



**CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE - ISSUE 18, SEPTEMBER 2018.**

**FOREWORD**

The WFRS Convention, celebrating its 50th Anniversary in splendid style, was a very busy experience for those participating, in meeting old friends and making many new ones. Our congratulations to its organizers and to the many Danish rosarians who made it happen. It seems only fitting to devote this issue to articles relating to Northern Europe.

Our first is the newsworthy presentation made at the Breeders' Club special meeting on new and original DNA research on the history of roses in the Herbarium at Meise Botanic Garden in Belgium, supported by the WFRS, The Piaget Foundation, and the Royal and National Rose Society of Belgium. We are honored to publish this and urge our readers to look-up [www.DOEDAT.be](http://www.DOEDAT.be) Next Peter Boyd on Scots Roses is the definite article on the widespread *Rosaspinosissima*, one of the oldest and most beautiful families of heritage roses. It is complemented by Knud Pedersen's accounts of his efforts to create recurrent blooming in the same roses. Jens Otto Pedersen, one of the key organizers of the Copenhagen Convention, briefly tells us what heritage roses exist in Denmark. We end with a review of one of the most beautiful rose books we have ever seen.

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# **FRANÇOIS CRÉPIN AND THE HERITAGE ROSES IN MEISE BOTANIC GARDEN**

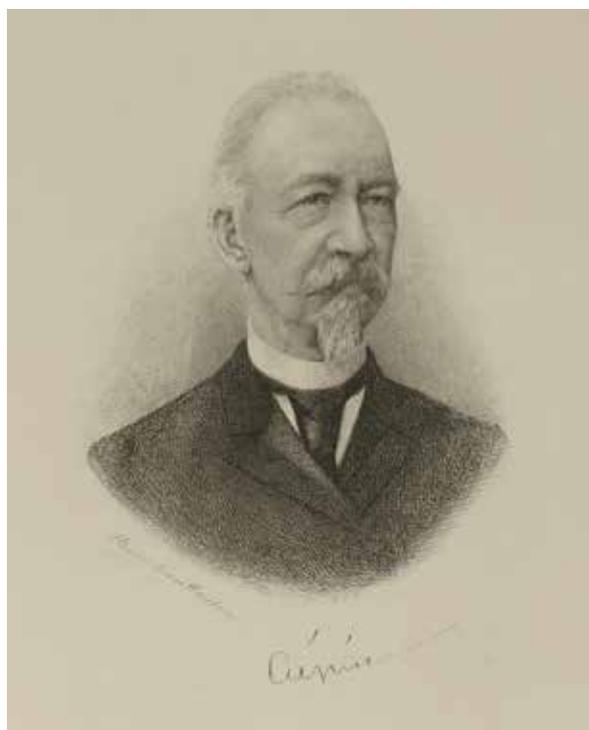
**By PIET STOFFELEN and IVAN HOSTE**

**With contributions from Pieter Asselmans, Kenneth Bauters, Ann Bogaerts,  
Sofie De Smedt, Denis Diagre, Nicole Hanquart, and Steven Janssens**

*"Botanists cannot be too grateful to [Crépin's] admirable labours in this most difficult genus."*  
(J.D. Hooker, 1880)

When, in 1876, the self-taught botanist François Crépin was appointed as director of the State Botanic Garden in Brussels, he already had been studying wild roses for almost three decades. As director he would continue to publish numerous papers on the genus *Rosa* and exchange letters, herbarium collections, offprints and other publications with dozens of rhodologists. Later he donated this unique collection to the Botanic Garden, where today Crépin's papers are an important part of the Garden's patrimony.

## **A Lifelong Study of Roses**



**François Crépin (MBG coll.)**

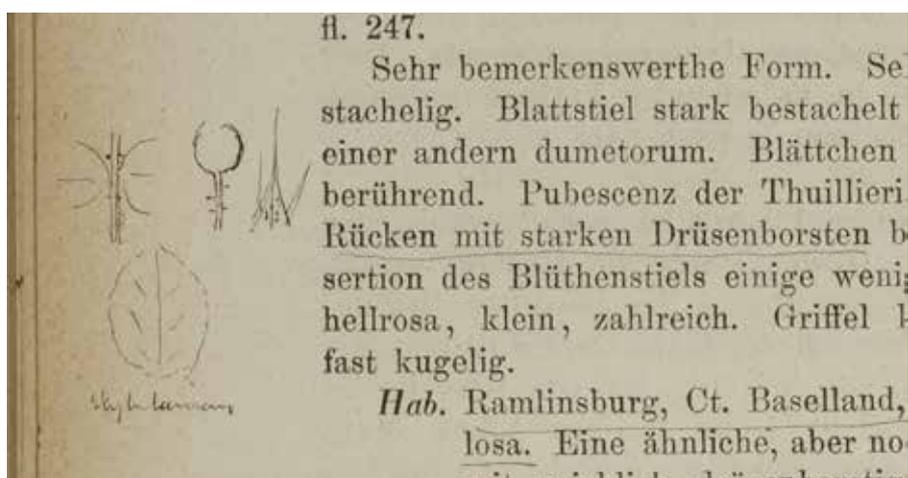
Born in Rochefort, in the Belgian Ardennes, the young François Crépin (1830-1903) did not perform well in school. He was however home-schooled by Romain Beaujean, who took his unruly pupil out on nature walks and gave him the taste for botany and natural sciences that would remain with him for the rest of his life. Crépin became especially attracted to the genus *Rosa*, which was well represented in his home area. During the 1850s, due to his botanical excursions in all parts of the country, his reputation as a field botanist rose quickly. The crowning event of this period of his life was the publication of the *Manuel de la flore de Belgique* (1860), which would remain the standard flora reference for Belgium until after the First World War.

Settling in a job was not easy for the restless botanist, but at last he was nominated as a teacher of botany at the Ecole d'Horticulture at Gentbrugge, founded by the famous horticulturist Louis Van Houtte. This position introduced Crépin to an inspiring environment where he participated in the activities of a highly-varied community of enthusiastic students of wild and cultivated plants. In those years, he became a key player in the young Société Royale de Botanique de Belgique.

In 1869, Crépin's interest in roses took a decisive turn. In this, he was apparently influenced by the president of the society Barthélemy Dumortier, who encouraged him to write a monograph on a difficult genus, for instance *Rosa*. Crépin accepted the challenge and spent the rest of his career on the preparation of a never completed monograph of the roses of the world. Between 1869 and 1882 he published a series of preliminary studies titled *Primitiae Monographiae Rosarum*. Alfred Rehder, whose classification of roses remains important today, in 1960 described these studies as still "the most important general treatment" of the genus *Rosa*. Crépin's principal aim in these and later studies was to reduce the excessive proliferation of described species of roses --a trend he disapprovingly labeled "*buissonnomanie*"--and to create a classification based on natural relationships.

With time, Crépin showed a growing interest in horticultural roses. When in 1889, he at last wrote an article on a new classification of roses, he chose the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society for its publication; a translation in French was later published in *Journal des Roses*. Unfortunately, his unremitting search for additional data and, in the end, ill health prevented him from finishing his comprehensive monograph.

### The Botanical Heritage Collections of Roses



Small drawings and annotations by Crépin in a publication on the roses of Switzerland. (MBG coll.)

