.'

The 'Sweetbrier' rose was introduced to the North American continent from Europe. Its bright orange-red fruits called rose hips contain Vitamin C and E and are considered to have medicinal properties. Rose hip tea could be used as an astringent, carminative or diuretic. Rose hip oil was effective in healing burns and skin irritations. Rose plants also had food value. Their young leaves and petals were used in salads. Children would eat the fresh shoots as a spring treat. The petals could be made into rose conserves and rose "tobacco", a colonial American recipe of equal weights of chopped rose petals and brown sugar mixed together, stirred daily for several weeks and then used as a jam. Rose

hips were used in teas, soups, stews and jams where their high vitamin content added to the food's nutrition.

'Sweetbrier' foliage is distinct in smelling refreshingly of green apples when brushed. The single, pink, five-petal and very sweet, fragrant flowers bloom in the springtime. Bees flock to them in droves.

"Sweet brier" really describes this rose. Resistant to disease and insect pests, it has formidable, downward pointing, hooked prickles on its stems. This made it a good hedge plant to keep intruders out or livestock in. A species rose, it can be either grown true from seed or propagated from volunteer runners, as occasionally its more horizontal roots will send up new plants.

Plants would have been hard to keep alive on the long wagon trip to Oregon Territory. Some pioneers were said to successfully transport rose cuttings in potatoes on shorter trips. The rose hips which Louisa brought would have been dry, orange-red or black (after being outside all winter) fruity capsules, sized between a kidney bean and a grape, needed no water and been very portable. Seven or eight could be tied into the corner of a piece of cloth and kept with the other crop and flower seeds the Dennys brought with them.

Why did Mrs. Denny bring these rose hips with her? Louisa's mother, Susan Boren, was a widow in Cherry Grove (now called Cedar), Illinois, when she married widower John Denny. In 1851, the extended Boren and Denny families decided to travel together by wagon train along the Oregon Trail to the Portland area. Some of the men walked on from there to Puget Sound; the rest of the party, traveling by ship, joined them later at Alki, now West Seattle.

According to *Four Wagons West* by Roberta Frye Watt, in April 1851, a few days before leaving Illinois forever, Louisa visited her close friend Parmelia Dunlap. Realizing that they might never meet again, Louisa was distressed about leaving her friend. As a good-bye present, Parmelia

picked ‘Sweetbrier’ hips from the Dunlap garden for Louisa to take with her to plant at her new home in the Pacific Northwest. The roses which grew from them would remind her of her former home and friends in Illinois.

In 1853, more than a year after reaching Alki, Louisa married her step-brother David T. Denny, and they moved to their own 320 acre farm, located in the area, now the Seattle Center. There, Louisa planted her rose hips, growing roses very different from the three native rose species: *Rosa nutkana* (‘Nootka Rose’), *Rosa pisocarpa* (‘Swamp Rose’) and *Rosa gymnocarpa* (‘Wood Rose’ or ‘Bristly Rose’) that were here. None of those have the fragrant green-apple smelling foliage and distinctive sweet smell of the ‘Sweetbrier’ flowers. Because her rose produced runners, Louisa was able to be generous in sharing these juvenile plants with other settlers. She also had more to plant herself, and the older settlers called her the “Sweetbrier Bride.” Louisa’s original ‘Sweetbrier’ plant continued to grow at the site of their first cabin, at the western end of Denny Way, Seattle, until it was ripped out in the 1930s to erect a commercial building.

The Dennys moved house many times throughout their marriage, and each time Louisa was said to have moved roses with her. Because she transplanted the roses around their properties, descendants of the



original ‘Sweetbrier’ could have grown around the original location of the “Denny Cabin” (now moved to Federal Way, Washington) when that

building was used as a real estate office at the corner of Queen Anne and Republican Streets in Seattle.

You can still see descendants of Mrs. Denny's original rose blooming in the Woodland Park Rose Garden and on the Denny gravesite in the Evergreen-Waschelli Cemetery, Seattle. You might speculate that the 'Sweetbrier' roses in the Point Defiance Rose Garden, Tacoma, Washington, might be other descendants of that original rose, placed there to remember and honor the Dennys. In 2015, direct descendants of Mrs. Denny's 'Sweetbrier' were planted at Federal Way's historic Denny Cabin on the grounds of the Wetlands of West Hylebos Park and at Powell's Wood Garden. Another has been planted at the Soos Creek Botanical Garden, Auburn.

