WFRS
TRIENNIAL REPORT
ON
ROSES
2000

Dr. Tommy Cairns
EDITOR

Published for the World Federation of Rose Societies
by the American Rose Society

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Managing Editor

Ellen Trice
Associate Editor
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WORLD FEDERATION OF ROSE SOCIETIES  
(1997-2000)  

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Mrs. Helga Brichet (Italy)  

SECRETARY  
Mrs. Jill Bennell (United Kingdom)  

PAST PRESIDENT  
Mrs. Ethel Freeman (Canada)  

HONORARY TREASURER  
Mr. James Ian Martin (United Kingdom)  

VICE-PRESIDENT – EUROPE  
Lt. Col. Rein Lae Solberg (Norway)  

VICE-PRESIDENT – EUROPE  
Mr. (Herr) Bernd Weigel (Germany)  

VICE-PRESIDENT – NORTH AMERICA  
Mr. Frank Benardella (United States)  

VICE-PRESIDENT – SOUTH AMERICA  
Senor Jean-Pierre Hounie (Uruguay)  

VICE-PRESIDENT – AFRICA & NEAR EAST  
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VICE-PRESIDENT – AUSTRALASIA  
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Dr. Takeo Nagata (Japan)  

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CONSERVATION .................................. Mrs. Heiga Brichet (Italy)  
CONVENTION LIAISON ...................... Mr. Robert Begg (Argentina)  
FUND-RAISING ................................... Mr. David Ruston (Australia)  
PUBLICATIONS ................................. Mrs. Ethel Freeman (Canada)  
REGISTRATION ....................... Lt. Col. Kenneth Grapes (United Kindgom)
MEMBER SOCIETIES
The World Federation of Rose Societies is the international organization for 34 National Rose Societies around the world representing more than 100,000 individuals who share a love of the rose.

ARGENTINA ........................................... Rose Society of Argentina
AUSTRALIA ........................................... National Rose Society of Australia
AUSTRIA ............................................. Osterreichische Rosenfreunde Garten-Gesellschaft
BELGIUM ........................................... Societe Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'
BERMUDA ........................................... Bermuda Rose Society
CANADA ............................................. Canadian Rose Society
CHINA .............................................. China Rose Society
CZECH REPUBLIC .................................. Czech Rosa Club
DENMARK ........................................... Danish Rose Society
FINLAND ........................................... Finnish Rose Society
FRANCE ............................................ Societe Francaise des Roses
GERMANY ........................................... Verein Deutscher Rosenfreunde
GREECE ............................................ Greek Rose Society
INDIA .............................................. Indian Rose Federation
ISRAEL ............................................. Israel Rose Society
ITALY .............................................. Associazione Italiana della Rosa
JAPAN ............................................... Japan Rose Society
LUXEMBOURG ..................................... Letzeburger Rousefrein
NETHERLANDS .................................... Nederlandse Rozenvereniging
NEW ZEALAND ..................................... National Rose Society of New Zealand
NORTHERN IRELAND ......................... Rose Society of Northern Ireland
NORWAY ........................................... Norwegian Rose Society
PAKISTAN .......................................... Pakistan National Rose Society
POLAND ............................................. Polish Society of Rose Fanciers
ROMANIA .......................................... Asociatia Amicii Rozelor din Romania
SLOVAKIA .......................................... Rosa Klub Zvolen - Slovakia
SOUTH AFRICA ................................. Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa
SPAIN .............................................. Asociacion Espanola de la Rose
SWEDEN ........................................... Swedish Rose Society
SWITZERLAND ................................. Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde
UNITED KINGDOM ............................. Royal National Rose Society
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ............ American Rose Society
URUGUAY ....................................... Asociacion Uruguaya de la Rose
ZIMBABWE ...................................... Rose Society of Zimbabwe
### WFRS Past Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>La Baronne Lily de Gerlache de Gomery</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Douglas Butcher</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Richard C. Allen</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Frank M. Bowen</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Professor F. Ziady</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>David Gilad</td>
<td>Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>La Baronne Lily de Gerlache de Gomery</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Richard C. Balfour</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Vincent G. Gioia</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Susan Begg</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>David Ruston</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Ethel Freeman</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Helga Brichet</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WFRS Gold Honor Medalists

“For Service to the Rose and to the WFRS”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Dr. A.S. Thomas</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Lotte Guenthart</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>La Baronne Lily de Gerlache de Gomery</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>David Gilad</td>
<td>Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Richard C. Balfour</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Ralph Moore</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Pat Dickson</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Jack Harkness (posthumously)</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Sam McGredy IV</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WFRS Rose Pin

“For Service to the WFRS”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Judge Milton Cadsby</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Ludwig Taschner</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Mary Wise</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Princess Alix de Ligne</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>David Ruston</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Robert M. Begg</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Susan Begg</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Norman D. Beck</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Molly Frizzell</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Professor Dr. Josef Selber</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Ethel Freeman</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WFRE PLAGUE OF MERIT
"For Outstanding Rose Gardens"

1995 — La Roseraie de l'Hay du Val de Marne (France)

The world's oldest existing garden devoted exclusively to roses celebrated its centenary in 1994. Situated at L'Hay-les-Roses, it was created by architect Eduard Andre and rosarian Jules Graveaux, who assembled a collection of all species and varieties known at the time. Together they created a rose garden of historical value and breathtaking beauty. In 1968 ownership of the garden passed to the municipality of Val de Marne, which has conscientiously continued the maintenance and renewal of the collection while encouraging public participation in this setting of unrivaled charm.

1996 — Il Roseto Botanico 'Carla Fineschi' (ITALY)

Professor Gianfranco Fineschi started collecting roses 30 years ago and today he has one of the world's largest private collections — more than 6,500 varieties, each represented by a single plant. In this living museum the genus Rosa is presented from a historical and a botanical point of view. Species, sub-species and later hybrids are systematically presented, while climbers and ramblers form walls between the scientific divisions. Many of the beds of modern varieties are grouped according to their hybridizers. In this garden overlooking the hills of Tuscany, one may trace the history of the rose from antiquity to the present day while marveling at the beauty of the garden itself.

1998 — The Garden of Roses at Hex Castle (BELGIUM)

This historical site was constructed by Prince Bishop Velbruck in 1770. The gardens are of a formal Renaissance style while the surrounding parkland reflects the natural English style. About 250 varieties of roses are found throughout the property. Since 1970, Countess Michel d’Ursel renewed and increased the collection of roses. Some bushes are originals which date back to the construction of the castle. Others are plants which the Countess d’Ursel brought back from her travels to replace those that had died. She also added many modern varieties, but always those that were in harmony with these gracious surroundings.
**WFRS Rose Hall of Fame**

The "World's Favorite Roses," as chosen by popular vote in the member countries of the World Federation of Rose Societies and announced at World Rose Conventions:

**1976**

'Peace'  
(Gioia, Gloria Dei, Mme A. Meilland)  
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, yellow blend, introduced in 1945, hybridized by Francis Meilland, France.

**1979**

'Queen Elizabeth'  
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, medium pink, introduced in 1954, hybridized by Dr. W.E. Lammerts of the United States of America.

**1981**

'Fragrant Cloud'  
(Duftwolke, Nuage Parfume)  
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, orange, introduced in 1963, hybridized by M. Tantau, Germany.

**1983**

'Iceberg'  
(Schneewittchen, Fee des Neiges)  
Clustered Flowered/Floribunda, white, introduced in 1958, hybridized by Reimer Kordes, Germany.

**1985**

'Double Delight'  
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, red blend, introduced in 1977, hybridized by Herbert Swim of the United States of America.

**1988**

'Papa Meilland'  
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, dark red, introduced in 1963, hybridized by Alain Meilland, France.

**1991**

'Pascali'  
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, white, introduced in 1963, hybridized by Louis Lens, Belgium.
1994
'Just Joey'
Large Flowered/Hybrid Tea, orange blend, introduced in 1972, hybridized by Roger Pawsey of Cants of Colchester, England.

1997
'New Dawn'
Large Flowered Climber, light pink, introduced in 1930, a sport of 'Dr. W. Van Fleet', introduced by Dreer of Somerset Rose Nursery, United States of America.

In 1988 at the World Rose Convention in Sydney, Australia, it was decided to establish an "Old Rose Hall of Fame" to recognize roses of historical or genealogical importance and those roses which have enjoyed continued popularity over a great many years. To date the following roses have been so recognized:

'Mlle Cecile Brunner'
'Gloire de Dijon'
'Old Blush'
'Souvenir de la Malmaison'

WORLD ROSE CONVENTIONS
World Rose Conventions are now held every third year, and any WFRS member society may bid to host one. World Rose Conventions have been held in:
1968 .......... Founding meeting in London, England
1971 .......... Hamilton, New Zealand (Roseworld '71)
1974 .......... Chicago, United States (Roseworld '74)
1979 .......... Pretoria, South Africa (Rosafari)
1981 .......... Jerusalem, Israel (Rose Pilgrimage)
1983 .......... Baden Baden, Germany (Roseromantic)
1985 .......... Toronto, Canada (Rosecapades)
1988 .......... Sydney, Australia (Rosa Australis)
1991 .......... Belfast, Northern Ireland (Rose Emerald)
1994 .......... Christchurch, New Zealand (Roseworld '94)
1997 .......... The Benelux (Belgium, Holland & Luxembourg jointly)

Future conventions have been awarded to:
2000 .......... Houston, United States of America (Texas 2000)
2003 .......... Glasgow, Scotland (Glasgow, City of The Rose 2003)
Preface

At its inception, the first objective of the World Federation of Rose Societies was to "encourage and facilitate the exchange of information about and knowledge of the Rose between national rose societies". Nearly 200,000 rose lovers around the world belong to one or more of the 34 national rose societies that make up the WFRS. To reach the greatest number of those rose lovers, we use the time-honored method of the printed word and, in this electronic age, the worldwide web. While we encourage our member societies to distribute their publications to each other, we also attempt to be the central clearinghouse for information about roses in each of those members' countries.

In our annual Rose Directory we record updated information about each national rose society — its correct name, address, telephone and fax numbers, E-mail address, website, contact people, calendar of events for the year, names, addresses and short descriptions of all the rose gardens in the country and, where applicable, the major rose nurseries, hybridizers and rose research centers.

In our semiannual World Rose News, current major events and developments in the rose world are reported and expanded upon. Each member society is encouraged to reproduce any of its articles in their own publications so that their own memberships know what is happening in the wider rose world beyond their borders. World Rose News is also available as individual subscriptions.