The collections of Meise Botanic Garden comprise an extensive and varied documentation on the genus *Rosa*. The library holds circa 500 books on roses. Among these publications are books published between the 17th and the late 19th century. Quite a few of these publications are very valuable and rare. Moreover, they are frequently enriched with annotations in the

margins by François Crépin. The names of the authors of these publications include J.P. Redouté, P. Boitard, P.J. Buchoz, J. Lindley, J.L.A. Loiseleur Deslongchamps, W. Paul, C.G. Roessig, K. Rosenberg, C. Selbstherr, L. Simon, C.A. Thory, J.P. Vibert, L. Trattinnick, E. Willmott and H. Curtis.

In addition to the holdings of the library, the archives include unpublished manuscripts and thousands of incoming letters from Crépin's correspondents. These letters reflect the extraordinary scientific network he built up to facilitate the exchange of herbarium collections and entertain erudite discussions on the taxonomy of the genus *Rosa*. François Crépin exchanged letters with all the important rhodologists of his time, such as E. Burnat, H. Christ, P.A. Déséglise, P.E. Parmentier, H. Takashima, and W. Wirtgen, and also with horticulturists, such as J. Gravereaux of the Roseraie de L'Haÿ. This unique network and diversified patrimony of historical collections took shape over a period of several decades during which Crépin prepared his monograph of the genus *Rosa*. Today, more than a century after his death, the taxonomy of roses remains a puzzle and a challenge.

Crépin assembled an herbarium that comprises about 43,000 herbarium sheets of wild roses. In contrast to other important herbaria, this collection covers the whole natural area of distribution of *Rosa* and documents an unparalleled range of taxa. These specimens, often received from other famous rhodologists, are enriched with identification labels, annotations, comments and analytic drawings by Crépin. Meise Botanic Garden also preserves information about *Rosa* collections from other herbaria that were revised by Crépin.



**Crépin's Herbarium of roses at Meise Botanic Garden – Photo L. Tytens**

In addition to the preserved collections, archives and library, the Garden maintains an extensive living collection of circa 125 species of roses and more than 110 cultivars. All of these materials together form a rich and unique collection, truly a major part of the Botanic Garden's patrimony.

## Rescuing This Heritage from Oblivion



**A specimen of *Rosa indica* from the Crépin Herbarium, collected by J. Matsumura (MGB coll.)**

The Garden's botanical heritage on roses is of exceptional value but too little known because its visibility and accessibility are restricted. This has several reasons. First, the specimens of the Crépin Herbarium are very fragile and have to be handled with extreme care. Additionally, health regulations impede access to this collection, as it contains traces of mercury which in the early 20th century was commonly used to protect herbarium specimens against attacks by insects. Meise Botanic Garden has recently initiated two projects to make these heritage collections more visible and more accessible. The first project, with support of the World Federation of Rose Societies, the Royal and National Rose Society "De Vrienden van de Roos"(Belgium) and the Piaget Foundation, is a pilot project which digitized circa 25% of the rose collection and tested the usefulness of the collection for genetic studies. A second project is the creation of a new rose garden in order to showcase the rich collection of wild roses to the public.

## The Digitalisation of Crépin's Herbarium of Roses

Digitization and making the images available online will increase the visibility and accessibility of the collection without the necessity to handle the fragile physical specimens. This will diminish the risk of damage to the specimens and protect the health of the user from mercury traces.

The first step is imaging of the specimens. A first set of 12,999 (of the ca. 43,000) herbarium specimens from the Crépin Herbarium and 2,903 specimens of roses from the African and Belgian herbaria, are photographed (high resolution images), processed and filed. This is done following protocols developed according to international standards. Images are stored locally in Meise Botanic Garden and a back-up is kept by the Flemish Institute for Archiving (VIAA). The aim is to make all the images available online by open access web portals such as [www.botanicalcollections.be](http://www.botanicalcollections.be), [gbif.org](http://gbif.org) and [europeana.eu](http://europeana.eu). Before publication on these platforms the data on the specimens are databased in order to make the images more easily searchable.



Therefore, we developed, in collaboration with DigiVol, a multilingual crowdsourcing platform 'www.DOEDAT.be' where the public and in particular people interested in roses, are invited to transcribe the label information in a database. By July 2018, a few weeks after the launch of the crowdsourcing project, 13 volunteers have already transcribed 1411 specimens of the Crépin Herbarium. Once the data are transcribed, the images and the data will be published on the afore-mentioned platforms. This will make the images easily accessible for a worldwide audience of researchers and amateurs. A new digitization project, financed by the Flemish Government, is planned for 2019-2021. This will allow us to digitize the remaining ca. 35,000 herbarium collections of the genus *Rosa* kept in Meise Botanic Garden.

### Testing the Rose Herbarium for Genetic Studies

The Crépin Herbarium is, as explained above, a unique collection, both in terms of the number and quality of the specimens as well as its geographical coverage. The Crépin Herbarium specimens were collected in the second half of the 19th century and can therefore be regarded as a unique historical snapshot of the worldwide morphological and genetic variability of the genus *Rosa* at that time. Herbarium specimens are an interesting source for molecular studies. However, the quality of DNA, including the degree of fragmentation of its strands, is strongly correlated with the age of a herbarium leaf sample.

In order to evaluate the usefulness of the collection for genetic analyses, the quality of the different specimens was tested by researchers of Meise Botanic Garden. For this, 96 leaf tissue samples were randomly collected from both wild species and cultivated taxa. It came as a surprise that the preservation state of the specimens was quite good, the leaves often having retained their original green colour. This is already a good indication for its usability for DNA extraction. The quality of the DNA content of the herbarium samples was assessed in two ways. A universal gene marker (Internal Transcribed Spacer, ITS) was amplified using PCR techniques, and DNA purity and concentration was measured using the more advanced Nanodrop spectrophotometer technology.



The results show that it is still possible to amplify the ITS gene marker for circa 29% of the samples, demonstrating that almost one third of the samples still contains rather long stretches of DNA that are not severely degenerated. Furthermore, approximately 69% of the old herbarium samples yielded DNA of both moderate to good quality (purity) and quantity (concentration).

This study is encouraging and shows that the historic Crépin Herbarium is of extraordinary quality and can be used for both classic single sequencing techniques and advanced high throughput sequencing methods. The rose collection of Crépin is a genetic treasure vault ready to be used for further molecular analyses.

### **The Creation of a New Wild Roses Garden**



(Design Buro Voor Vrije Ruimte)

During the past decades Meise Botanic Garden assembled an extensive collection of wild roses comprising 125 of the approximately 150-200 known species. In addition, the Garden holds 115 horticultural accessions. To display this attractive collection the Garden opted for an innovative concept that makes the collection worth visiting the whole year round. Due to the very short flowering peak of most wild and old cultivated roses in early summer this is a real challenge. Non-hardy species need to be integrated as greenhouse plants. The heart of the 9,000 square metre rose garden consists of two entangled spirals. Each spiral represents a major group of wild roses as revealed by recent molecular phylogenetic research. One spiral represents the *clade* (a term for its unbroken lines of descent from the original ancestor) of Asian and European roses, while the second spiral includes the *clade* of Asian and American species. In the centre of these spirals, the oldest extant group of roses is found, the desert roses. Walking through the collection, the visitor is introduced to the intriguing story of the origin and natural history of roses. Garden roses will be planted around the spirally arranged plant beds with the wild roses. Their history will be evoked, starting with the historic Chinese and European roses, followed by the origin of modern rose hybrids, with a focus on resistant selections and winners from local breeders. This approach allows for the integration of a

pleasant walk through the garden with the possibility to organize educational programs on different themes such as plant evolution, classification, hybridisation and the role of modern molecular techniques in resolving relationships in a plant group that contains both natural and cultivated taxa. The new rose garden will be opened to the public in 2019.