When the Seattle Opera House time capsule was opened in 2002, included was a box with some seeds, branches and leaves collected in 1928 from Mrs. Denny's rose and now preserved in the collection of the Museum of History and Industry, Seattle. There is an unsigned note on the bottom of the box which reads as follows, "My usual morning walk is from the hill above us down Third Avenue to the office but today I made a detour to where Denny Way drops over the bluff to tidewater. There young David T. Denny built a small log cabin on his new donation land claim.

"He and Louisa Boren celebrated their marriage on January 23, 1853 and it was the first wedlock in King County between white people. The young couple at once moved into their first home in Seattle. There the bride planted sweetbrier seeds and this morning the air was redolent with the fragrances of myriads of tiny blossoms on the mass of luxuriant foliage that has succeeded the parent shrubs. Here are a few of their sprays which we reverently enclose as a floral tribute to the memory of the girl wife who planted their progenitors nearly eighty years ago."

The museum also holds a set of 1903 china made to celebrate the 50th

anniversary of the Dennys' 1853 wedding. There are two sizes of plates in the set. The larger plates have a drawing of Louisa and David Denny in an Indian canoe, paddling to Olympia to get their marriage license. The smaller plates have a sketch of their first cabin, on the bluff on what is now Denny Way in Seattle, with a view across the Sound to the Olympic Mountains. Both plates have five-petal roses and rose foliage drawn around the borders, continuing the 'Sweetbrier' theme of Mrs. Louisa Boren Denny. There is also a cup with a drawing of a sprig of flowering 'Sweetbrier' on one side and a sketch of Louisa Boren on the other.



When you travel through Seattle neighborhoods in the spring, look for the tell-tale five-petal pink roses with a wonderful, sweet scent and foliage that smells like green apples. If you find these, you may be looking at a direct descendent of Mrs. Denny's rose.

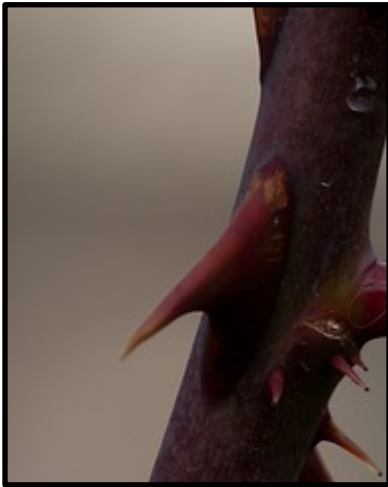
In 2015, Mrs. Denny's rose, through the efforts of the Historical Society of Federal Way members like Diana Noble Gulliford and Bert Ross and the Federal Way Parks Department's Jason Gerwen and staff, was finally planted in Federal Way's first "historical rose bed," just to the east of the Denny Cabin. When it blooms, it will serve to remind us of the many pioneers, like Louis Boren Denny, who carried plant-remembrances of family and friends left behind to their new, far-away homes.

This is an abridged version of that previously published in *Heritage Roses Northwest Newsletter*, July 2016, Margaret Nelson, editor.

# The “Rose Gardener’s Disease”: A Personal Experience

Judy Miller

As avid explorers of the old and forgotten roses, I was invited by another rose seeker to investigate a private area in the Hylebos Wetlands. Some roses had been collected previously. However, as we searched among the mounds of roses, we began to find foliage of



different shape and color. Cuttings were taken to try to propagate, eventually to discern identity. All well and good until a very large cane with prodigious thorns (prickles seems inadequate) came crashing down, stabbing deeply into the joint of one of my fingers. The cane sprung back, taking the whole thorn away with it. Like most avid rose gardeners, I get gauged, poked, scratched and sometimes mauled by my cherished plants. Never having had a

problem in decades of these battle wounds, I didn’t pay much mind other than to clean the wound and provide basic antiseptic care.