At our website (www.worldrose.org) much of the information in the Rose Directory and World Rose News is made available for those with access to the Internet. In addition, the site contains hundreds of photographs of WFRS Hall of Fame roses, Gardens of Merit and many winning roses from rose trials around the world. It truly extends our contact with those interested in roses, no matter where they may be.

Our latest effort to expand the scope of the exchange of rose information between countries is this WFRS Triennial Report on Roses, conceived and edited by Dr. Tommy Cairns. Intended to coincide with the WFRS conventions that are held every three years, its aim is to provide an in depth look at issues in the rose world. We trust you will enjoy this first issue of the WFRS Triennial Report on Roses.

Spreading information and knowledge about the Rose remains uppermost in our minds as we constantly search for ways to improve and increase communications among our member societies. We welcome any suggestions you may have.

Ethel Freeman
Chairman
WFRS Publications Committee
President’s Message

Publication of the first volume of the WFRS Triennial Report on Roses represents an important milestone in the growth and development of the WFRS. The decision to embark upon this series of volumes underlines the continued commitment of the WFRS to answer to the need for international exchange between national rose societies and to satisfy the increasing appetite for news about roses around the globe.

Every three years since the Federation’s foundation in 1968, a World Rose Convention has been held to advance its goals, foremost amongst which are to encourage and promote interchanges, both cultural and social, between rosarians from many different countries. However, no written record has been maintained of these events which capture the history, flavor, personalities, culture and technological developments in the world of roses.

The WFRS Council meeting in The Hague during the Benelux Convention in 1997 approved the concept proposed by the newly appointed editor of World Rose News to publish a book every three years coinciding with the World Rose Conventions. The decision was then made by the convenors of “Texas 2000” and the American Rose Society to assist in the publication of this first volume in the series. Their assistance, both financially and technically, is greatly appreciated.

The editor immediately requested that I write a complete history of the activities and events that formed the WFRS as well as a chronological treatise on the previous 11 World Rose Conventions. While a labor of love with which I was generously aided by many rose societies and rosarians, the unabridged report is published herein as an educational journey through our many-faceted traditions and history.

Since this first volume was to be published in 2000, a golden opportunity presented itself to portray the international rose trial grounds which have served the rose during the past century and to capture all those varieties which have won awards around the world. This major undertaking to compile such reports was overwhelming supported by the curators of the various gardens.

Thus, while the challenge to develop such a premier publication to showcase such information is strong, the inaugural volume may be considered modest in size, but not in content!

Finally, I am confident that each national rose society hosting a future World Rose Convention will consent to continue this series by ensuring the necessary funding is made available to permit publication and distribution to everyone attending the convention as well as to make copies available for sale to rosarians everywhere.

Helga Brichet
WFRS President
EDITORIAL

"Books are Man’s Memory and his aspirations
The link between his present and his past,
The tools he builds with."

STEPHEN VINCENT BENET

If we, as rosarians, truly subscribe to this famous quotation by Mr. Benet, then it becomes our enjoyable duty to chronicle our times and progress for future generations to read about and marvel. As the international custodian of the advancement of the rose, the WFRS has grown exponentially from its founding in 1968. Today, there are more than 34 member countries and 11 world rose conventions have been held. The challenge to WFRS to become the official recorder of important events, progress, and technological advancements has been boldly met with this new publication. In response to the challenge, the "WFRS Triennial Report on Roses" was born!

Auspiciously this year saw the end of the 20th century and the beginning of a new millennium. In deciding the content of this first issue, priority was given to placing into the record the history of the WFRS before the details of such events were in danger of being forgotten or lost. Therefore, the extensive and factual report by WFRS President Helga Brichet has been published in an unabridged form so that we may relive the triumphs of the past century and return many memories to their full brilliance.

Next in priority of importance was the publication of those rose varieties that have won awards at the various international rose trials grounds throughout the world. For instance, Bagatelle in France has been conducting rose trials since 1907 and Lyon in France since 1931. This volume has attempted a comprehensive capture of this information for future generations to use as a reference source. To the curators of the various gardens, I extend my sincere thanks for your support and assistance.

No report on the progress of rose breeding could be complete without addressing the development of hardy roses for growing in harsh winter climates. The report prepared by Ethel Freeman stands as the definitive work on this interesting subject.

Finally, I hope this report will provide an intellectual stimulus and improved exposure value to rosarians to be justly proud of the advancement of the rose during the 20th century.

As always, I am educated to a higher level by the process of compiling and editing a volume of this importance. I hope you, the readers, will enjoy this inaugural volume and your attendance at the 12th World Rose Convention in Houston, “Texas 2000”.

DR. TOMMY CAIRNS
WFRS Editor

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A History of the

World Federation of Rose Societies

By Helga Brichet

Rose Conferences Leading to the Foundation of the WFRS

The founding of the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) was preceded by a number of rose conferences. One of the first of these was hosted by the National Rose Society of the United Kingdom in July 1928 at Caxton Hall, Westminster. The president of the society, Mr. H.R. Darlington, welcomed overseas friends in the name of the great work of reconciliation the rose was accomplishing after the lacerations of World War I.

Ten years later the same society hosted a second such conference in the same venue. Mr. Herbert Oppenheimer, the president at the time, in his opening address, mooted the idea that international rose conferences should be staged annually and that breeders and researchers should be encouraged to collaborate more closely with practical gardeners at these events. On the evening of the inaugural day a reception and dinner attended by upwards of 200 delegates and friends was held at the Savoy Hotel. Among those present were representatives of rose lovers in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany and the United States. Included in the program was an outing to the hosting society’s trial grounds at Hayward’s Heath as well as a visit to rose nurseries in the Colchester district.

Twenty years were to pass before rosarians from Europe and beyond were able to gather in London for the Third International Rose Conference from September 9-12, 1958. The event was also a fitting commemoration of the centenary of the great national show held in London in July 1858, which was conceived and organized by Dean Hole (later to become the Rose Society’s first president), Mr. Rivers (who in 1834 had published the first descriptive list of roses), Mr. Charles Turner (a leading florist) and Mr. William Paul, who wrote about and created varieties still popular today.

The conference was opened by HRH Princess Royal at Church House, after which all present proceeded to the Halls of the Royal Horticultural Society to admire the Great Autumn Rose Show. The highlight of the displays was the international breeders’ newest varieties with Alex Dickson’s ‘Dickson’s Flame’ creating a furor and carrying off the President’s International Trophy. The following evening the conference dinner was held at the Park Lane Hotel. Two hundred forty members and guests from Commonwealth countries — Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia and Nigeria — as well as rose friends from the United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Israel were welcomed. Lord Grenfell, proposing a toast to the host society noted the ambassadorial work the rose ‘Peace’ had accomplished during the years succeeding World War II, and deeply regretted the untimely death of Francis Meilland, its originator, who had greatly desired to participate in the conference. Dr. A.S. Thomas, president of the Rose Society of Victoria, expressed the pleasure of all those who were able to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the first of all rose shows, which had led, in great measure, to the founding of the National Rose Society, which in turn served as a model for the formation of almost all rose societies of the world.

The conference program included visits to places of horticultural interest, discussions, a quiz session and lectures by foremost Rosarians such as Wilhelm Kordes, Graham Stuart Thomas, Sam McGredy and Eugene Boerner. All in all, the conference was a tremendous success and ended on a happy and friendly note.

In April 1967 the First Australian Rose Convention was hosted by the then National Rose Society of Victoria, presided over by Dr. A.S. Thomas. The Melbourne Rose Show, officially opened by the governor of the state in the Main Town Hall, had 99 general classes and an additional 30 classes for floral arrangements in the Lower Town Hall. Almost 1,200 people had registered for the convention, which included an appropriately comprehensive program of lectures, discussions and tours for the three days following the show. By common assent, the event was pronounced a triumph and many felt it could be the forerunner of regular rose conventions hosted by societies from various countries. In fact, delegates from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia and New Zealand reported back to their societies with the objectives of establishing links to take the idea further and contacting other national rose societies which might be interested.

Founding Meeting - 1968
In 1968 the Fourth International Rose Conference was hosted in London by the now renamed Royal National Rose Society. It was followed by the Summer Show in Alexandra Palace. On July 1, an afternoon reception was held at St. James Palace in the presence of the Queen Mother, patron of the society. Thanks to the rapid advances in air travel, foreign representatives were quite numerous indeed: they came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland and Italy as well as Israel, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States. After two days of lectures and discussions, the necessity was clearly felt by all in attendance to establish some sort of permanent international body which would organize a program of regular rose conventions. The provisional title of the newly created body was “The International Federation of National Rose Societies.” Baroness Lily de Gerlache de Gomery of Belgium was felt to be the natural choice as its founding president. As New Zealand had already started preparations for a convention in 1971, it was agreed to select Hamilton as the venue for the First World Convention. In the meanwhile, the aims and objects of the body were to be prepared so that the “Constitution and Rules” might firmly establish an international organization during the anticipated convention.

First World Rose Convention - Hamilton, New Zealand - 1971

The First World Rose Convention and International Rose Show, “Roseworld ’71”, was officially opened by the Governor of New Zealand, Sir Arthur Porritt, on November 8, 1971. The preceding evening the mayor of Hamilton, Mr. M.T. Minogue, had introduced distinguished foreign delegates to all participants at a supper reception. Mr. Allen Scott, immediate past president of National Rose Society, was chairman of the Council, while the Waikato and Te Awamutu rose societies had been entrusted with the organization, a task they fulfilled in no uncertain manner! At the Caudeland’s Show Grounds, the Waikato Rose Society provided three two-day rose shows, a continuous spectacle for the entire period of the convention. Some 2,000 rose bushes, many as yet unnamed, surrounded a central gazebo covered by climbing varieties, where the champion blooms were displayed. To the particular delight of foreign guests, a native garden was reconstructed with extensive use of endemic and native plants surrounding a waterfall and stream containing live trout. Large floral decorations were used to depict many aspects of life, industry and places of interest in New Zealand.

Day tours had been arranged to scenic spots around the city. Many public gardens were included. Two rose gardens had been specially planned and planted for the occasion: the New Hamilton Rose Garden and the Te Awamutu Rose Garden. Longer tours and trips by jet boat on the Waikato River were available. Country tours proved most popular with parties of 700 and more participating on occasion.