## Epilogue

During the period between the two World Wars, Georges Albert Boulanger published two important revisions of the roses of Europe and Asia, based primarily on Crépin's collections. Thereafter, researchers in the Garden gradually forgot about this heritage. With time, the classification of the genus *Rosa*, based on classic morphological studies, apparently reached its limits, and therefore a worldwide need for a new monograph on the genus is today strongly felt. New developments in molecular research, however, have recently created new opportunities. In this context the old collections kept at Meise Botanic Garden may prove extremely valuable. Linked with the insights of erudite rose specialists from the nineteenth century, they offer great opportunities for multidisciplinary studies by taxonomists and historians with the aim of solving the still insufficiently understood relationships in the genus *Rosa*. The two projects mentioned earlier illustrate the Garden's renewed commitment to valorise its rose heritage in collaboration with the worldwide community.

The public is invited to actively contribute to the transcription of the label data on the 'DOEDAT.be' crowdsourcing platform.

\* \* \*

*Piet Stoffelen is a botanist. He started his professional career with the study of the diversity of wild coffee in Africa. Since 1999 he has worked at Meise Botanic Garden as collection manager and researcher, where he focuses on collection management, Central Africa and the diversity of wild coffee. In 2016 he became director of collections and is responsible for the Herbarium, the living collections and the library and archives of the Garden, too little known treasure troves. Unlocking of these treasures is one of his most important ambitions. Gardening is his hobby. He has particularly interest in growing vegetables and fruiting trees and shrubs, but roses have also their place in his garden.*

*Ivan Hoste works at Meise Botanic Garden, where he finds opportunities to combine his training as a historian with a lifelong interest in natural history, especially field botany. His activities at the Garden include research on the flora of exotic plant species in Belgium, the history of botany in the 19th and 20th centuries, and editorial work on books and journals published by the Garden.*

# SCOTS ROSES AND RELATED CULTIVARS OF “ROSA SPINOSISSIMA “

By PETER D. A. BOYD

## Introduction

‘Scots Roses’ are natural variants, hybrids and other cultivars of *Rosa spinosissima* (also known as *R. pimpinellifolia*) with a similar habit and character to *R. spinosissima* as it occurs wild in Scotland and other parts of northwest Europe. Most “true” Scots Roses were bred before 1840. Many of the more recent 20th century *R. spinosissima* hybrids utilized taller, larger-flowered Asian variants of the species (e.g. ‘Altaica’).



**Fig. 1. A perfumed carpet of wild *Rosa spinosissima* on stabilised sand-dunes in Normandy, France**

## *Rosa spinosissima*

*Rosa spinosissima* is one of about 20 species in the Section *Pimpinellifoliae* but the only one to occur naturally in Europe. It normally has sweetly scented white or cream coloured flowers 2-5 cm across (Fig. 1), but some Asian forms have flowers up to about 8 cm across. It is the only species commonly in cultivation with black or dark purple hips (Fig. 2). Colour variations do occur in wild populations, with pale pink or darker coloured flowers. The leaves are small (4-8 cm long), normally with 5-11 leaflets. Several natural hybrids with other *Rosa* species have been recorded. The stems are characteristically armoured with narrow prickles and bristle-like acicles but acicles are virtually absent in some variants.

*R. spinosissima* is a very variable species regarding habit, armature, size of flower, size of leaves and height. It may only grow a few centimetres tall in windy sand-dune habitats, spreading by underground stems (root-shoots) so that a single clone may cover several square metres. In more sheltered parts of a dune system, *R. spinosissima* may grow larger, up to about one metre tall, forming a thicket. In inland sheltered habitats, even taller-growing ‘Grandiflora’



**Fig. 2. Black hips**

variants may occur with larger leaves and flowers.

Two distinct varieties of *R. spinosissima* are recognised in *The Flora of China* (Cuizhi and Robertson, 2003): *R. spinosissima* var. *spinosissima*, and *R. spinosissima* var. *altaica*.

A detailed examination of the taxonomic and genetic variation of *R. spinosissima* throughout its range has not yet been carried out by anyone and the situation may be more complicated. However, these two varieties do have features that suggest two convenient groupings ('*Spinosissima*' variants and '*Altaica*' variants) into which natural variants of *R. spinosissima* itself (as opposed to its hybrids) may be placed.

'*Spinosissima*' variants seem to equate to a broad range of *R. spinosissima* var. *spinosissima* morphotypes found across the whole range of the species in Europe and Asia. The stems bear a mixture of narrow straight prickles, interspersed with bristle-like acicles (Fig. 3). These cultivars generally have a bushy, suckering habit and normally grow up to about 1 m tall with small flowers (about 2-5 cm across) and small leaves. Some *R. spinosissima* '*Grandiflora*' variants in cultivation grow over 2 metres high with much larger leaves and flowers although they still have the '*Spinosissima*' stems.



**Fig. 3. '*Spinosissima*' m. type**

'*Altaica*' variants in cultivation seem to equate to a range of *R. spinosissima* var. *altaica* morphotypes, apparently limited in the wild to Asia and spreading southwest from the Altay Mountain region as far as eastern Turkey but possibly further into Europe. The stems of '*Altaica*' variants have only narrow prickles and few if any acicles (Fig. 4). They include taller, more open arching shrubs with less suckering stems growing to over 2 metres. They generally have larger flowers (sometimes over 8 cm across) and leaves than most '*Spinosissima*' variants. In the author's opinion, flowers of '*Altaica*' variants seem to have a different and less sweet scent than '*Spinosissima*' variants that might reflect a different ecology with different pollinators.



**Fig. 4. '*Altaica*' m. type**

*R. spinosissima* has the widest natural geographical distribution of any rose species in temperate regions, extending from the coastal fringes of Western Europe to north-west China and adjacent areas and it even occurs in part of the Atlas Mountains of North Africa. Its distribution overlaps with that of the circumpolar Arctic Rose *Rosa acicularis* in parts of its range. *R. spinosissima* has also become "gently" naturalised in North America and its cultivars are widely planted in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The wild species occurs in mountain habitats to well over 2000 metres, down to sea-level, including calcareous grasslands and coastal sand-dunes.

*R. spinosissima* has disappeared from many of its former habitats through agricultural, recreational and urban developments. The species is most abundant on stabilised sand-dunes in spite of the loss of sand-dune systems though golf course creation and other coastal developments. The species is endangered in some European coastal habitats by spread of the non-native *R. rugosa*.

The biology and ecology of *R. spinosissima* in Europe is described by Mayland-Quellhorst *et al.* (2012) and, in the eastern part of its range in China, by Cuizhi and Robertson (2003). The association of the species with history, symbolism, art and other human activities has been described by Boyd (2012a), in folklore by Boyd (2012a, 2013b), with human emigration by Boyd (2008b, 2013a and 2015) and the 19th century horticultural phenomenon by Boyd (in press).

*R. spinosissima* has many different vernacular names in English including:

- 'Scots Rose,' because of the long association with Scotland, where the first cultivars of *R. spinosissima* were identified and developed. [N.B. 'Scotch' is no longer acceptable as an adjective and should only be applied to whisky!]
- 'Burnet Rose' or 'Pimpinell Rose,' because their leaves resemble those of the Burnet (*Sanguisorba*) for which an old name is 'Pimpinell' and the origin of the old scientific name *R. pimpinellifolia*, meaning Burnet-leaved Rose).
- 'Prickly Rose', 'Thorny Rose', 'Spiny Rose,' because the stems of most European variants of the species are armoured with numerous prickles and bristle-like acicles. This character is the origin of the scientific name *R. spinosissima*.
- 'Dune Rose,' because *R. spinosissima* is particularly abundant on stabilised coastal sand-dunes.