All seemed normal till Day 10. Suddenly, the finger became hot, swollen, and the color was a ghastly combination of red and blue... accompanied by substantial pain. Alex Wright suggested immediate medical attention to determine if it might be cellulitis (bacterial) or sporotrichosis (fungal) infection. The following day I did seek treatment and was immediately put on two antibiotics to treat bacterial infection and itraconazole as the fungicidal treatment. Subsequently, bloodwork and an MRI were done to determine if the infection was in the bone itself. The difference in treatment length is commonly one year if it is

into the bone. Mine was shown in the MRI to be within the cartilage only and not the bone! Treatment was reduced to a six-month run, pending no new flare-ups or changes.

A little about the disease: Sporotrichosis (commonly called “Rose gardener’s disease”) is caused by an infection of the fungus *Sporothrix schenckii*. Usually, the skin is the primary infection site; however, other forms can infect the lymph system, lungs, joints and bones, and the brain. Gardeners, as well as farmers and agricultural workers, are the likeliest candidates, along with cats and horses. The spores are naturally occurring in soil, hay, sphagnum moss and plants. Infected cats can transmit to humans. Airborne spores can also invade the lungs. Most frequent infections occur through small cuts or punctures to the skin.

The trickiness of the infection is that it can begin to manifest within the first 3 weeks up to 12 weeks. It is easy to ignore, which seems to be its greatest danger. The longer it goes untreated the more severe the consequences can become. Delayed treatment can lead to skin ulcerations that can become chronic. Bone and lymph infections can lead to a need for amputation and to brain death.

I once knew a lovely rosarian associated with the Carlo Fineshi Rose Garden in Italy whose arm had been amputated to the elbow as a result of a “fungal infection” that didn’t seem so bad but eventually got worse. By the time she began treatment, much damage had occurred. Until now, I thought it was a very rare possibility. My infectious disease doctor said that it really isn’t that rare, and the key is to seek treatment at the very onset of symptoms.

Happy rose hunting with the shield motto, “forewarned is forearmed”!

Previously published in the Winter 2017 issue of the *Heritage Roses Northwest Newsletter*, Volume 26 Issue 1. Margaret Nelson, Editor

## IDENTIFYING A MYSTERY ROSE

**Darrell g.h. Schramm**

Suppose you were hiking across a meadow or a draw between two hills and discovered the foundation of what may have been a house, then suddenly spotted yellowish flowers growing on a large bush. Nearing it, you recognize the plant as a Tea rose. The lanceolate leaves, the twiggy stems and branches, the drooping flower heads, the delicate scent—it's, well, all so obvious that it's a Tea.

You know that it is not 'Devoniensis', it isn't 'Etoile de Lyon', nor is it 'Alliance Franco-Russe' nor 'Blumenschmidt', nor 'Perle des Jardins', and certainly not 'Safrano'. After all, on closer inspection, it does exhibit some pink on the edges of the petals. Apparently it's a long, lost Tea rose. If only you had on hand a descriptive reference to help identify this rose, or at least to narrow its identity to a few possibilities.

Unexpectedly, a strange wind from out of the past blows several torn pages at your feet. Picking them up, you see that they are from an old book. The first frayed page coincidentally is a short list of eight obscure tea roses, all rather yellow with pink margins. Ah! The goddess Flora has heard your silent plea. You read: 'Azeline Morel', a cream, yellow, and carmine rose with pink edges, semi-double to double, mostly solitary, very vigorous, 1906.

'Cecile Charles', a white, rose, salmon, and yellow blend Tea with pink edges, pink center, large, double, 'Mme Falcot' a parent, 1907.



Devoniensis



Perle des Jardins



Safrano



'Marquise de Chaponnay', a butter yellow blended with some salmon and rose coloring, a Tea with pink edges, full (26-40 petals), small leaves, 1897.

'[Mme La] Baronne Berge', a yellow and rose-colored blend Tea with pink edges, very double, very fragrant, 1892.