Fifteen sessions of lectures, panel discussions, demonstrations and a nurserymen’s seminar were offered. Subjects varied from hybridizing, virus diseases, rose research, trial grounds, old fashioned and miniature roses to native flora, Ikebana and floral art. Breeders who participated in various aspects of the sessions included E.B. Le Grice and John Mattock from the United Kingdom, R.V. Lindquist, H. Swim and Ralph Moore from the United States, N. Poulsen from Denmark, Sam McGredy from Northern Ireland, H. Spek from the Netherlands, Y. Kameoka from Japan, Dr. Swarup from India and A. Meilland and J. Gaujard from France.

The convention closed on Saturday, November 13, with a special banquet at the “Riverlea” attended by more than 600 rose lovers. The RNRS presented the host society with a magnificent silver loving cup, while the national president, Mr. Douglas Butcher, was presented with the Dean Hole Medal for services to the Rose. Mr. Butcher justly described the six-day convention as the most outstanding event in the 40 years of the society’s history.

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) officially came into being during this memorable convention. For the metaphorical laying of the foundation stone, the representatives of nine national rose societies gathered at the first meeting on November 7, 1971 at the Waikato Hotel. They came from Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Representatives of founding members were:
- Australia: Mr. L. Lawrence, Dr. A.S. Thomas
- Canada: Mr. R.H. Keith, Mrs. W. Lyzaniwsky
- India: Mr. S.M. Dahanukar, Dr. S.Y. Sirdar
Baroness Lily de Gerlache, the founding president, had not been able to attend, thus the hosting society’s president, Mr. Douglas Butcher, was unanimously elected to the chair of all committees for the duration of the convention. Mr. Len Turner of the United Kingdom was elected secretary. The first and most important item to consider was undoubtedly the constitution and rules of the new organization. At a second meeting on November 9, a preliminary document was considered, while the final draft, prepared by Mr. F. M. Bowen of the United Kingdom, Dr. R.C. Allen of the United States and Mr. F. Smith of New Zealand, assisted by the secretary, Mr. Turner, was presented to, and duly approved by, delegates assembled at the meeting of November 12.

The official title of the organization would be “The World Federation of Rose Societies”, and the membership would be open to all rose societies representing their countries. The aim and objects of the Federation, which to this day have remained substantially unchanged, were the following:

1. To encourage and facilitate the exchange of information about and knowledge of the Rose between national rose societies.
2. To coordinate the holding of international conventions and exhibitions.
3. To encourage and, when appropriate, sponsor research into the problems concerning the rose.
4. To establish common standards for judging new seedling roses.
5. To assist in coordinating the registration of rose names.
6. To establish a uniform system of rose classification.
7. To grant international honors and/or awards.
8. To encourage and advance international cooperation on all other matters concerning the rose.

The affairs of the Federation would be controlled by a Council, with the president as chairman, on which every member society was to have equal representation, that is, one vote per society. This body would have the power to appoint such committees as it might decide. There was to be a uniform annual subscription to be agreed upon periodically by Council.

It was also unanimously agreed that the following recommended committee structure be adopted:
1. A General Management Committee to be entrusted with administration, finance and policy.
2. A Convention Liaison Committee to liaise with hosting Societies for Convention planning.
3. A Classification and Registration Committee.

Thus it was that later in the day of November 12, the first meeting of the WFRS Council was held to nominate office holders under the newly approved constitution and rules.

Mr. Butcher was unanimously invited to hold the presidency until the end of the convention, and then be followed by Dr. Ray Allen (U.S.) until the second convention to be held in Chicago in 1974. The deputy president would be Mr. Bowen, while Mr. Len Turner was elected secretary. Mrs. von Rosenthal, secretary of the German Rose Society, although not present, was proposed treasurer, provided her society became a member as expected. Mrs. von Rosenthal accepted.

The first Council agreed that while the chairman of the General Management Committee should be elected by Council, the other committees were free to elect their chairmen. Thus Mr. Bowen, president of the RNRS and deputy president, became the first chairman of the General Management Committee. The president, deputy president and secretary were to be ex-officio members of all committees, each to be comprised of five delegates from named member societies. Thus the General Management Committee was to be composed of representatives from Australia, South Africa, India and New Zealand plus the Treasurer. A nominal entrance fee to new members of one pound sterling and an annual subscription fee of twenty pounds sterling were resolved upon, so as not to preclude any society from joining.
As will soon be seen, these administrative arrangements had to be modified and refined, in many cases, to remain in keeping with the growing number and diversified nature of World Federation members.

Of the more durable motions approved at the 1971 meeting were those based on the proposals of the report of the Classification Sub-Committee with a view to introducing and maintaining a scheme that should be internationally acceptable. After considering the American, United Kingdom and Polish systems, the subcommittee led by Mr. R.C. Balfour (UK) opted for the scheme used by the RNRS, which was to be circulated to members.

In closing the convention, President Butcher thanked all for the sterling work they had done, and released a press announcement giving notice of the formal establishment of the World Federation and the election of the principal officers.

Second World Rose Convention - Chicago, USA - 1974

The president of the World Federation and the American Rose Society, Dr. R. C. Allen, welcomed participants to the Second World Convention, “Roseworld ’74”, held in Chicago, from September 7-12, 1974. The hosting societies were the American Rose Society (ARS) and the Rose Society Council of Greater Chicago. The executive director of ARS was Mr. Harold Goldstein, while the Convention Committee was under the able leadership of its general chairman, Mrs. Paula Ballin. The venue was the Drake Hotel where rosarians were able to register on the first day while the Federation’s plenary sessions and committee meetings were under way. That evening there was a banquet, while the convention was officially opened on the morning of September 8, followed by a well-attended and impressive rose show in the afternoon.

A series of workshops and lectures included rose exhibiting and judging, public gardens and trial grounds. Dr. Eldon Lyle, past president of the ARS, presented a paper on “What’s New in the World of Chemicals for Rose Growers”, while Howard Walters lectured about the “Creation of the American Rose Center”. Crowds were attracted to a series of four panel discussions entitled “New Roses and Hybridizing Around the World”. The participation of the following breeders was greeted with great enthusiasm: Sam McGredy, Seizo Suzuki, Jan Spek, Francois Delbard, J.A. Herholdt, Walter Lammerts, Robert Lindquist, William Warriner, O.L. Weeks, Ralph Moore, Mark Mattock, E.B. LeGrice, Ray Rumsey, Harry Wheatcroft, Ben Williams, Frank Benardella, Reimer Kordes, Alain Meilland, Patrice Gaujard, Neils Poulsen, Matthias Tantau and David Gilad — today all household names in the world of roses — a star-studded crowd perhaps never to be matched again.

City tours took participants to the Grant Park Rose Garden, the Botanical Society Gardens and the Garfield Park and Lincoln Park conservatories. An all-day tour included the Bahai Temple, Whitnall Park and numerous private gardens. The atmosphere among conventioneers was relaxed, and plenty of time was left to socialize — there was even a “Chicago Speakeasy Night”! At the gala banquet and awards presentation on September 12, Mr. David Stump, the president of Jackson & Perkins, addressed the audience on “The Rose — Present and Future”. The culminating ceremony was the installation of the new WFRS president.

The official meetings of the Federation were naturally characterized by a great deal of work to consolidate the administrative organization of the fledgling body. At the first meeting of Council six of the nine founding members were represented. (Neither India nor Japan had sent delegates, while Switzerland seemed to have temporarily withdrawn). However, four more societies from Belgium, Italy, Germany and Israel had joined, the latter two having sent their official delegates, Mr. G. Krussmann and Mr. David Gilad. Thus membership was increased to 12 societies.

It immediately became clear that allocating national membership to the various committees as envisaged in New Zealand would not be feasible. Therefore, those delegates present were nominated to the committees while it was decided to co-opt any rosarians participating at the convention when desirable to further the business of the committees. A joint Awards and Publications Committee was agreed upon for the duration of the convention, after which each would become a distinct entity. A competition to be known as “The World’s Favorite Rose”, was instituted, the publicity advantage being to the WFRS, its members and, of course, the Rose. The variety, regardless of class, was to be voted on by members on a points system, with each member submitting a list of 10 preferred varieties. The winner would be announced at the following convention and a portrait of the variety would be commissioned from a distinguished artist and presented to the breeder. The hosting society was requested to publish permanent records of the convention, including the tapes of all speeches and lectures. A
system of free distribution and exchange of literature between members was encouraged. An annual update of members’ names and addresses would be circulated by the secretary when issuing subscription reminders.

The proposal of the Classification and Registration Committee - also henceforth to become separate entities — that the system accepted during the New Zealand Convention be formally adopted for international classification and registration purposes, and that a code system be devised in cooperation with the International Registration Authority, was unanimously approved. Similarly, a proposal that a new variety bear only one name (this not to interfere with the breeders’ rights to use code names) was carried.

The activities of the committees between conventions were to be encouraged. All chairmen would be elected by Council and would be free to organize work programs with periodic progress reports circulated to members. The question of some form of relationship with other rose-oriented bodies would be explored by the General Management Committee in the interval before the next convention.

A proposal regarding the logo to represent the WFRS was also discussed, but in view of the cost, it was decided to postpone a decision regarding its design and use. Approval was given to the General Management Committee’s recommendation that in the future the chairman of the Liaison Committee be the president of the society hosting a convention. Guidelines for hosting a convention were also to be drawn up while leaving the program free for the society to organize. A modest surcharge, to be decided between the Liaison Committee and the hosting society, would be donated to the Federation. Future conventions would be awarded only on this condition. The Fourth World Convention was awarded to the South African Federation of Rose Societies to be held in 1979, followed by the Israel Rose Society in 1981.

The late Mr. Douglas Butcher’s services to the Federation were warmly appreciated. The president suggested that a permanent record be drawn up and sent to the National Rose Society of New Zealand. In fact, at the Oxford convention a resolution in grateful appreciation of Mr. Butcher’s work was unanimously approved.