Although some vernacular names used in English or other languages include some with a very local use, most of them are based on one of the four concepts above (i.e., association with Scotland, resemblance of the leaves to Burnet, prickliness or sand-dune habitat).

### Scots Roses

True 'Scots Roses' are a very diverse group with single, semi-double or double flowers (often sweetly scented) in white, cream, yellow, pink, red, purple or mauve and some cultivars have marbled or striped blooms. They include natural 'Spinosissima' variants and hybrids with a similar general character.

Scots Roses are sometimes known as 'Pimpinellifolias' or, more informally, 'Pimpi'. However, that term is often used to include hybrids of *R. spinosissima* var. *altaica* that are not "typical" Scots Roses. The term 'Pimpinellifolias' is also used to embrace other species within the Section *Pimpinellifoliae* (e.g., *R. foetida*, *R. primula*, *R. sericea* and *R. xanthina*). The term 'Hybrid Spinosissimas', as used in the USA, is also misleading because not all of them are hybrids - and many so-called 'Hybrid Spinosissimas' have very few genes of *R. spinosissima* in them!

'Scots Roses' and other cultivars of *R. spinosissima* (*R. pimpinellifolia*) are less well-known today than other rose groups. Many gardeners and rose lovers are unfamiliar with Scots Roses because:

- Their peak flowering period can be several weeks earlier than most other roses so that they have finished flowering before the main period for visiting public Rose Gardens or exhibitions of roses at Summer Horticultural Shows;
- The authors of many modern rose books have omitted them;
- Rose nurseries, that only propagate by budding or grafting their roses, find it difficult to bud Scots Roses because of their slender stems and small buds;

- Most rose nurseries do not stock any *R. spinosissima* hybrids except perhaps 'Stanwell Perpetual' and 'Frühlingsgold'. True Scots Roses are normally only obtainable from specialist nurseries so that members of the gardening public do not "discover" them on a visit to their local garden centre or nursery.

However, Scots Roses and related cultivars are very popular in Scandinavia and Finland where their hardiness is much appreciated and nurseries (which mainly propagate from cuttings to produce 'own-root' plants) stock far more cultivars than most other countries. Scots Roses are also very popular in New Zealand where they are very widely grown and cultivars or their descendants have survived from the time of Scots immigration in the 19th century. Scots Roses are an under-exploited genetic resource in many countries although some breeding, using them, is being carried out.

However, in 1840, there were probably more cultivars of 'Scots Rose' available than cultivars of all the other distinct groups of garden roses of the time combined. Buist (1839) estimated that there were over 500 Scots Roses. That number of named Scots Rose cultivars may be an underestimate. Although only about a dozen cultivars existed by the year 1800 including those bred by Robert Brown (Boyd, 2017), hundreds of single, semi-double and double Scots Roses had already been raised in Britain, Europe and North America by 1830 (in a wide range of colours). One breeder alone, Robert Austin of Austin and McAslan, Glasgow, Scotland had raised over 200 Double Scots Rose cultivars by 1825 and the nursery's *Catalogue of Double Scotch Roses* (1825) was possibly the first nursery catalogue to include abbreviated descriptions of the cultivars offered (Boyd, 2007, 2008a). Many cultivars were raised elsewhere in Britain; also France (Boyd, 2012b), other parts of Europe and North America (Boyd, 2008a and 'In press').

The "once-flowering" Scots Roses and other Old Roses began to go out of fashion during the 1830s as "repeat-flowering" or "perpetual" roses became more diverse. Although Scots Roses had already become less "fashionable" by 1840, there was a greater variety and they had become more widely distributed. A few cultivars, including the "Double White Scots Rose", had already been available for more than 60 years. Moreover, the ease of propagation of Scots Roses from suckers meant that what had been expensive new cultivars, available only to wealthy landowners when they were first raised in the 1820s, were now finding their way into the gardens of "ordinary" people. Everyone loved the charm of these roses with their exuberance of sweetly scented flowers before most other roses were in bloom. In Scotland, there seems to have been pride in their Scots origins and they became a symbol of "Scottishness". However, 'Scots Roses' also became popular in Scandinavia and Finland and a double white 'Scots Rose' became particularly associated with celebrations of Midsummer.

Crofters, cottagers, tenant farmers and wealthy landowners were among the emigrants to North America, New Zealand and elsewhere who carried suckers or seeds of Scots Roses to their new homes during the 19th century. Indeed, *R. spinosissima* was one of the first roses to reach Australia. It was introduced to the Sydney Botanic Garden by Lady Brisbane, a Scot, in 1821 (Boyd, 2013a). Other prominent Scots carried Scots Roses with them on the long voyage but there were many more "ordinary" Scots immigrants who took these "living memories of home" with them to Australia or New Zealand. Scots Roses flourish in New Zealand (particularly the South Island) and cooler parts of Australia (particularly

Victoria and Tasmania). As immigrants and their roses flourished in their new homes, even descendants of ex-patriot Scots had Scots Roses planted on their graves. This custom is even recorded in popular 19th century and early 20th century fiction (Boyd 2008b, 2012a, 2016b). Similarly, Swedish emigrants to North America carried their double white 'Scots Roses' with them and communities where such immigrants settled are marked by gardens containing these roses (Boyd, 2016b). Old Scots Rose cultivars have survived in old gardens, cemeteries, and near deserted homesteads around the world for over 150 years but these survivors are constantly under threat from the redevelopment of gardens, municipal or ecclesiastical 'tidiness syndrome' or the careless use of systemic herbicides.

European roses had arrived in North America in the 17th century. *R. spinosissima* was probably one of the first. Several cultivars were available in American nurseries including Prince's Nursery in New York by 1800. In about 1825, a double flowered yellow hybrid of *R. spinosissima* x *R. foetida* was raised in the garden of Mr George Harison, a New York lawyer. It was effectively a yellow Scots Rose. Similar yellow 'Scots Roses' were raised in Britain (e.g., 'Williams Double Yellow') and America at about the same time but this New York one became known as 'Harisonii' or 'Harison's Yellow' and Mr Harison's name (often mis-spelt Harrison) is the one that is now perpetuated in the name of the hybrid *R. x harisonii* [*R. spinosissima* x *R. foetida*]. The nurseryman William Prince acquired a plant of this rose in 1830 and propagated it for sale. However, other nurserymen including Thomas Hogg of New York had made the same cross and raised similar seedlings from it. James McNab introduced 'Hogg's Yellow' to Scotland in 1834 (Boyd, 2008b). There is uncertainty about which of the double yellow Scots Roses found growing in North America and other parts of the world is the original 'Harison's Yellow' as not only were many seedlings raised from the same cross but seedlings were also grown from 'Harison's Yellow' itself. 'Harison's Yellow' has become famous because pioneer families carried plants (or seeds?) across America on the Oregon Trail where it still grows by deserted settlements.



**Fig.5. 'Harison's Yellow',  
a Scots Rose of the  
Harisonii Group**

Scots Roses were not only sold as named cultivars but also as un-named seedlings and gardeners grew their own seedlings, so that not all old Scots Roses "found" in old gardens, cemeteries, etc. necessarily had a name. Most of the old cultivars originated as variants or hybrids of the low-growing form of the species that grows wild in N.W. Europe. In the 20th century, S.G.A. Doorenbos in the Netherlands and others in Canada raised cultivars with a similar character to the old Scots Roses. Most of the Doorenbos cultivars have the character of Scots Roses because they were based on wild *R. spinosissima* from Dutch sand-dunes. A collection of *R. spinosissima* cultivars selected or raised by Doorenbos is preserved at the Belmonte Arboretum, Wageningen, in The Netherlands.