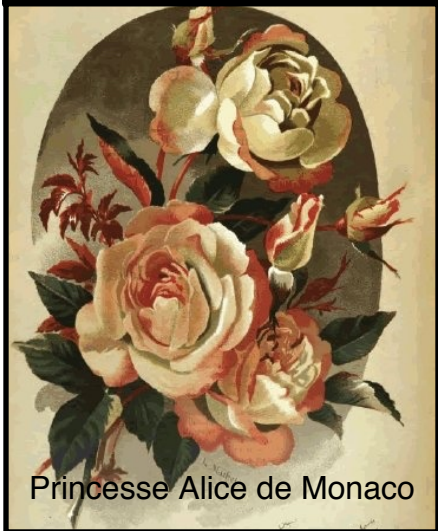


'Princess Beatrice', a Tea, yellow with gold-yellow center and pink edges, full. Buds stay long closed even after cut. 1887.

'Princesse Alice de Monaco', a light yellow and cream Tea with rosy edges, a peachy center, double, mostly solitary, 1893.

'Princess de Monaco', a light yellow and pink Tea with pink reverse petals and pink outer petals, mostly solitary, a climber, 1892.

'Souvenir de Laurent Guillot', a peach-yellow, rose, and carmine Tea with pink edges, full, extra vigorous, 1894 or 95.



Well, you think, that should be of some help in the process of elimination. But you are curious. On the next sheet of windswept papers, you read of somewhat similar Tea roses but with an apricot blend of colors:

'Emmanuel Geibel' (1897); 'Fortuna' (1902); 'Lady Dorothea' (1898); 'Lena' (1906) and 'Raoul Chauvry' (1896) both apricot and yellow but 'Lena' producing sprays of seven to nine blossoms; 'Longworth Beauty' (1902) and 'Marquise de Pontois Pontcarre' (1894) both apricot and rose; 'Mme Edouard Helfinbein' (1893), 'Mrs. Campbell Hall' (1908), and 'Souvenir de

Jeanne Chabaud', all three apricot, yellow, and carmine; and 'Mme Gamon' (1905), fragrant and floriferous, apricot, red, and yellow.

If the Tea rose you have discovered should be variable with the seasons, this list may come in handy. Time and study will tell.

These two lists seem to suffice for the moment. A quick glance at the

other ruffled pages shows lists of obscure Tea roses that contain white in their coloration or mauve or fawn or copper, or predominantly red to pink shades. Pink! What of that rose you chanced across nine days ago, also a Tea? You had thought it might be one of the mystery roses you've read about—"Sorocco House Lavender" or "Fiddletown Cherry" or "Huntington Pink Tea" or even "J. E. Murphy's Pink Tea", though that one is somewhat mottled and muddled. "McClinton Tea"?



And what rose might one of those be? The commonly found and still available 'Mme Lambert'? But it's so impetuously variable in color. You glance at another page, this of pink obscure and forgotten Tea roses: 'Anna Charton', 'E. V. Kesselstatt', 'Letty Coles', 'Lucy Carnegie', 'Mme Edward Vicars', 'Mme H. de Potworowska', 'Mme Victor Caillet', 'Nelly Johnstone', 'Queen Olga of Greece'. By now your head is swimming with names. This kind of study takes a dedicated rose rustler or rose historian, if not a botanist.

You know that you might locate additional help by perusing HelpMeFind online, Brent Dickerson's revised, second edition of *The Old Rose Advisor*, and T. Geoffrey Henslow's *The Rose Encyclopedia* of 1922. And then, after some elimination and guesses based on descriptions and other commentaries, you intend to send photos of the rose to several experts. Be sure, you tell yourself as you reach for your camera, to take photos—in addition to the flower—of its inflorescence, the sepals, the receptacle, the foliage, stipules, canes, prickles, and the whole plant. And don't forget to sniff for fragrance. The fun begins.



## THE ROSE ON OUR COVER: ROSA HUGONIS

**Darrell g.h. Schramm**

Father Hugo would not have known what he was about to suffer and endure shortly after he had asked his Italian missionary friend Fr. Giuseppe Giraldi to send the wild rose seeds to England.