For the ensuing period the following officers were appointed (September 1974 - July 1976):

- **President:** Mr. F. M. Bowen (UK)
- **Deputy President:** Prof. B. Ziady (SA)
- **Secretary and Treasurer:** Mr. L.G. Turner (UK)

Similarly the following committee chairmen were elected:

- **General Management:** Deputy President Prof. B. Ziady (SA)
- **Convention Liaison:** Mr. E.F. Allen (UK)
- **Classification:** Mr. R.C. Balfour (UK)
- **Registration:** Dr. R.C. Allen (US)
- **Publication:** Mr. P. Stephens (NZ)
- **Awards:** Mr. Milton Cadsby (CAN)


In Great Britain, 1976 was declared “The Year of the Rose”. It was, in fact, the centenary of the National Rose Society, founded at a meeting called by Clergyman D’Ombrain at the Horticultural Club in London on December 7, 1876. The year was launched with the slogan “Brighten Britain with Roses”, while the theme of many special events across the country was “Plant them, Give them, Wear them!” A set of four rose stamps was issued to mark the occasion, as had been done in New Zealand in 1971. Special plantings, including 5,000 bushes in Springfields at Spalding as well as a new rose garden at St. Paul’s, fostered public awareness of the beauty of the nation’s favorite flower.

Without doubt the highlights of the year were the Centenary Summer Show at the Royal Horticultural Society’s Halls on July 2-3 and the ensuing International Rose Conference, the Third WFRS World Rose Convention in Oxford from July 5-8 entitled “Roscent ’76”.

This conference, the organization of which was under the Centenary Subcommittee chaired by Mr. R.C. Balfour, was opened by the university’s vice chancellor, Sir John Habakkuk, at the Sheldonian Theater. The well-known hybridizer Edward LeGrice appropriately reviewed the history of the hosting society. Lectures were thereafter held at the Zoology Building and included topics such as roses in art and photography, practical gardening advice, floral art demonstrations and discussions groups on a number of specialized subjects. Perhaps
the most popular sessions were, once more, those devoted to rose breeding at which many renowned hybridizers participated. In a lighter vein there was a mouth-watering session on rose recipes while the exhibition “Roses in Art and History” was greatly admired. Another interesting exhibition showed the photographic story of the rose over the last century. Two Swiss artists, Anne Marie Trechslin and Lotte Gunthart, had displays of floral watercolors.

In spite of a heat wave that year many enthusiasts participated in excursions from Wisley to Warwick and from Bath to Bone Hill. Numerous private gardens were visited, while the Mattock Brothers Nursery displayed the newest varieties sent to them by colleagues from around the world. At the final Centenary Banquet more than 600 guests were personally greeted by RNRS President E.F. Allen. The highlight of the memorable evening was a presentation of the Dean Hole Medal to Edward LeGrice for a lifetime as a professional grower and to Graham Stuart Thomas for his worldwide service to rose literature and history.

At the WFRS Council meeting the president, Mr. Bowen, reported with pleasure that the Netherlands and Switzerland had joined the Federation, the latter society being represented by Mr. and Mrs. Gunthart. Thus membership had risen to 14 societies. (At this meeting Belgium was represented by Baroness de Gerlache de Gomery and Mr. Mertens, Italy by Dr. Stelvio Coggiatti, and Japan by Takeshi Sato and the breeder Dr. Toru Onodera.)

After meetings of the various committees, the second Council meeting was held on July 8. It had become clear that, in order to mobilize activity, members should be permitted to nominate representatives to all committees and that the services of a part-time secretary were necessary to maintain communication between members at regular intervals. However, until a person willing to undertake the office of treasurer could be found, the offices of secretary and treasurer would remain combined. In view of having to provide for a paid secretary, it was envisaged to raise funds by appealing for donations, by a 10 percent levy on future convention registrations and by requesting hosting societies to raise sufficient funds to cover running costs until the subsequent convention. Laudable proposals, but perhaps unrealistic considering the tender age of the Federation.

The office of the president would now be open to the delegates of all members of Council, and it was felt unnecessary that the president be chosen on the basis of being a resident in the next hosting country. Council representatives could now be appointed to serve without restriction of time, member societies being entirely free to nominate their delegates at all times.

The chairman of the Awards Committee reported that all members had participated in electing the “World’s Favorite Rose” — ‘Peace’ (‘Mme A. Meilland’, ‘Gioia’, ‘Gloria Dei’ by Francis Meilland, 1945). A portrait of the variety had been painted by Lotte Gunthart and generously given to the Federation for presentation to Madame F. Meilland at the final banquet. Members would again be asked to vote for their preferred variety, excluding the winner, for the 1979 convention. The Publications Committee earnestly recommended that future hosting societies supply all members with a summary of all events, plus papers and lectures as well as a list of the names and addresses of participants. The Classifications Committee presented a list of alphabetical abbreviations for use in all non-botanical rose publications, while a system of symbols was to be devised by the South African delegates to indicate the various types of modern roses. The desirability of standardization of trial ground judging was referred to, and an analysis of the prevailing systems by the German delegate, Dr. Josef Sieber, was circulated. Improved cooperation was reported in the registration of rose names, and societies were urged to impose sanctions when possible to ensure proper registration. Contrary to the Chicago decision, it was now agreed that the chairman of the Liaison Committee be the convenor of the last hosting society’s Convention Committee, so that experience gained could be put to further use. Members were asked for suggestions regarding a suitable logo for the Federation. A decision would be taken at the next convention. A final vote of thanks to the RNRS for the wonderful arrangements they had made and the hospitality they had extended was carried unanimously.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing period (July 1976 – October 1979):

- President: Prof. B. Ziady (SA)
- Deputy President: Mr. D. Gilad (Israel)
- Secretary: Prof. S. Cywes (SA)

The following committee chairmen were elected:

- General Management: Mr. D. Gilad (Israel)
- Convention Liaison: Mr. R.C. Balfour (UK)
Fourth World Rose Convention - Pretoria, South Africa - 1979

This Convention, held in the Jacaranda City of Pretoria from October 3-9, 1979, was aptly called “Rosafari ’79”. The Convention Committee of the South African Rose Society, headed by Mr. D. G. Austin, was responsible for the general arrangements and program of this Fourth World Convention, which was preceded by a three-day safari tour in the famous Kruger National Park.

The opening ceremony was held at the University of South Africa in the presence of the state president, whose garden was opened for delegates to visit, the mayor of Pretoria and the guest of honor, Prof. Chris Barnard. Mrs. Mary Wise, president of the society most warmly welcomed all present. Participants were lodged in the Burgerspark Hotel while convention sessions took place in the nearby Conservatoire of Music where greatly appreciated simultaneous translation was available.

While committee meetings were underway an opulent Flower Festival, which included the rose society’s show was staged at the Municipal Show Grounds. There was a comprehensive floral art display, while in the rose section interest focused mainly on the locally bred varieties which visitors from abroad were seeing for the first time. Excursions took participants to the Botanical Research Institute at Brummeria and the Horticultural Research Institute at Roodeplaat, one of the largest research centers of its kind, controlling eight sub-stations throughout the country. There were also trips to various rose nurseries including that of Mr. J.A. Herholdt, South Africa’s only professional breeder at that time. Sightseeing tours included visits to gold and diamond mines, while a drive through the Krugersdorp Game Reserve was followed by a traditional ox-barbecue. Enthusiasm was roused by the International Rose Quiz in which the delegates of 10 societies participated. The winning team was from the United Kingdom, led by the RNRS President Eric Elwes.

The varied lectures solicited, of course, the greatest interest. Subjects ranged from scientific papers on virus indexing and new developments in micro-propagation under glass to new grafting methods, presented by Mr. Georges Delbard Sr., and rose propagation in pots. There were symposiums on cut roses, exhibiting and judging as well as an enjoyable slide show of rose gardens of the world.

During intervening period since the 1976 convention the Rose Society of Argentina had applied for membership in the Federation. During the “Rosafari ‘79” the Societe Francaise des Roses also applied, so it was with pleasure that WFRS President Ziady could welcome the delegates of these new member societies, Mrs. Susan Begg, representing the Argentina society, and Mr. A. Couzinier and Mr. J. Ruet from France, the president of that society, Mr. Souzy having been unable to attend. Thus membership increased to 16 national rose societies, while interest had also been shown from Zimbabwe, Luxembourg, Northern Ireland, Bermuda and Poland. This latter society had encountered problems in exporting currency and had requested financial support for its delegates, but in order not to create a precedent had been turned down. Neither was it permitted to bring out money from India, this presumably being the reason why a delegation from that country had thus far only been present at the first Convention in 1971.

At the meeting of Council it was confirmed that each member might be represented by two delegates plus two observers, but have only one vote. Additional observers would be admitted on application. The secretary, Mr. Cywes, was happy to report that following the appeal at Oxford for donations a few members had generously responded, while additional funds had been brought in by the sale of cards of the portrait of ‘Peace’ by Lotte Gunthart.

The Chairman of the Awards Committee, Judge Cadsby, announced that ‘Queen Elizabeth’ had been elected the World’s Favorite Rose and thus followed ‘Peace’ into the WFRS Hall of Fame. Mrs. Gunthart had once more painted a portrait that would be presented to the breeder Walter Lammerts. The creation of a new award in form of a medal was agreed upon. It would be presented to individuals who had given outstanding service to the WFRS. The first recipient was Dr. A.S. Thomas from Australia for his
outstanding services to the Federation and the Rose. A subcommittee was charged to work out the details of the medal’s design.

In the meantime, another Awards Subcommittee chaired by Mr. Gunthart considered 47 entries for an official Federation emblem that had been received from various countries. Ultimately the design of Miss Hantie de Klerk, an artist at the South African Philatelic Service of the Postal Department, was chosen and approved.

The Publications Committee recommended that after each convention a list of members’ current secretaries be circulated and that the main lectures and papers of a convention be published by the host country in English. Although the honorable secretary reported contact between members by means of regular bulletins, the president, Prof. Ziady lamented over the general lack of communications between members. Thus it was approved that each member should receive one free copy of all Federation publications and likewise send a free copy of all publications to other members. The RNRS offered to record and maintain the Federation archives, while the Swiss society offered to publish, under the auspices of the Gunthart Foundation, a directory of rose gardens, nurseries and breeders worldwide. Both these offers were gratefully accepted.