However, Wilhelm Kordes II in Germany and others used tall-growing Asian forms of *R. spinosissima* to breed large shrubs (e.g., Frühlings hybrids). Such large-flowered complex hybrids using the Asian *R. spinosissima* 'Altaica' or 'Hispidia' should not be grouped with 'Scots Roses'. Another example is 'Aïcha', a very complex hybrid bred by Valdemar Petersen in Denmark in 1966. It is a beautiful semi double yellow rose containing some *R. spinosissima* genes but it is not a Scots Rose.

### **Repeat-blooming and truly recurrent *Spinossissimas***

Many Scots Roses have a few flowers in late summer if preceded by an early Spring so that 'flowering wood' has had time to mature. However, there were several named repeat-flowering (so-called 'perpetual') cultivars in the early 19th century. 'Stanwell Perpetual' (before 1838) is possibly the only one to still exist. It is said to be a hybrid between *R. spinosissima* and an Autumn Damask Rose. A few recent *R. spinosissima* hybrids are reliably repeat-flowering to a greater or lesser extent [e.g. 'Paula Vapelle' (Ivan Louette, 2002), 'Mon Amie Claire' (Ivan Louette, 2005), 'Lochinvar' (David Austin, 2005), 'Sir Walter Scott' (David Austin, 2015) and 'Peter Boyd' (Knud Pedersen, 2018)]. Several, if not all, have 'Stanwell Perpetual' somewhere in their lineages. 'Stanwell Perpetual', 'Lochinvar' and 'Sir Walter Scott' do not resemble true Scots Roses but 'Paula Vapelle', 'Mon Amie Claire' and 'Peter Boyd' have more *R. spinosissima* in their lineage. Knud Pedersen of Rosenposten in Denmark is particularly enthusiastic about breeding new recurrent cultivars (Boyd, 2015, Thim, 2018 and Pedersen, 2018). 'Peter Boyd' (named in honour of the present author) is the first of his truly recurrent *Spinossissimas* to be released. It blooms repeatedly from Spring until the first frosts. It has sweetly-scented dark pink semi-double flowers and attractive blue-grey foliage, closely resembling a true Scots Rose.

### **Confused nomenclature**

The present author has compiled an "encyclopaedia of cultivars" including about 2,000 names (with descriptions where available) applied to Scots Roses and related *R. spinosissima* cultivars in books, nursery catalogues and other sources since the 17th century. This "encyclopaedia" forms part of a forthcoming book *Scots Roses, Rosa spinosissima and other Pimpinellifolias* (Boyd, forthcoming).

Very few old Scots Rose cultivars remain in commerce but many old garden-worthy cultivars have been rediscovered and new seedlings have been raised in Europe, North America and New Zealand. There is renewed interest in the group but their nomenclature is confused, partly because people have tried to apply a name from a very small list of published names, not realising how many hundreds of named cultivars there used to be as well as unnamed seedlings!

Several of the old illustrated rose books included depictions of Scots Roses (e.g., Lawrance, 1799; Redouté, 1817-1824; Willmott, 1910-1914) and some were illustrated in horticultural journals. However, no books devoted to Scots Roses and other hybrids of *R. spinosissima* were published until the end of the 20th century (McMurtrie, 1998; Korhonen, 2002; Joy et al., 2004). Several other rose books published in the last ten years or so have included more information about these roses but some authors have continued to exclude them.

Modern books include some misnamed Scots Roses but misnaming of Scots Roses by nurseries is widespread. This is mainly due to writers who included only a small number of Scots Roses in their books (e.g., Thomas, 1962). Mistakenly, readers interpreted this to mean that only that small number of cultivars existed! This was not the fault of the authors. In particular, Thomas resurrected an interest in rose species and the older cultivars. In his *Shrub Roses of Today*, Graham Thomas described several Scots Rose cultivars and other hybrids of *R. spinosissima*. Since then, people have mistakenly tried to "fit" a rose in their possession to one of those few names. Therefore, several different roses in commerce are given the same name. Some names, such as 'Double White', are purely descriptive and

several different distinct Scots Roses with semi-double and fully double white flowers of globular or more open form exist. One cannot claim that there was ever only one cultivar with the name "Double White". However, one would hope that a cultivar name such as 'Andrewsii' is only applied to a one particular cultivar! This is not the case and 'Andrewsii' is applied to several different pale pink or dark pink cultivars with different degrees of doubling and different flower form.

One particular rose provides a good example of the confusion that exists in the naming of Scots Roses and related cultivars. Thomas described one very distinctive rose, 'Mary Queen of Scots', in his 1962 book (see Fig. 6). That rose has typical Scots Rose character as regards form, foliage and black heps. The flowers are semi-double with the partially opened buds (the back of the petals) appearing white but opening to expose deep carmine on the front of the petals. The combination of grey-white buds and carmine creates a very striking effect.



**Fig. 6. 'Mary Queen of Scots'  
- a true Scots Rose**

However, Peter Beales applied the name 'Mary Queen of Scots' to a completely different rose (Beales, 1997). His rose is not a typical Scots Rose in character. It is clearly a form of *R. x reversa* (*R. spinosissima* x *R. pendulina*). It has single pink flowers with darker pink markings and elongated dark red heps. The example is even more complicated by the fact that the name 'Mary Queen of Scots' is not one of the hundreds of cultivar names that the present author has found used before 1962 and the rose described by Thomas is probably 'Bicolor', as illustrated by Andrews (1822) - the name being used in the same sense as *R. foetida* 'Bicolor'. The cultivar name 'Bicolor' has also been used in the 20th century for a semi-double Scots Rose cultivar in which the petals are 'splashed' or 'streaked' with more than one colour!

The nomenclature of Scots Roses and other cultivars of *R. spinosissima* is confused but attempts have been made to gain some semblance of order by clarifying names and separating cultivars into groups of cultivars with similar character or presumed same parentage (Boyd, 2004, 2007, 2008a, 2015). Some groups are quite well-defined, such as the Reversa Group (cultivars that have characteristics of *R. spinosissima* and *R. pendulina*) and a Harisonii Group (cultivars that have characteristics of *R. spinosissima* and *R. foetida*). Some are less well-defined groups such as 'Complex Hybrids' with a wide range of forms that show little of their *R. spinosissima* heritage but are often described as 'Spinosissima Hybrids'.



**Fig. 7 Single crimson flowers of  
'Mrs Colville', a Scots Rose of  
the Reversa Group.**

### **Garden value**

Although most cultivars are once-blooming, they are very floriferous and the true Scots Roses are generally sweetly scented. Their early flowering, floriferousness, scent and charm "win the hearts" of those who discover them. The single and semi-double forms also

produce abundant black hips and many have attractive foliage that can produce striking autumn colours in yellow, orange, pink, red and scarlet in different cultivars. Their prickly stems are attractive in the winter, particularly with the frost on them. Therefore, although they normally have one main period of flowering, they have interest for much of the year. *R. spinosissima* cultivars will grow in a wide range of soils. They are also extremely cold-hardy and resistant to drought and diseases. Some of the cultivars already in commerce, old cultivars not presently in commerce and new hybrids offer great potential as garden plants.