The flower was unknown, at least to Western eyes, growing in the wilds of east-central China where Father Hugo had chanced upon it in the mountains of the town Shang Xian, a little east of where he was stationed in Xi'an. A lovely flower borne solitary on short stems, it was—and is—of an uncommon golden yellow or creamy gold. The roses appear silky, some of them somewhat crinkled like crepe. The whole plant grows as tall as eight feet, mounding even wider. The plant develops rigid, erect but sometimes arching canes with purplish stems sporting both long, straight prickles and short, small bristles. Overall the foliage looks somewhat feathery, its five to eleven leaflets, both elliptic and obovate, always finely serrate, suggesting a fern. The peduncles generally extend as long as the leaves. Leaves and receptacle are

glabrous; the hips small, naked, globose, and blackish red. The rose and plant are somewhat similar to *Rosa xanthina*.

In 1899, after Father Hugh Scallan had collected the seeds of this species rose and had them sent to England, they were raised at Kew and bloomed in 1904. It was found that the rose grows well on its own roots and in poor soil. And it is one of the first wild roses to bloom in spring. Also known as 'Father Hugo's Rose' and 'The Golden Rose of China', it was described and named by the botanist Hemsley as *Rosa Hugonis*.

Father Hugh Scallan was born John Aloysius Scallan in south Dublin in 1851. He studied in France, and in 1874 joined the Franciscan Order in Belgium where he was given the name Hugh, or Pater Hugo, on being ordained in 1882. For four years he taught in Manchester, England, and then set out as a missionary for central China. His base was the city of Xi'an in Shaanxi (Shensi) province, apparently where missionary Giraldi was stationed as well. The two friends would collect plants and seeds together, then send them to London.

Around the time or shortly after the *R. Hugonis* seeds were mailed, the Boxer Rebellion erupted. So named by the British, the uprising was fomented by anti-imperialist Chinese militia groups who resented and feared the encroachment of European nations, Japan, and the U. S. Horrific attacks occurred in Beijing, Tianjin, and in Taijuan of Shanxi province, adjacent to Shaanxi province. Massacres ensued, with many beheadings, throughout these cities and their areas. At least 15,000 converts to Christianity were murdered in the northern provinces alone. In July 1900, foreigners and some 2000 Christians were massacred in Shanxi province, including 38 to 51 Catholic priests and nuns (accounts vary), mostly Franciscans but also some Jesuits. In Beijing about 30,000 Chinese Catholics, about 2000 Chinese Protestants and over 200 Russian Orthodox Christians were killed before international forces from western Europe, Russia, Japan, and the United States put down the tumult and slaughter.

Father Hugo, though not residing in the regions where the worst of the fighting and massacres occurred, was near enough to be suddenly taken captive and severely tortured by an anti-Christian mob. Not only did he survive, but once released he also determined to remain faithful

to his calling and continued as a missionary. In 1912, China became a republic. In 1928 Father Hugo died.

Yet his name lives on in several *R. hugonis* hybrids, all singles: 'Cantabrigiensis' of 1922, 'Dr. E. M. Mills' introduced in 1925, 'Pteragonis' c.1938, 'Red Wing' c.1950, 'Albert Edwards' 1961 and 'Springtime', 1984. The potential to use *R. hugonis* as a parent even more is a promise still to be fulfilled.

### IMAGE CREDITS

Pages 2, 7, 23-27, 28 & back cover . . . Darrell Schramm

Page 4 . . . Redouté

Pages 8, 10, & 12 . . . A. Nelson

Page 15 . . . top: Paxton's *Magazine of Botany* 1841

mid: Jenkins' *Roses & Rose Culture*, 1892

bottom: Wm Paul's *The Rose Garden*, 1848

Page 16 . . . top: from *Rosenzeitung* 1893

bottom: from *Rosenzeitung* 1894

Page 17 . . . I apologize for having lost the source of this photo; if known, please inform.--*The Editor*

Page 18 & front cover: Alfred Parsons in *The Genus Rosa*

Page 29 . . . Gail Patrice

Back cover . . . 'Duc de Guiche' a rose in Count

Ménage's garden between 1790 and 1810

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

You are invited to attend **Heritage Roses Northwest**'s spring meeting to be held at 1:00 PM, Sunday, April 30, 2017 at the Auburn Library, Auburn, WA. Contact [oldrosen@gmail.com](mailto:oldrosen@gmail.com) for more information.