The Classification Committee recommended that varieties already in commerce would not be re-classified under the new system, but that members should publicize the new scheme in their journals for future use. The Registration Committee recommended continued support for the registration of new varieties through the American Rose Society. At the recommendation of the Convention Liaison Committee it was agreed to accept the application of the German Rose Society to host the 1983 Convention in Baden-Baden and to give favorable consideration to the Canadian Rose Society’s request for the subsequent convention to be held in Canada.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing period (October 1979 - October 1981):

- President Mr. David Gilad (Israel)
- Deputy President: Mr. von Medem (GER)
- Secretary: Judge Milton Cadby (CAN)
- Treasurer: Mr. Ludwig Taschner (SA)

The following committee chairmen were elected:

- General Management: Mr. von Medem (GER)
- Convention Liaison: Mr. D. Austin (SA)
- Classification: Mr. R. C. Balfour (UK)
- Registration: Mr. Howard Walters (US)
- Publications: Prof. B. Ziady (SA)
- Awards: Baroness Lilly de Gerlache de Gomery (BEL)

**The Fifth World Rose Convention - Tel Aviv, Israel - 1981**

The Fifth World Convention was hosted by the Israeli Rose Society in Jerusalem from October 25-29, 1981, and was entitled “Rose Pilgrimage ’81”. A few weeks before the event a bouquet of 50 Israeli-grown roses was airlifted to the families of presidents of the World Federation members along with a commemorative medal and a copy of the book The History of the Rose in the Holy Land throughout the Ages illustrated by Lotte Gunthart.

Events got underway informally as conventioners started to gather. Another “Rose Quiz” between society teams which had proven so popular in Pretoria was won by the Australian team captained by Mr. David Ruston. Although the number of participants was less than expected, due in large part to political uncertainties after the assassination of Egypt’s President Anwar Sadat two weeks earlier, more than 400 foreign visitors were welcomed by the society’s president, Mr. Gilad, at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv. Breeders present were Reimer Kordes, Louise Meilland and her son, Alain, Georges Delbard, Jack Harkness, Pat Dickson, Harm Saville, Ralph Moore, G. de Ruiter and Paul Pekmez as well as delegates from 24 countries including Columbia, Cyprus, Egypt and Portugal. Unfortunately, none of these latter countries have, to my knowledge, national rose societies to date. The opening ceremony was staged on the evening of October 26 at the Jerusalem Theater where the city’s mayor, Teddy Kollek, welcomed all guests. The guest speaker, Noga Hareuveri, was followed by a young Israeli dance group. This was followed by a rose show at the Hilton Hotel where the watercolors of Lotte Gunthart and Anne Marie Trechslin were much admired along with a collection of international stamps featuring the rose.

The highlight of the social events was the inauguration of the Wohl Rose Garden in the park overlooking the entire city in which 15,000 rose bushes made a stunning display. Visitors were able to admire modern as well
as older and botanical varieties, symbolizing the evolution of the rose from earliest times. This memorable ceremony was followed by an open-air reception at the Israel Museum.

Sightseeing trips to Masada, Arad, Lachise and Neot Kedumim as well as tours to research stations, public and private gardens and nurseries attracted many participants and much enthusiasm. The state president’s wife, Mrs. Ofira Navon, invited delegates to the official residence. A buffet dinner was organized which gave delegates from 14 countries the opportunity to serve national specialties. The French stand offered quiche; the British, steak and kidney pie; the Canadians, spare ribs in tomato sauce; and the Americans, weenies and pecan pie. A good time was had by all. The final dinner brought the convention to a successful close.

During the Israeli convention, fundamental changes in the administrative structure of the Federation were approved. The General Management Committee was replaced by an Executive Committee chaired by the president. (For the duration of the convention Judge Cadsby was elected chairman, as the deputy president, Mr. V. von Medem, had resigned prior to the event). This committee was made up of six vice presidents plus the honorable secretary and honorable treasurer. The vice presidents were to represent the following regions or zones: South America, North America, Africa, Australasia, and two for Europe. Elections were immediately held at the Council meeting on October 24 with the following results:

- South America - Mrs. Susan Begg (ARG)
- North America - Mr. Vincent Gioia (US)
- Africa - Mrs. Mary Wise (SA)
- Australasia - Mr. Bert Stone (AUS)
- Europe - Mr. R. C. Balfour (UK); Baroness Lily de Gerlache (BEL)

The functions of the Executive Committee were to be the following:
1. To be responsible for the general and financial management of the Federation.
2. To exercise the authority of Council between conventions.
3. To facilitate liaison between the Federation and members in the various regions through the vice presidents.

New applications for membership had been received from the Societies of Poland, Bermuda, Luxembourg and Northern Ireland and were approved. The Polish society was represented by Mrs. J. Grabczewska, that of Ireland by Mrs. Molly Frizzell, while Mr. John Dunlop represented the Zimbabwe Rose Society which had joined the Federation in the intervening period. Membership had risen to 21.

At the Awards Committee meeting, it was announced that ‘Duftwolke’ (also known as ‘Fragrant Cloud’) hybridized by M. Tantau in 1963, had been elected the World’s Favorite Rose and would thus be elevated to the WFRS Hall of Fame. The presentation of the rose portrait would take place at the final banquet. Anne Marie Trechslin volunteered to paint the fourth World’s Favorite Rose, an offer that was gratefully accepted.

At the same event the WFRS Gold Medal announced in Pretoria in 1979 could finally be presented to Dr. A. S. Thomas from Australia.

The committee unanimously agreed to recommend the same award be presented to Lotte Gunthart for her services to the Federation particularly regarding the publicity derived from the watercolors she had donated to the World’s Favorite Rose competition.

Since the South African Convention a first newsletter had been published by the Publications Committee chaired by Prof. Ziady. However, few societies contributed. It was hoped that in the future the Publications Committee would be able to edit and publish a WFRS newsletter on a twice-yearly basis to promote the Federation’s activities. All societies were encouraged to contribute newsworthy material and reproduce excerpts in their national publications. The chairman was to establish correspondence with all members and report to the president at least quarterly.

An ad hoc Fund-raising Subcommittee was appointed, while the secretary recommended that an expense account be allocated for visits of officers between conventions to improve cooperation among members. It was also recommended that organizations of professional breeders and growers be eligible for non-voting membership at a fee to be decided by the Executive Committee. The Fund-raising Subcommittee’s proposals that annual subscription be raised and scaled according to the size of the member society; that various items, such as ties, scarves, etc., with the WFRS emblem be offered for sale; and that an approach be made to companies to advertise in the Federation’s publications were referred to the Executive Committee.
At the meeting of the Classification Committee the question of adding symbols was discussed, it being essential to have a set of symbols which could be typed. Therefore it was agreed to continue with the three-letter system with the addition of two-letter abbreviations prefixed by ‘O’ for old garden varieties. The chairman of the Registration Committee explained the new systems agreed to between CIOPORA and the ARS whereby the latter was appointed Registrar of a new register entitled ‘International Register of Rose Varieties as compiled by the ARS and CIOPORA’. The American Rose Society envisaged a twice-yearly publication to be made available on a subscription basis.

It was unanimously agreed that the Canadian Rose Society would host the Seventh World Rose Convention in 1985, and the National Rose Society of Australia would host the Eighth World Rose Convention in April 1988.

The motion of the Executive Committee to Council to elect Baroness de Gerlache de Gomery as president for the period, October 1981 to July 1983, until the Baden-Baden Convention, was unanimously accepted. Dr. G. Schoser of Germany was similarly elected to the vacated post of European vice president. Mr. Ludwig Taschner (SA) was elected honorable secretary and honorable treasurer.

The following committee chairmen were elected:
• Awards Committee: Mrs. Mary Wise (SA)
• Publications Committee: Mr. Howard Walters (US)
• Fund-raising Subcommittee: Mr. John Dunlop (ZIM)
• Classifications Committee: Mr. R. C. Balfour (UK)
• Registration Committee: Mr. Vincent Gioia (US)
• Convention Liaison Committee: Mr. Ludwig Taschner (SA)

Sixth World Rose Convention - Baden-Baden, Germany - 1983

“Rose Romantic ‘83”, held July 5-10, 1983, coincided with the celebration of the German Rose Society’s centenary. The president was Dr. Gustav Schoser while the local organization was ably looked after by Mr. Bernd Weigel. Numerous participants from more than 25 countries converged on the renowned spa of Baden-Baden in the Black Forest, many having participated in pre-convention tours in Switzerland, Bavaria, the Rhine Valley or the Hamburg area. The town’s unspoiled center boasts fine parks and gardens, and the streets and bridges decorated with flower boxes provided an ideal setting for international rose friends to gather. The festive atmosphere that pervaded the whole town encouraged the renewal of old friendships and the making of new ones. Highlights of the social program included visits to the rose garden and trial grounds, an open air buffet to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Society of German Rose Friends, a stunning fireworks display viewed from the castle grounds above the city and, as always, a gala banquet.

For the first time the organizers of trial grounds competitions for new varieties as well as breeders met to discuss how best to arrive at some form of standardization in the various judging systems used in Europe. Lectures again covered a wide range of subjects aimed at catering to a varied audience: miniatures, floral arrangements, pottery and slide shows among many others. Breeders willingly participated in a session on rose breeding while the polybag method of propagation was explained by its inventor, Mr. Joshi of India, roused much interest.

At the first meeting of Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, it was agreed to extend the period between Conventions to three years after the 1988 Convention. The membership of the Indian Rose Society was canceled as its subscription had not been paid for five years. On the other hand, the application for membership by the Indian Rose Federation was accepted. The Societe Nationale d’Horticulture de France (SNHF) was admitted as an affiliate member.

The vice presidents had earlier reported to the Executive Committee regarding their contacts with members in their regions. Dr. Schoser reported that of the more than 1,000 participants at the convention, two-thirds were non-German. Because of political situations, contact with rose societies in Eastern Europe was difficult, but that with financial aid from his society, representatives from Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland (already a member) as well as Eastern Germany were able to attend the convention. Delegates from the Norwegian society were also present, while it was hoped that rose societies would soon be founded in Austria and Uruguay.

Additions were made to the constitution regarding the immediate past president as a permanent member of the Executive Committee to uphold continuity, while other organizations, similar to the SNHF would be
encouraged to become affiliated members, subject to approval by Council. It was agreed to update and reissue the constitution incorporating the various amendments passed over the years and distribute copies to members before the Seventh World Rose Convention.

Seventeen of the 21 members had voted in the World’s Favorite Rose competition. At the Awards Committee meeting the chairman announced the winner, ‘Iceberg’ (also known as ‘Schneewitchen’), a painting of which would be presented to the breeder, Reimer Kordes. The WFRS Gold Medal was presented to Baroness de Gerlache de Gomery for her outstanding service to and love of the Rose.

In the intervening period since the previous convention no newsletters had been published, and understandably the Publications Committee and its chairman came in for heavy criticism. A motion was adopted whereby the secretary would also serve as editor of the WFRS newsletter which should not exceed two typed pages and which members were to make translations for their individual publications. The newly elected chairman would prepare an annual Rose Calendar of important events in member countries.