**Semi-double marbled Scots Rose found by roadside near Peebles, Scotland.**

Like many roses, true Scots Roses are best grown on their own roots and budded or grafted plants should be planted with the union several centimetres below the soil surface so that the cultivars can produce root-shoots (suckers) and grow in their natural form. Extraneous root-shoots can be removed easily with a spade in autumn, from which new plants may be propagated. Own-root Scots Roses are exceptionally long-lived but budded or grafted plants may deteriorate if they are not planted deep enough. They require little or no pruning. If desired Scots Roses can be clipped immediately after flowering but no later as flowers are produced on the previous year's wood except in the truly recurrent cultivars such as 'Peter Boyd', where flowers are produced on current year's growth. Scots Roses flower most profusely in full sun.

These charming but tough roses have potential as a source of new garden roses in a time of climatic uncertainty (Boyd, 2016a). More of the existing cultivars should be brought into commerce. The low-growing Scots Roses offer possibilities as parents for the breeding of smaller hardy shrubs for modern gardens.

\* \* \*

*Peter D. A. Boyd, a naturalist and gardener from an early age, followed a varied professional career as a teacher, palaeoecologist, environmental archaeologist and museum curator, retiring as Curator of Shrewsbury Museums, Shropshire, UK, in 2011. He has been a prolific writer and lecturer, with a special interest in *Rosa spinosissima* and Scots Roses, lecturing at numerous WFRS and other conferences in Europe, Asia, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Living in the Shropshire Hills, he maintains the "National Collection of Scots Roses and related cultivars" [Plant Heritage] and is finishing his long-awaited book on Scots Roses for the RHS in association with the RBGE. Most of his publications listed below and others may be accessed online at: <http://peterdaboyd.academia.edu>. Readers may contact him at: [peterboyd@btinternet.com](mailto:peterboyd@btinternet.com)*

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**Mounds of Scots Rose 'William III' at Crathes Castle, Aberdeenshire, Scotland**

## **RECURRENT PIMPINELLIFOLIAS**

**BY KNUD PEDERSEN**



**Knud and Annemarie in a field of roses.**

Ever since I was a child, because my parents had a plant nursery, I have been working with roses. I have managed the rose nursery "Rosenposten" myself for the last 52 years with my wife Annemarie and our employees. Although once we only grew modern roses and a few Albas and other shrub roses in the rose field, about 20 years ago I became more interested in old-fashioned and species roses and started to collect them. It was the beginning of our rose garden, which now contains over 1,000 different varieties of roses, open and free for anyone to visit.

The early flowering Pimpinellifolias (also known as Spinosissimas) particularly caught my attention. It was an eye-opener for me, and I was completely taken by the charm and beauty of these roses. Peter Boyd came to Copenhagen from Britain and gave a talk about Scots Roses and other cultivars of *Rosa spinosissima*. Also David Austin's breeding "old fashion" style roses that bloom from June to frost inspired me to try to breed Pimpinellifolias with the same recurrent flowering habit.

I have been working with this group for several years and have come up with many hand-pollinated hybrids. Most of them had only a hidden potential to flower more than once each year but more recent crosses have proved to be truly recurrent.



**'Christiane'**

**a sport of 'Stanwell Perpetual'.**

'Stanwell Perpetual' has many good qualities but it is nearly sterile as a mother. I have used it as father and have obtained recurrent roses which are also fertile. From a rose friend in Germany, Jörn Lemhus, I have obtained a sport of 'Stanwell Perpetual'. It is most beautiful and is the highlight in the test garden. Jörn has named this rose after his wife Christiane. Until now, I have not been quite satisfied with the quality of many of the recurrent cultivars. Some are not good in rainy weather, some only with five petals but my goal is to get Pimpinellifolia roses in many different colours that flower throughout the growing season. The healthy appearance that is normally

associated with *Pimpinellifolia* hybrids is of course of most importance, and I look for compact growth like the old cultivars 'Marbled Pink', 'William III', and 'Andrewsii'.

I have used over 50 different *Pimpinellifolia* roses including not only *Rosa spinosissima* cultivars but also *Rosa foetida* and *Rosa x harisonii* cultivars (e.g. 'Ormiston Roy') to obtain about 700 hand-pollinated hybrids with hidden potential for recurrence.

The seedling roses are lined out in the field following the year in which they germinate. I have hand-pollinated as much I could in the scarce spare time that I have from the rose nursery, and so far, some 70 cultivars that can flower from May until frost have seen the daylight. Among these was the new recurrent deep pink cultivar which was named after Peter Boyd. I am very happy that Peter agreed to give his name to this free-flowering and sweet-scented rose that has the appearance of a true 'Scots Rose'. Peter has done so much for this group of roses. The baptism of *Rosa* 'Peter Boyd' took place on the 26th of June 2018 during the visit to our nursery of WFRS Rose Convention participants on the pre-tour.



**Peter Boyd (left) and the author (right) at the dedication of the rose honouring Peter.**

Some years ago, I realized that I needed many seeds to obtain something worthwhile with both beauty and a healthy constitution, so I decided to sow the seed from my recurrent *Pimpinellifolias* in the field in November. In the spring, at the beginning of April, the rose seeds started to sprout. It was a relative success. But *pimpinellifolia* seeds are hard to bring to germination. Often the majority of the seeds will sprout the second year, and even the third-year new seedlings will have to be evaluated. It is important not to destroy the seedbeds until after the third year. So last year I have hand-pollinated as much as possible and also sowed these seeds in the ground. The labels have the name of both the mother and father, but the seed from my recurrent cultivars are sowed in the ground, labelled only with the mother's name which could be 'Queen Mary' x 'Lochinvar'. The hips were crushed and seeds washed out of the pulp. Then they have been kept warm for 1-2 months together with a little sand and a bacterial culture EM1 in plastic bags before sowing. The winter temperature in Denmark is around 1.0 Celsius.

The *Pimpinellifolias* do not seem to follow the rules described in books. If I cross two recurrent cultivars, sometimes none of the offspring have the same characteristic.



**Rosa 'Peter Boyd'**



**Rosa 'Blushing Love'**

Other times when I have crossed a once flowering with a recurrent one, some of the seedlings could pop up as recurrent. I think there must be different types of recurrence genes in this group of roses. In the first example the two recurrent roses could have different types while in the second example the non-recurrent rose could have hidden possibilities for recurrence.

Some of the once-flowering cultivars (with hidden potential to flower more than once) are actually quite spectacular but I am afraid that nowadays people want roses that flower all summer. That is until gardeners realize their potential as green bushes after they have bloomed as well as their hips feeding wildlife in the autumn and winter. It is a wonderful job to try to bring new roses forward, giving excitement and joy.

Our soil in the nursery has been examined by the Danish Phytosanitary authorities and found free from disease. It means that we can send roses to many countries.

\* \* \*

*Knud Pedersen is a second generation rose breeder. Along with his wife, Annemarie they have specialized in roses since 1967. He is a major figure in the Danish rose world. Their nursery and rose garden, "Rosenposten" is located near the town of Aarhus. The Knud Pedersen Nursery address is: Taastrup Soevej 1, 8462 Harlev, Denmark. Please call ahead at : ++45 86 94 1345 or by email at: rosenposten@rosenposten.dk*

## **DANISH HERITAGE ROSES**

**By JENS OTTO PEDERSEN**

In the September 2017 issue of BAON, Stephen Scanniello defines a heritage roses as “any rose that has been around for a very long time.” I like that very much because you can always discuss: What is a long time?

The World Federation of Rose Societies' Conservation and Heritage Committee defines heritage roses as all species and species crosses, all found roses (until they are better identified), and roses of historical importance such as 'Madame A. Meilland,' also known as 'Peace' 1945.