May 18-20. **Heritage Rose Foundation** conference, Fredericksburg, VA. \$210. Pre-conference tour on May 17, to Center for Historic Plants, the Leonie Bell Noisette garden, and Montecello, \$85. For more information re: hotels, meals, and registration, visit online at <http://heritagerosefoundation.org>. or contact Connie at [c.hilker@comcast.net](mailto:c.hilker@comcast.net)

May 21. **Celebration of Old Roses**. El Cerrito, CA. (See page 7 for details.)

**San Diego Old Town Rose Garden:** Please join us to help prune and tidy up our rose garden in Old Town. Our group planted the garden in early 1990 at Casa de Wrightington, a home originally built by Juana Machado and her husband Thomas Wrightington in the mid 1840s. The garden is planted with roses bred from before 1850, that may have grown in the area at that time. This date was based on documentation from a ship's manifest showing that 100 varieties of roses from Europe arrived at the port of Los Angeles in 1853. In the past few years we've added more roses representing nine different classes, including many found roses, for a total of 42 plants.

Have fun while learning about these beautiful living antiques. Bring gloves, disinfected pruners, sun hats and water. Join us at lunch afterwards in one of the restaurants in the Plaza.

Directions: The garden is located behind the Tafoya and Son shop in the Casa de Wrightington building at the south end of the main plaza. It will be directly on your left as you stand facing the front of the Park Headquarters building. Parking is in the lot behind the shop which can be reached via Congress Street. For more info contact Becky Yianilos at [bekizoo@aol.com](mailto:bekizoo@aol.com) or call 760-822-8812.

Board member **Pam Greenwald** has consignments with eight Ace Hardware stores in Jacksonville who will begin offering Angel Gardens' old garden roses. One store in Orlando and another in Gainesville are already carrying some of the nursery's old roses.

Board member **Alice Flores** reminds our readers that "all of the HRG work is done by volunteers and that is one reason subscriptions are still affordable." She adds kudos to "our hard-working publishers and editor!!"



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## THREE GENTLEMEN OF VALLEJO

**Darrell g.h. Schramm**

Monsieur Boncenne, Monsieur Jules Lemaître, and Monsieur de Morand were three French gentlemen commemorated by roses named for them. All three roses are Hybrid Perpetuals, all three are more than 125 years old, and all three grow healthily in my Vallejo garden.

Not surprisingly, these are three French roses ignored by renowned English rosarians Graham Thomas, Peter Harkness, and Peter Beales but also slighted by such worthies as Roy Shepherd, Gerd Krussmann, T. W. Sanders and numerous other writers on roses—as if they didn't like men, or at least Frenchmen. Was homophobia at subtle play? Or was it Hybrid Perpetual dislike? Perhaps it was just an unawareness of the rose. Even that great collector of Hybrid Perpetuals from the 1930s to the 1950s, Howard Tenner of Connecticut, mentions only 'M. Boncenne.' Perhaps nurseries did not carry the other two? Perhaps they were not much available beyond continental Europe?

Roses that grow as stalwartly, earnestly, and beautifully as these three deserve no dismissal nor disregard. The flight and fickleness of fashion and



fame should influence their ornament and flourishing in the garden not at all. Here I take up their cause.

True, 'M. Boncenne' may fumble and stumble into a fungus now and then, but he shrugs it off as mere inconvenience for a tall, dark, and handsome



rose. Indeed, he flaunts flowers of purplish dark red—almost maroon—large, cupped, very full with 78 petals. The outer rim of petals and the central petals are usually a paler color, the whole becoming a lighter red in summer. He shows a wide eyelash of stamens as though trying to stare down the sun. The sepals are simple. And though some leaflets are more oval and less pointed at the apex than the others, these serrated leaflets are generally ovate-acuminate. The stipule tends to be wider in the center than at base or top, exhibiting long

auricles. Canes show large, decurved prickles. The plant stands erect and compact, preferring partial shade. Although the foliage can be susceptible to fungus, the blossoms' beauty compensates for that weakness of character by offering both a pleasant scent and a soft sheen of magenta on their outer petals that generally form a nearly perfect wreath of loveliness.