The Fund-raising Committee was encouraged to persevere in its objectives as there were not yet any funds to sponsor research or other important goals. The Classification Committee agreed to approve the addition of groundcover roses to the modern garden rose section, while it was felt that a group of experts should better study the paper presented by Prof. Debuisson of Belgium regarding the classification of root stocks.

The chairman of the Registration Committee suggested that each national rose society act as agent for receiving registration applications to be forwarded to the ARS as registrar. General discussion revolved around the combined use of generic denominational and commercial names, as well as the re-use of old rose names.

At the Convention Liaison Committee the Canadian delegate, Mrs. Ethel Freeman, announced the plans for the Seventh World Rose Convention to be held in Toronto in June 1985. Thereafter Mr. Eric Welsh reported on the preparations for the Eighth World Rose Convention in Sydney in April 1988.

Mr. John Pearce from Northern Ireland presented an application from his society to host a convention After a discussion it was decided to postpone any decision until Toronto. It was also recommended not to decide on the future convention for more than six years in advance.

For the first time it was necessary to elect the president by secret ballot. The two candidates were Mr. R. C. Balfour and Dr. G. Schoser. Mr. Balfour was elected for the period July 1983 to June 1985.

- Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Ludwig Taschner (SA)
- Vice Presidents: South America: Mrs Susan Begg (ARG)
  North America: Mr. Vincent Gioia (USA)
  Africa, India & Near East: Mrs. Mary Wise (SA)
  Australasia: Mr. Bert Stone (AUS)
  Europe: Dr. G. Schoser (GER); Princess Alix de Ligne (BEL)

The following committee chairmen were elected:
- Awards Committee: Mrs. Susan Begg (ARG)
- Publication Committee: Dr. G. Schoser; Editor: Mr. Ludwig Taschner (SA)
- Fund-raising Committee: Mr. John Dunlop (ZIM)
- Classification Committee: Mr. R. C. Balfour (UK)
- Registration Committee: Mr. Vincent Gioia (US)
- Convention Liaison Committee: Mr. Ludwig Taschner (SA)

Seventh World Rose Convention - Toronto, Canada - 1985

The Seventh World Rose Convention “Rosecapades ‘85” was hosted by the Canadian Rose Society from June 23-27, 1985, in Toronto. The society’s president, Mrs. Ethel Freeman, and her dedicated team were responsible for the organization of all events. The convention was preceded on June 22 by a spectacular International Rose Show staged by the Canadian and American Rose Societies in a spirit of comradeship.

At the opening ceremony at Ontario Place Forum delegates and participants were welcomed by Honorable John Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. WFRS President R. C. Balfour, read a message received from the Queen Mother expressing her sincere appreciation of all that WFRS was doing to improve international cooperation and increase knowledge about roses. The Queen Mother also extended her best wishes for an enjoyable and interesting convention.
More than 550 rose lovers participated in the gathering. The vast majority came, however, from North America, the number of delegations from Europe being relatively smaller than usual because the period coincided with the European rose trials. An ample and varied program had been prepared with plenty of free time to socialize, always an important aspect of the conventions. An all-day trip to Niagara Falls in particular attracted many enthusiasts. Lectures were well attended and on several occasions it was “standing room only”, proving that speakers from many countries and their varied topics had been correctly chosen.

At the first Executive Council meeting the president and vice presidents presented their reports on activities undertaken during the previous two years. A revised edition of the constitution and rules had been prepared, and it was agreed to present it to Council after careful examination. Applications to join the Federation had been received from the rose societies of Uruguay and Beijing, and their representatives Mrs. E.W.L. Henderson and Mr. Chang Qing were welcomed.

All vice presidents were to draw up lists of data regarding members in their regions and forward them to the honorable secretary. Smaller regional WFRS conferences were to be encouraged as a means of bringing together members of different societies between conventions. Vice presidents were encouraged to further explore this initiative and attend at least one national meeting of the societies in their region per year. Similarly committee chairmen were encouraged to hold meetings between conventions as often as possible. With this in mind they were asked to advise the president and the secretary of their visits to international events where meetings could possibly be held.

At the Awards Committee meeting it was reported that 17 of the 21 members had voted for the “World’s Favorite Rose” — ‘Double Delight’ by Swim & Ellis (1977) — a portrait of which had been executed once more by Anne Marie Trechslin of Switzerland for presentation at the final banquet. It was decided to change the system of voting. A committee of the president and past presidents would draw up a list of about 10 varieties, none of which had been in commerce for less than 15 years, from which members would be asked to choose their favorites.

The Awards Committee recommended that WFRS Gold Medals for exceptional services to the Rose and the WFRS be presented to Mr. R.C. Balfour and Mr. D. Gilad. It was also agreed to recognize services to the WFRS with the presentation of a “rose pin”. The first recipients of this new award were Mrs. M. Wise, Mr. L. Taschner and Judge Cadsby.

At the Publications Committee meeting the outgoing editor, Mr. Taschner, who since the Baden-Baden Convention had distributed a number of newsletters, stressed the difficulty of obtaining news items from the majority of members. He suggested that one member of each society be responsible for gathering and sending information for publication. The incoming editor, Mr. R.D. Squires, requested that all members’ publications be sent to him as well as a list of national rose events, it being of the utmost importance that the first copy of a regular WFRS newsletter be sent out as soon as possible.

During the meeting of the Fund Raising Committee it was thought that, as the activities of the Federation expanded, funds would have to be raised for expenses such as increased travel requirements of the president. At Baden-Baden various items such as ivory pins and key rings had been sold. Now it was suggested that a special rose plate be produced for sale. Another idea was that the WFRS have a rose named for it and collect the royalties from its sale, or that a breeder donate a rose to bear the name of the winner of a lottery organized to raise funds. The sale of WFRS greeting cards with a suitable design such as ‘Peace’ was also noted.

The chairman of the Classification Committee reported no interest for the coding for rootstocks, and that the survey of trial grounds systems was progressing. After discussion it was agreed that provision should be made for the subdivision of modern shrub and climbing roses into “Large Flowered” and “Clustered Flowered” as with bush roses. More difficult was the division between miniature roses with a compact growth habit and short plants with large flowers or miniature flowers on large bushes. Various names were starting to be used, “Patio” and “Sweetheart Roses”, some of which are similar to polyanthas, retained as a distinct group.

At the Registration Committee meeting the chairman proposed the revision of some points of the rose name registration system which included the use of a code name as the varietal generic denomination (VGD) or in its absence, the commercial or fancy names. The VGD should be used only once. It was also preferred that commercial names not be reused. Upon application for registration, a full description of the variety was required as well as the commercial names to be used. The ARS would continue to function as IRAR and would receive applications from designated rose societies responsible for the completeness of applications.
It was suggested at the Convention Liaison Committee that, apart from the report regarding preparations and problems experienced during a convention to be sent to the organizing committee of the subsequent convention, a detailed set of guidelines and recommendations could be drawn up to form the basis of future applications to host a convention.

Applications for the venue of the Ninth World Rose Convention had been received from Northern Ireland, Italy and India. It was considered that the first two requests be regarded as preferential so that the conventions could alternate, as far as possible, between Europe and the rest of the world. The 1991 convention was awarded to the Rose Society of Northern Ireland.

The Australian delegate, Mr. Eric Welsh, reported the preparations for the Eighth World Rose Convention which would be included as part of the celebrations of the Australian bicentennial in April 1988.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing period (June 1985 to April 1988):

- **President:** Mr. Vincent Gioia (US)
- **Hon. Secretary:** Mr. Robert Begg (ARG)
- **Hon. Treasurer elect:** Mr. R. D. Squires (UK) (Mr. Taschner until 12/31/85)
- **Vice Presidents:**
  - South America - Mrs. Susan Begg (ARG)
  - North America - Mrs. Ethel Freeman (CAN)
  - Africa, India and Near East - Mr. John Dunlop (ZIM)
  - Australasia and Far East - Mr. Eric Welsh (AUS)
  - Europe - Princess Alix de Ligne (BEL) and Dr. Josef Sieber (GER)

The following Committee Chairmen were elected:

- **Awards Committee:** Mr. D. Ruston (AUS)
- **Publications Committee:** Mr. Robert Begg (ARG); Editor, Mr. R. D. Squires (UK)
- **Fund-raising Committee:** Mr. John Dunlop (ZIM)
- **Classification Committee:** Mr. R. C. Balfour (UK)
- **Registration Committee:** Mr. Vincent Gioia (US)
- **Convention Liaison Committee:** Mr. J. Anderson (CAN)

First North American Regional Conference - Bermuda - 1987

And indeed shortly thereafter plans were laid in two regions to host “Regional WFRS Conferences”. Vice-president Eric Welsh, kept in contact with the Japan Rose Society which envisaged such a conference in Itami. Unfortunately the society came up against insuperable problems and was forced to call off the appointment. On the other hand, the Bermuda Rose Society set to work, with the assistance of the Canadian Rose Society, organizing the first North American Regional WFRS Conference in Hamilton, Bermuda, January 21-25, 1987. The venue was the Princess Hotel where Mrs. Elizabeth Carswell, the society’s president, and her valiant assistants awaited participants. Unfortunately, the weather was disastrous, with a snowstorm further north holding up the arrival of many speakers and enthusiasts. On January 22, a welcoming reception was held at City Hall, and lectures got underway the following day. The main interest naturally concentrated around old fashioned roses and particularly the island’s “mystery roses”. Much appreciated was the talk by Peter Beales on “Old Garden Roses in England” as well as George Pagowski’s “Old Garden Roses in the North”. Charles Walker spoke on “Recent Developments Concerning Old Garden Roses”. Other speakers included Floyd (Stretch) Johnson, Donald Ballin and Malcolm Manners. All the lectures were greatly enjoyed. Bus tours took participants to private gardens, Camden House and garden, the official residence, and Verdmont, as well as the Bermuda National Trust Headquarters and rose garden.

At the closing banquet attended by more than 100 rose lovers, Clair Martin III gave an interesting talk on his work at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. WFRS President Vincent Gioia graciously thanked the Bermuda Rose Society assisted by
North American Vice-president Ethel Freeman for having so well succeeded in strengthening and expanding friendships between societies and their individual members.