In the Danish Rose Society we believe that 50 years from a rose's point of view is a very long time. If after 50 years there is still a market for a certain rose it most certainly deserves to be considered a heritage rose.

There are ten Danish native species roses (or native to Denmark), including *R. canina*, *R. dumalis*, *R. pimpinellifolia* and *R. rubiginosa*. *R. rugosa* (now in Denmark considered as an invasive species) is a rose of “another ethnic origin.”



**'Fru Dagmar Hastrup'**

Luckily, there are many not-invasive rugosa-hybrids. One of the most beautiful is 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup' found in Denmark in 1914 by Knud Julianus Hastrup who was a nursery owner near Copenhagen. As any good husband would do, he named it after his wife. With its single, mother-of-pearl colored flowers this rose is still very popular and is sold throughout the world.



**'Königin von Dänemark'**

In BAON, September 2017, I wrote about *Rosa alba* 'Königin von Dänemark' which is certainly a Danish bred Old Garden Rose: the only pre-1867 rose I can come up with.

I also wrote a bit about the Danish nurseryman and rose collector Valdemar Petersen. He also bred a number of roses some of which are still worth growing and very popular. The hybrid musk 'Menja' (Kiftsgate x Eva (Hybrid Musk, Kordes, 1933) was introduced in 1960. Its clusters of small shimmering pink flowers are extremely charming and will fit in with almost any other rose. During the World Rose Convention in Lyon in 2015 I saw a most impressive specimen in *La Bonne Maison*, Odile Masquelier's spectacular garden. The rose is named after a giantess from the Nordic mythology.



**'Menja'**

'Fenja' (*Rosa davidii* Crép. x *Rosa spinosissima* L.) is another interesting rose. Introduced in 1965 the plant is much like *Rosa davidii* but the flowers are larger and darker. A special feature is its up to 4 cm long bottle shaped hips. 'Fenja' is named after a sister to the giantess Menja.



**'Fenja'**

Last but not least Valdemar Petersen in 1966 introduced the spinosissima hybrid 'Aïcha' (Souvenir de Jacques Verschuren x Guldtop). This bush rose is in many ways similar and equal to the Kordes' Frühling-roses. An early bloomer its yellow flowers almost covering the bush is a potent announcer of summer. 'Aïcha' is named after the maybe most beloved of Muhammed's wives.



**'Aïcha'**



**'Lykkefund'**

In WFRS Award of Garden Excellence winning Geographical Garden in Kolding you will find the original 'Lykkefund'. Most likely a seedling of *R. helena* x 'Zéphirine Drouhin,' Aksel Olsen found this rose in his nursery in 1930. This vigorous rambler with its overwhelming bloom and scent is – at least in Scandinavia – a must in any garden considered a rose garden.



**'Rödhätte'**

The maybe most important rose of the 20th century was bred in Denmark by Dines T. Poulsen. 'Rødhætte' / 'Rödhätte' ('Madame Norbert Levavasseur' × 'Liberty'), hybrid tea, Dickson, 1900-- ('Red Riding Hood') was introduced in 1911 and is considered the first rose in the group of floribunda roses. The company *Poulsen Roses A/S* has since then been a world-wide leading rose breeding company, and many of their roses will no doubt in the future be considered heritage roses not only in Denmark but through out the world.

The award-winning 'Ingrid Bergman' ('Precious Platinum' × 'Else Poulsen'), bred by the company's present owners Pernille Olesen (née Poulsen) and Mogens Nyegaard and introduced in 1986, has not yet reached the age of 50, but being considered one of the best red hybrid teas ever and with its induction to WFRS Rose Hall of Fame in 2000 it must already now be considered a heritage rose. Eventually, the very popular 'Astrid Lindgren' (Pouluf), introduced 2001--named in honor of the Swedish writer-- will surely end up in the category of heritage roses. This healthy, very hardy floribunda with its light pink semi-double flowers is a rose you will see in many Danish gardens.



**'Ingrid Bergman'**



**'Astrid Lindgren'**

At their meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in 2012 members of the Nordic Rose Society decided to lay out rose beds with ten typical roses from each member country. The above-mentioned roses plus a few more are all part of the Danish contribution to Nordic rose beds now displayed in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

\* \* \*

*Jens Otto Pedersen is a retired teacher and organist. He describes himself "as being – as most of us are – a self-taught rosarian." In 2010 he became a member of the board of The Danish Rose Society (DRS) where he has held the posts of secretary and vice-president. From 2010 to spring 2017 he was the editor of DRS members' magazine RosenNyt (RoseNews). He was co-convener of the 18th World Rose Convention in Copenhagen. All the photographs are by Jens Otto. He can be contacted at: [trappendal@profibermail.dk](mailto:trappendal@profibermail.dk)*

Sources: *Lars-Åke Gustavsson: Rosenleksikon, Rosinante, 1999*  
[www.hjelpmefind.com](http://www.hjelpmefind.com)  
[www.poulsenroser.com](http://www.poulsenroser.com)

# A BOOK OF ENCHANTING OLD ROSES

By Yuki Mikanagi with photographs by Koichi Osaku

It is always frustrating to pick up a book in a language that one does not understand. Such is the case of the book written by Yuki Mikanagi and Koichi Osaku. entitled in Japanese "A book of Enchanting Old roses: 100 Stories with Exquisite Photographs." Thankfully the rose names are translated so the reader does know which rose is described which certainly teases the reader's curiosity as to the story behind.

Thankfully also a picture truly is worth a thousand words, regardless of the language. Photographed against a white background, Koichi Osaku uses a new technique that can revolutionize the photography of botany. Some plates show the rose as seen from above, enabling the reader to compare the shape of each bloom whereas the individual photographs show in minute detail both the leaves and prickles enabling clear identification both of the rose and the class to which it belongs. Only such experts and lovers of roses and photography could achieve such a feat. The book covers all classes of "old roses." There are examples of the Gallicas and Damasks, the Albas, Centifolias and Moss Roses, Chinas and Old Roses in China, Portlands and Teas. Three hybrids are illustrated (H. Arvensis, H. Multiflora, H. Setigera) as well as H. Perpetuals, and all are included in neatly divided chapters. Most represented are classics in their category; some are lesser known such as 'Souvenir de Victoire Landeau' (H.P. Moreau-Robert 1881) or 'Josiane Hanet' (Portland, J-P. Vibert, 1847).

Tucked on page 101, in a book of less than 130 pages, is the line written in 1896 by George Paul : "Wanted: a refuge for the old roses where they may be found again when tastes change" says it all. We urge the publishers to do the necessary to enable an English edition as soon as possible for all the amateurs and lovers of old roses worldwide who have given refuge to our beloved favorites to be able to transmit to the generations to come the precious knowledge this book contains.

Published in 2018 by SEKAIBUNKA  
PUBLISHING INC., ISBN: 978-4-418-18404-0  
The publisher does not sell directly but  
suggests two sources for those interested:  
"Junkudo," a Japanese bookstore in Paris,  
18 rue de Pyramids, 75001 Paris  
([www.junku.fr/jp/](http://www.junku.fr/jp/)), or Kinokuniya Overseas  
USA and other countries ([www.kinokuniya.com](http://www.kinokuniya.com))

\* \* \*

Review by Dominique Massad, a breeder of roses,  
a prolific writer and lecturer with a special interest  
in Nabonnand and Guillot roses.