Granted that an 1867 Hybrid Perpetual by Jean Cherpin, a pink rose with a lighter pink reverse and edges, somewhat mottled, was named 'Ernest Boncenne' for his son, this rose seems to have been named for Felix Modeste Boncenne (1806-1889).

Born in the town of Fontenay-le-Comte in the lower Poitou region of France, Felix Boncenne married in 1835 and a year later with his wife produced a son. Belonging to one of the most esteemed families of Poitou, he served as a judge in his home town. Not only was he the president of the local horticultural society (his son succeeded him), but he also wrote several works on horticulture. In 1864 Jean-Pierre Liabaud named this rose for him.

In 1890 Jacques Vigneron raised from the Bourbon "Mme Isaac Pereire" a seedling he named 'Monsieur Jules Lemaître'. Why it has been classified a Hybrid Perpetual is unclear. Indeed, very little has been written about this rose at all. Certainly its leaf shape and texture suggest a Bourbon, as

do its slender and flexible canes.

Though *Journal des Roses* describes its canes as upright, they do not remain so after growing to three and a half feet or so. The slender canes tend to bow with the weight of foliage and flowers—like many a Bourbon rosebush—inviting the gardener to peg them as they lengthen. Indeed, if not trained or pegged, these wands can become interestingly sinuous and serpentine. While the older canes, like many an old man, lose their prickles and become grey and bald, the feisty younger canes, slender and eager to push out into the world, sport straight prickles from the very bottom upward; even the pedicels grow bristles.

The leaves, large and a deep, dark green, display leaflets mostly ovate-obtuse, some almost rotund, but always serrate, with an occasional leaflet subacute.

The tonality (or overall coloration) of ‘M. Jules Lemaître’ is a vivid carmine-crimson, the circumference more carmine-pink than the rest of the flower. The lovely crimson petals—more than a hundred—are puckered, rucked, and ruffled, layer upon layer, into a circular cushion to shape this outstanding rose. Yes, it emits a pleasing perfume. And the plant is recurrent and floriferous. As the song goes, Who could ask for anything more?

Unfortunately, while it still remains in the Vintage Rose Collection and grows in my garden, only Rosenkwekerij de Bierkreek in The Netherlands may still sell it.

The rose was named for the French writer Francois Elie Jules Lemaître (1853-1914). Mostly remembered today for his unconventional, idiosyncratic style of prose—witty, broadly knowledgable, original, insightful and accessible—he wrote plays, short stories, poetry, and literary criticism. Though he became a university professor in Grenoble, he resigned after a year to devote his life to writing. For a time he served as the drama critic of two French journals. His collection of lectures in publication was well received. The French Academy honored him



Monsieur Jules Lemaître

with membership in 1896. He died at age 61.

‘Monsieur de Morand’ is the third gentleman among my roses. Introduced by the Widow Schwartz in 1891, he is a tall, vigorous Hybrid Perpetual, not without some eccentricity. Incidentally, the Widow in the previous year had dedicated a red Hybrid Perpetual to a ‘Mme Cecile Morand’, perhaps his wife? And the year after ‘M. de Morand’, she bred a ‘Baronne J. B. de Morand’ Tea rose, cream or yellowish white with pink undertones. Was it a coincidence that the Widow Schwartz exhibited nearly



Monsieur de Morand

500 rose varieties during the 1891 Exposition of Lyon in the Place Morand?

‘M. de Morand’, however, seems to have been named for a horticulturist who also had a grapevine, *Vitis morandi*, named for him. As a horticulturist, Raymond de Morand was the Chief gardener at the Asylum of Orne in Alençon in the latter part of the 19th century. As a member of the National Horticultural Society from the department of Orne, he exhibited chrysanthemums and ornamental shrubs at several shows and won several medals for his entries. He may or may not be the same Morand who, according to *Chronique Horticole* in 1907, was a nurseryman at Faux-Fresnay, a village in the northeast of France.