**Eighth World Rose Convention - Sydney, Australia - 1988**

“Rosa Australis” was hosted by the National Rose Society of Australia in Sydney from April 8-13, 1988. The organizing committee was chaired by Mr. Garth Guyett. The opening ceremony at the Great Hall of Sydney University attracted 384 participants, while a sumptuous rose show brought in 332 entries in 51 classes. The floral art classes attracted 61 entries, while it was calculated that more than 5,000 visitors attended the show. Also on exhibit was a rose display featuring a historical revocation from 1790 to the present, all in roses.

All lectures and panel discussions were well attended and greatly appreciated. Pat Dickson, Nola Simpson, Ralph Moore, Sean McCann, Toru Onodera and David Gilad participated in international hybridizers panels, while Dean M. Ross lectured on “Roses in the Landscape”, Dr. Otto Bunemann on “Species Roses” and members of the Rose Society of Northern Ireland gave illustrated talks on “Public Gardens etc.” in their country. The floral art lectures and those of a more scientific nature drew crowds. The closing ceremony was staged in the University Refectory and was followed by a choice of post convention tours. During the convention a good number of local tours introduced visitors to the city, the harbor, nearby beaches and mountains. Other trips were scheduled to Roxburgh Park, Koala Park, Erina Roses and the Hunter Valley wineries.

At the first meeting of Council, special mention was made of the concept of regional conferences, and it was hoped they would be encouraged. President Gioia thanked Mr. and Mrs. Begg for their preparation of the latest edition of the constitution and rules shortly to be translated into French, German and Spanish. The secretary was also thanked for having prepared guidelines for holding a world rose convention. The Norwegian Rose Society had applied for membership to the Federation, and its delegates, Lt. Col. Solberg and Mr. B. Kator were welcomed. For the first time three members — the societies of South Africa, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — were represented by proxy by representatives of the societies of Zimbabwe, Argentina and Belgium respectively.

The chairman of the Awards Committee, Mr. David Ruston, announced that the names of 63 roses had been sent to all 24 members under the new system of voting. He reported 20 members had responded and that the next “World’s Favorite Rose” was ‘Papa Meilland’ (Meilland, 1963). The portrait of the winner was executed by Australian watercolorist Mrs. Jaru Woodman and was accepted by the Meilland representative and past president, David Gilad, at the closing ceremony. After some discussion, it was decided to revert to the previous method of voting, and also to form a sub-committee which could co-opt other distinguished rosarians to propose approximately five old varieties worthy of inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

The nomination of Mr. Ralph Moore for a WFRS Gold Medal was unanimously accepted, as were the nominations of Princess Alix de Ligne and Mr. David Ruston for the rose pin.

At the meeting of the Publications Committee the chairman, Mr. Begg, reported that as decided in Toronto, a regular newsletter titled Rose News and later World Rose News had first been published and distributed in August 1985. It had received a great reception. Private subscriptions became numerous, and the publication seemed to have fulfilled the immediate needs of the Federation in exchanging international news between members. Similarly a List of Gardens and Calendar
of Events had been printed and distributed. Unfortunately various problems had prevented the publication of more than six editions of World Rose News so that it would eventually be necessary to appoint a new editor while inviting vice presidents to be responsible for gathering and making available news for the publication and thus also improving the quality. One issue per year could be upgraded and eventually become a WFRS annual publication. The possibility of a “Federation Calendar of Events” was to be studied.

At the Fund-raising Committee the subject of fees required by the World Federation from the convention host society was raised. It was decided that a “per capita” levy would be required, the amount to be decided not later than the following convention.

The Classification Committee chairman, Mr. Balfour, reported an encouraging increase in the use of the WFRS system with the exception of the United States, New Zealand and South Africa, and recommended more publicity and communications particularly with breeders and nurseries.

At the Registration Committee meeting it was reported that Modern Roses would be a truly comprehensive reference manual, and it was hoped that the WFRS could contribute in some way. Mr. Bunemann from Germany suggested the creation of a committee to report on “Research, Conservation and Environment as Concerns the Rose”. Mr. Bunemann was asked to follow up on his suggestion and report thereon. Mr. Sheppard from New Zealand proposed the creation of a committee for “Publicity, Promotion and Membership of the WFRS” which was adopted unanimously. The new chairman was asked to report to the secretary regarding the new committee.

The chairman of the Convention Liaison Committee announced that three members had applied to host the 1994 convention, namely, India, New Zealand and the United States. After a secret ballot election, it was announced that Hyderabad, India, had been elected as the city to host the Tenth World Rose Convention.

The secretary advised the committee that guidelines would also be drawn up for hosting regional conferences, which although more flexible than those for world conventions, would include a reduced WFRS per capita levy.

Mr. Eric Mayne, representing the Rose Society of Northern Ireland, presented a report of the preparations being made for the 1991 World Convention to be held in Belfast.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing period (April 1988 to July 1991):

- President: Mrs. Susan Begg (ARG)
- Hon. Secretary: Mr. Robert Begg (ARG)
- Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M.A.B. Roberts (UK)
- Vice Presidents:
  - South America - Mrs. Mercedes Villar (URG)
  - North America - Mrs. Ethel Freeman (CAN)
  - Africa, India and the Near East - Mr. John Dunlop (ZIM)
  - Australasia & Far East - Mr. David Ruston (AUS)
  - Europe - Dr. J. Sieber (GER) and Lt. Col. R. Solberg (NOR)

The following chairmen were elected:

- Awards Committee: Mr. D. Ruston (AUS)
- Publications Committee: Mr. R. Begg (ARG); Editor: Vacant
- Fund-raising Committee: Mr. J. Dunlop (ZIM)
- Classification Committee: Mr. Fred Witchell (UK)
- Registration Committee: Mr. V. Gioia (US)
Convention Liaison Committee: Mrs. Ethel Freeman (CAN)

Ninth World Rose Convention - Belfast, Northern Ireland - 1991

“Rose Emerald” was held in Belfast, July 16-21, 1991. The patron of the Ninth World Convention, the Duke of Abercorn, welcomed guests and reminded them the tradition of rose growing in Ulster was more than a century old, and was represented by the world-renowned roses of the Dickson and McGredy families. Some of the 500 rosarians gathered at Queens University for the official opening as well as an exhibition of new rose varieties from many countries staged in the Great Hall. In the Quadrangle, an impressive International Rose Show also attracted much attention.

The previous day, a choice of tours had given participants the possibility of visiting historical properties, beautiful countryside, museums and gardens. Further outings during the ensuing days went to Mount Stewart House and garden, the Northern Ireland Rose Triangle, crafts exhibitions and a distillery, in addition to the International Rose Trials in Dublin. There a new miniature rose garden, enclosed by walls and hedges and containing 62 varieties on raised levels, was inaugurated.

Inevitably, however, it was the rose gardens in the Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park on the outskirts of Belfast that proved to be the star of the convention. The first roses had been planted in 1964, but with the world convention in mind, it was decided to renew the garden’s designs and content. A series of eight linking circles housed the various categories, each with a central feature gazebo to trail climbers. The entrance walk led to a sunburst design using striking modern colors while there was a separate Irish Heritage Garden. Another spiral design invited the visitor to follow the history of the rose, guided by information panels. The beauty of these rose gardens and the success of the trials was due to the excellent teamwork between the city’s Parks Department, the rose society presided over by Mr. Craig Wallace, and the Convention’s organizing committee, ably chaired by Mr. Norman Beck.

Lectures were varied and well attended. Peter Ilsink from the Netherlands and Prof. Zeislin from Israel presented papers regarding the cut flower industry. Lt. Col. Solberg from Norway (the society had unfortunately temporarily withdrawn from the WFRS) lectured on “Roses in Scandinavia” and there were numerous talks regarding Ireland’s long association with the rose.

Delegates from 17 members of the WFRS gathered at the Europa Hotel for Council chaired by the president, Mrs. Susan Begg, who announced that four national rose societies had applied for membership: Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka and Spain, while the Austrian society’s application had been confirmed since the previous convention. All new members were heartily welcomed. Unfortunately, since the Australian convention no useful contact with the Beijing Rose Society had been made, and it was uncertain that the society still existed.

It was announced that difficulty was being encountered in keeping contact with the Indian Rose Federation, which had been awarded the 1994 Convention to be staged in Hyderabad. The Indian delegate requested the venue be changed to Bhopal, and the convention be titled “Rose Eternal '94”. After a secret ballot council delegates accepted those proposals.

It was noted with disappointment that two committees, one for Publicity, Promotion and Membership and the other for Research, Conservation and Environment had not yet been formed.

The secretary, Mr. Begg, announced his decision to retire from office and suggested that in future the WFRS employ a secretary. With this in mind, it was unanimously approved that in the future each member’s subscription be 25 pounds sterling, payable in the United Kingdom, that a levy of 15 pounds per capita be payable.
to the Federation for future conventions, with 5 pounds payable for regional
conferences. Vice presidents, each of whom had presented their reports, were
encouraged to make every effort to organize regional conferences in their zones.
Reference was also made to regional meetings in Europe that had taken place
without the involvement of the WFRS.

The result of the “World’s Favorite Rose” competition was reported the Awards
Committee meeting with the winner, ‘Pascali’ by Louis Lens, announced. A portrait
had been painted by a leading Irish painter, Mrs. Elizabeth McEwan.

The results of the investigations undertaken by the chairman showed clearly
that the leading old favorites were ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison’, ‘Cecile Brunner’, ‘Old
Blush’, and ‘Gloire de Dijon’. These varieties were entered into the “Old Rose Hall of
Fame”. After discussion it was decided to reduce the number of years in commerce
required for a nominated rose from 15 to 10 years.

The WFRS Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. Pat Dickson while rose pins were
presented to both Mr. and Mrs. Robert Begg as well as Norman Beck for his outstanding
work as director of “Rose Emerald”.

Mr. Craig Wallace, the WFRS editor who had accepted this position after the
1988 Convention, announced his decision to resign after having guided the publication
of six editions of World Rose News, all much appreciated. While lamenting
the lack of information from some members, the editor noted this could also
be due to inadequate distribution. The chairman of the Publications Committee
stressed the importance of the magazine as a means of communication between
members and hoped that it could be upgraded in the future. It was important that
all lectures, awards and reports on the activities at the convention be included in
subsequent issues, and that members disseminate the contents to their individual
society members.