## **CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Copenhagen, June 29, 2018**

While most delegates to the WFRS Convention were enjoying the garden visits and sights of Copenhagen, much of the business of the WFRS was conducted in the early morning or late afternoon meetings of its special committees. One of the most notable was certainly that of our sponsors the Conservation and Heritage Committee. A total of 23 National Societies had appointed delegates to represent their countries, plus non-voting observers who attended what was an informative and popular committee meeting. We direct our readers to the statements that follow this summary by Dr. Yuki Mikanagi as Chairperson for 2012-2018 as well as that of the new Chairperson Mrs Brigid Quest-Ritson on what has been done to date by the Committee and what is to come.

Mrs Crenagh Elliott was invited to give the report on the status of data collection as well as proposals for rose conservation supplied by the 18 Member Countries who answered the appeal months prior to the Convention. Her report ended with recommendations for a uniform format for the WFRS Conservation Database, a topic that generated considerable discussion. The reports, portraying the many ways passionate rose lovers, individuals and institutions around the world are working on rose conservation, were all worthy of attention. The purpose of such committee meetings during Conventions is precisely to exchange information, ask questions and attempt to find solutions. A new and important topic now are the ways, as yet unclear, as to how the new EU privacy laws might be integrated into these reports in the future. It is hoped that some of the most relevant could be featured in future issues of BAON.

Particularly good news was that the Sangerhausen Database, helped by a grant from the Piaget Foundation, is now complete and operational. Over 4,000 cultivars are listed, with supporting images. The staff is largely bilingual and very responsive to queries.

Plans for the next Conservation and Heritage Convention, in Belgium June 8-12, 2020, were also given by Henriette de Briey, the new WFRS President, including special lectures for the meetings, garden visits and pre- and post- tours in Belgium, France and England.

There was also a lengthy and informative discussion on the fallout from the dissolution of the Royal National Rose Society which went into administration on May 15, 2017. With its library and gardens dispersed, it no longer can serve as the overall society for rose groups in the United Kingdom. But great hope was expressed that the newly formed "The Rose Society UK," with some 200-plus enthusiastic members, can replace the defunct RNRS to become the official Great Britain representative to the WFRS.

Copies of the complete 9-page report are available from WFRS Executive Director Derek Lawrence([dereklawrence@talktalk.net](mailto:dereklawrence@talktalk.net)) or Crenagh Elliott ([theelliotts@shaw.ca](mailto:theelliotts@shaw.ca)).

**Chairperson for 2012-2018, Yuki Mikanagi writes:**

“From 2012 to this year, our committee has had a period of significant changes. My term as chairperson started just after the international Heritage Rose Conference in Sakura, Japan, the first of these conferences held under the auspices of the WFRS. At the World Convention in Johannesburg in 2012, I was appointed as the chairperson of the Conservation Committee, succeeding Mrs. Marijke Peterich. At the International Heritage Conference in Sangerhausen in 2013, the chairperson of the Heritage Rose Committee changed from Mr. David Rustom to Mrs. Di Durston. At the World Convention in Lyon in 2015, the two committees were combined, and the new Conservation and Heritage Committee started. In 2017, at the meeting of this new committee in Ljubljana, Slovenia, we finally arrived at the definition of “heritage roses,” the theme we have been discussing since the 2009 World Convention in Vancouver, Canada. I sincerely thank all who have helped me on the Committee. I would not have been able to do anything without the strong support of the members, above all the vice-chairpersons and the editors of our newsletter BAON (“by any other name”). I always will remember that David Rustom welcomed as many people as possible to every meeting of the heritage rose committee when he was the chairperson. I am grateful not only to the delegate members but also to observers who have taken a deep interest in the discussions. Their love and interest in heritage roses are invaluable treasures for us and for the world of roses. I am confident that, from this year on under the chair of Mrs. Brigid Quest-Ritson, our committee will work even more actively to obtain our aim—saving all heritage roses of the world for future generations.”

**Newly-elected Chairperson Brigid Quest-Ritson writes:**

“Conservation and Heritage are overlapping concepts: most definitions of one will make a reference to the other. The merger of the two committees within the WFRS should be seen as strengthening both areas. There is a need for both. In a period of financial restraint many will question why the old and the rare should continue to exist. But old roses, rare roses, both cultivars and wild species are unique genetic resources of potential value in the present and the future. They also embody part of our cultural heritage. We cannot afford to dismiss them casually as of little value. The WFRS has members all over the world. I am glad to see local needs and traditions recognised in permitting the definition of “heritage” to vary by country societies. It is through the work of these country societies, and groups within them, that progress can be made. It was most encouraging to hear about successful initiatives and current projects at the meeting of the Committee in Copenhagen. I see the role of the chairman as being available to support and to help such endeavours. Everyone present at that meeting was keen to hear about what other societies were doing. We need to take advantage of newer methods of communication so that there is greater knowledge of what work is being done—where—and by whom—shared between meetings. The committee should not come alive only at the time of formal meetings when not all are able to attend. I would like to see more contact and discussion outside meetings. The WFRS is presently constructing a new website where the committee will have a “page” we can use. Articles and notes in BAON also have a role in communicating information. Back issues, not merely the current one, will be available, and I hope for an index to articles. Together, I hope we shall be able to expand the information available to be of use and interest both to committed rosarians and to

a wider public. I should like to continue the work done by Yuki Mikanagi, my immediate predecessor and good friend, in building an energetic committee which represents and makes known the work being done worldwide exploring and conserving our heritage of roses.

*The Editors: "We first met Yuki and Brigid at our first convention, in Sangerhausen in 2013, and after we were appointed editors of BAON at Lyon in 2015, Yuki as chairperson became a good guide and counsellor as we found our way in producing BAON. Brigid's election as the new chairperson is excellent news for the Committee and for BAON. See Yuki's article in our first issue #12 (July 2015) and Brigid's article in our last issue #17 (March 2018)."*

### **NEXT CONVENTIONS**

WFRS Regional Conference in Nanyang, China, April/May 2019

Site now open: [chinarose2019.org](http://chinarose2019.org)

WFRS Regional Conference in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India, January 2020

WFRS Heritage Rose Conference in Brussels, Belgium, June 2020

WFRS 18th World Rose Conference in Adelaide, Australia, October 21-28, 2021

### **ANOTHER 50th ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE**

While the events celebrating the 50th Anniversary for the World Federation were everywhere in Copenhagen during, before and after the June-July conference, let us not forget another milestone: this is the 50th anniversary for the Czech Rose Society which, founded in 1968 during the Cold War, remains active and strong. Josef George Thomas, the Society's President, is a much appreciated presence at WFRS conventions. Their annual bulletin has just been issued, in Czech of course, but English is spoken, and they are in frequent contact with like associations in Europe. [Josef.thomas@email.cz](mailto:Josef.thomas@email.cz), [www.rosaklub.cz](http://www.rosaklub.cz)

### **HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO BAON**

Each BAON issue is distributed online to all WFRS member societies and groups, associate members, The Breeders' Club, and the "Friends," and each is encouraged to distribute BAON further to their memberships or associates. However, there are certainly lapses, and if you do not receive BAON from your society or group, we encourage you to email Crenagh Elliott ([theelliotts@shaw.ca](mailto:theelliotts@shaw.ca)), giving your name, postal address (so we know the geographic spread), your rose group affiliation (if any, it's not required), and your preferred email address.

### **AND WE WELCOME THE NEW [www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)**

Paul Haines, the new Webmaster for the WFRS, has put online a newly updated and attractive website which gives prominence to both of its publications "World Rose News" and "BAON," including all of our previous 17 issues, each easily accessed and all articles printable. And soon there will be an Index for quick search. We are yours sincerely at ([www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)). Enjoy!