The rose plant is svelte and erect, producing large, healthy blooms during *all* seasons in California. The flowers excel in endurance, dependability, bloom form and color, disease resistance, and fragrance. This is one of those

roses I must inhale for its delicious scent each time I pass it. Does any rose, I wonder, aside from those of Damask perfume, surpass it?

The leaves are sharply toothed and large, though rather sparse at the lower ends of the sturdy canes. The plant's one flaw is the nakedness of the lower half of the canes. Canes and stems boast no prickles, however—one of those happily “thornless” roses.



**Reverse side of 'M. de Morand' flower, showing the sixth sepal that developed into five leaflets**

It is the leaves and sepals, though, that address a peculiar phenomenon. Occasionally, like Descemet's old Gallica 'Belle Helene', a calyx or two will grow a sixth sepal, one much larger than the others and much more foliaceous. It may even become a large leaflet. An even more eccentric and rare phenomenon of this rose is the sixth sepal growing into a large, full-fledged leaf with five large leaflets. Such peculiarities of trait make 'M de Morand', in my mind, a prized and special rose, not to be ignored or forgotten but treasured.

As for the blossom form and color, in its first open stages the larger portion of the flower forms a perfect circle with the guard petals extended and relaxed, all of a carmine pink. As this long-holding rose matures, that large circle of petals becomes swirled or even quartered, all of a lilac pink tinged with silver. The sometimes ruffled central petals may exhibit a darker shade of purplish pink,

I first bought this rose near Petaluma at a live auction and garden party in honor of the Loubert family who own the famous heritage nursery in France. I did not think it too much to pay \$75.00 for it. Never have I been disappointed.

Ah, what beauty Krussmann, Thomas, Harkness, and Beales overlooked, perhaps unwittingly, or did not recognize. I, on the other hand, have been bountifully enriched by these three gentlemen in my garden. Occasionally we sit together over afternoon cocktails.

## From Our Readers

Dear Darrell:

Shame on you for flaunting this gorgeous rose ['Rev. D'Ombraïn'] in front of my nose and then I find out it is (apparently) not available in the US. HMF lists only European nurseries that carry it, but does show it as growing in several gardens in California, including the former Vintage Gardens.

Couldn't you persuade someone to propagate and start selling this lovely? It is described by a Dutch grower as a small slow-growing bush; is it the same in CA's warmer climate? If it is anything like 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' in growth habit rather than the rambling Bourbons, I WANT IT!

As always, the latest *Rose Letter* is a beaut.

Thanks for your help,  
Margaret Ganier, New Orleans



*Editor's note: If someone can answer Margaret Ganier's desire for this rose, that would do much to blanket the Editor's shame.*

Editor:

The tributes to the Reverend D'Ombraïn and Charles Mason Hovey were wonderfully received and merit several re-readings.  
Caroline Bennett, Woodland, CA

# April 8, 2017, Sacramento Open Garden:

## A Wet Success



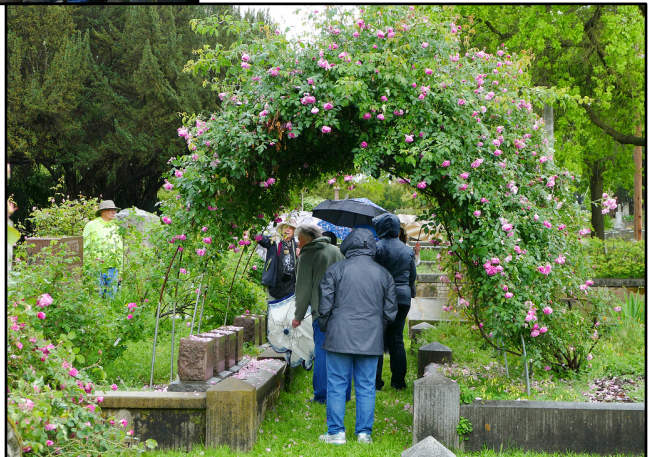
The eager public waiting for the Historic Rose Garden to open its sales

The roses awaiting the public



The happy volunteers who prepared the sales tables and this event in the Historic Rose Garden

A rose tour in the rain. Wet weather does not deter a lover of roses. Do come next year!



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