The results of a questionnaire which had been circulated to all members following
the 1988 meeting had brought to light some problems in the classification
system regarding descriptions used by professionals as opposed to amateur growers.
At the Classification Committee meeting it was agreed to form a working group
which would prepare a document on the subject for circulation to members for
comment. Council agreed to accept the recommendations from the Registration
Committee regarding the deprecation of the use of duplicate names. Where varieties
are renamed, it was agreed that appropriate code names be included.

It was decided by secret ballot at the Convention Liaison Committee to hold
the Eleventh World Rose Convention in the Benelux in 1997 and that New Zealand
should be strongly recommended to host the Twelfth World Rose Convention in
Christchurch in 2000.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing period (July 1991 to November
1994):

• President: Mr. D. Ruston (AUS)
• Hon. Secretary: Vacant pending the appointment of a paid secretary
• Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M.A.B. Roberts (UK)
• Vice Presidents:
  S. America: Mrs. Mercedes Villar (URG)
  N. America: Mrs. Ethel Freeman (CAN)
  Africa, India & Near East: Mrs. E. Geldenhuys (SA)
  Australasia & Far East: Mrs. L. Tabb (NZ)
  Europe: Dr. J. Sieber (GER) and Mrs. M. Frizzell (NI)

The following chairmen were elected:

• Awards Committee: Mrs. M. Villar (URG)
• Publications Committee: Mrs. E. Geldenhuys (SA); Outgoing Editor, Mr. Wallace
would publish one more issue of World Rose News and then turn over the editorship
to Mrs. Geldenhuys.
• Fund-raising Committee: Mr. D. Ruston (AUS)
• Classification Committee: Mr. F. Witchell (UK)
• Registration Committee: Lt. Col. K. Grapes (UK)
• Convention Liaison Committee: Mr. Norman Beck (NI)
• Research, Conservation and Environment Committee: Mr. R. C. Balfour (UK)

WFRS Executive Meeting - St. Albans, England, UK - 1993

At the meeting of the Executive Committee at St. Albans on July 5, 1993, the
president, Mr. Ruston, reported on the Regional Conference held in April of that
year in Adelaide. Attendance over the five-day period had averaged 3,000 per day.
An estimated 15,000 roses were used to decorate the Town Hall. Lectures, open to
the public, were very popular while there were tours of the city as well as country
gardens. Exhibitors came from all the Australian states and New Zealand while
three Japanese guests were heartily welcomed. Another regional conference was
planned by the Japan Rose Society for May 1995 in Itami.

After numerous attempts to establish contact with the Indian Rose Federation
had proved fruitless, it had been decided to award the Tenth World Rose Convention
to the New Zealand Rose Society. The convenor of “Roseworld ’94”, WFRS Vice
President Lois Tabb reported progress, and it was decided that a commemorative
badge with the WFRS logo, the year and venue would be offered to participants as
a keepsake. The Federation’s secretary, Mrs. Jill Bennell, would have her expenses
covered for the days she carried out her official duties in Christchurch. [Mrs. Bennell,
a staff member of the RNRS and later its deputy secretary general, had in the
meantime been appointed as the first paid WFRS secretary.]

A check for editorial expenses was sent to the editor, Mrs. Esther Geldenhuys,
with a request for details of expenditures to date, and that all members of the
Executive Committee receive copies of the World Rose News.

The president had asked the committee to consider enlarging the regions
represented by vice presidents. A new zone was created and two others changed
as follows:

- Africa and Near East (previously Africa, India & Near East)
- Asia (new)
- Australasia and South Pacific (previously Australasia & Far East)

All members of the Executive Committee voted that the vice president of the
new region should be Mr. Takeshi Sato of Japan.

Tenth World Rose Convention — Christchurch, New Zealand - 1994

Christchurch, the Garden City, was chosen by the New Zealand Rose Society to
host the Tenth World Rose Convention, “Roseworld ’94”, November 18-25, to coincide
with the Spring Rose Convention. The city, of decidedly Anglo-Saxon character, is
justly proud of its magnificent cathedral and ample square with towering trees.
The river Avon flows through the city and leads to the 300-acre Hagley Park, its
famous botanical garden and collection of plants ranging from the sub-tropics to
the Antarctic.

At the park’s Horticulture Center, Governor General Dame Catherine Tizard,
opened the rose show and floral art extravaganza, “Eros in Roseworld”, staged in
an enormous silk marquee. The World Convention was officially opened by Dame
Tizard the same evening at the Town Hall where delegates presented their countries’
flags in miniature to President David Ruston. A second rose show was organized and also elicited much delighted enthusiasm. Meanwhile tours of public and private gardens were underway as well as visits to a race meeting, a winery and the shopping area. The Mona Vale Rose Garden, on the grounds of an early homestead along the Avon River, was officially opened.

Many full day trips had been organized and included a Trans Alpine train ride, a coach trip to Mount Hutt Station and Trott’s Nursery, a visit to Trevor Griffiths’ Nursery of old roses and then to the Southern Cross Nursery for Miniatures.

Lectures and panel discussions were varied and interesting. Particularly appreciated was Peter Harkness’ talk about his brother Jack’s breeding (at the closing ceremony Peter was to accept the WFRS Gold Medal on behalf of his deceased brother.) Sam McGredy, New Zealand’s adopted son, had invited 24 international breeders to join in the festivities and disclose their methods of hybridizing to a fascinated public.

The gala banquet in the silk marquee provided the occasion to appreciate the full New Zealand hospitality and cuisine and thank the hosting Canterbury Rose Society and convenor, Vice President Lois Tabb, and her committee for an enjoyable week. The convention was brought to a close at a farewell barbecue for 400 of the more than 1,100 participants.

At the first meeting of the Council, President Ruston noted sadly the demise of two of the Federation’s officers; Vice President Takeshi Sato and Mr. Fred Witchell, chairman of the Classification Committee. Four additional rose societies were welcomed as members: The Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden, and once more, Norway. It was also noted that visitors from Russia, China and Thailand were attending the convention and it was hoped to soon receive applications for membership from these countries. Unfortunately the Seventh Heritage Rose Convention under the auspices of the RNRS Heritage Rose Group scheduled for June 1997 could not be classed as a regional conference, occurring in the same 12-month period as the Benelux Convention. However it was presumed that the Eighth Heritage Convention, planned for June 1999 in Lyons, would qualify as such. (This too was not to be the case, due to lack of cooperation between societies involved.)

However regional conferences were awarded to the Japan Rose Society at Itami City in May 1995 and the Italian Rose Society at Cavriglia and Monza in May 1996. (The former function was canceled after a disastrous earthquake wrecked the city.)

The 1994 New Zealand Convention’s “Roseworld Badge” had proved to be a great success, and it was recommended that with a simple modification it could become the official WFRS badge for future venues and be offered for sale as a fund raiser.

The chairman of the Awards Committee reported committee recommendations, all of which were adopted. Thus a WFRS Gold Medal was presented posthumously to Mr. Jack Harkness while rose pins were presented to Mrs. Molly Frizzell, retiring as vice president, and Dr. Josef Sieber. The Federation’s members also agreed to the creation of a garden award in the form of a bronze plaque to be presented every two or three years on special occasions or for special reasons. The first “Plaque of Merit” was presented to the rose garden at L’Hay-les-Roses to mark its centenary, while a second such award was presented to the Carla Fineschi Foundation during the regional conference in May 1996. ‘Just Joey’ by Cants of Colchester was voted to be the newest “World’s Favorite Rose”.

The chairman of the Publications Committee, Mrs. Esther Geldenhuys, was congratulated on the excellence of World Rose News under her editorship and her perseverance in collecting news from almost all members. Unfortunately a list of
gardens had not yet gotten off the ground. It was felt that the responsibility for collecting this type of information should be that of the vice presidents. Mrs. Freeman was willing to organize the project, liaise with vice presidents and record all information on a data base. This too could be a fund raiser for the future.

Mr. Ruston, as chairman of the Fund-raising Committee referred to what had been achieved during the previous three years. This included 1,000 pounds sterling from his own garden’s opening day, 200 pounds from the Adelaide Regional Conference so successfully organized by Mr. Dean Stringer, president of the Rose Society of South Australia, and a donation of 100 pounds from the outgoing Honorable Treasurer Mr. Roberts. Various ideas to raise funds were noted and the chairman stressed what a great help even small donations were.

At the Classification Committee meeting it was decided to recommend to Council that the current system continue to be used by members and that the illustrated designs to identify flower shapes be used in conjunction therewith.

Lt. Col. Ken Grapes, chairman of the Registration Committee reported serious problems in many breeders were no longer registering their varieties for legal reasons. The committee recommended to Council that all members do their best to persuade breeders to register new varieties, dissuade them from re-using old names (or at least add a date after the name), and do all in their power to spread the use of code names in catalogues, shows and publications. In addition, those members which required all roses exhibited at national shows to be registered, were urged to drop this provision which obliged many amateur rose breeders to reserve desirable commercial names.

Mr. Balfour called an informal meeting of the Research Conservation and Environment Committee to consider its objectives. It was decided to set up a Conservation Committee that would mainly attempt to ensure the survival of rare varieties — a project in which each member society would be asked to assist in producing a list of historically important varieties found in their countries. Such lists could possibly be published in future editions of Modern Roses.

At the meeting of the Convention Liaison Committee three members, the American Rose Society, the Indian Federation and the Japan Rose Society, were each given a half-hour to make presentations. After a secret ballot the committee recommended to Council that the 2000 Convention be hosted by the ARS in Houston, Texas. The Committee also recommended that in the future, hosting societies guarantee an attendance of 400 people to ensure a minimum per capita royalty for the Federation, and that guidelines be drawn up regarding the hosting of a world convention.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing period:

- President: Mrs. Ethel Freeman (CAN)
- Secretary: Mrs. Jill Bennell - ex-officio (UK)
- Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J.I.M. Naylor (UK)
- Vice Presidents: (the number of which could be increased to max 10)
  - South America: Mrs. Mercedes Villar (URG)
  - North America: Mr. Frank Benardella (USA)
  - Africa & Near East: Mrs. E. Geldenhuys (SA)
  - Asia: Dr. Takeo Nagata (JAP)
  - Australasia & South Pacific: Mrs. L. Tabb (NZ)
  - Europe (increased to 3): Dr. J. Sieber (GER); Baroness M. L. Velge (BEL); Mrs. H. Brichet (ITA)

The following chairmen were elected:

- Awards: Mrs. H. Brichet (ITA)
First WFRS 'Plaque of Merit' - L’Hay-les-Roses - 1995
At the twilight of June 14, 1995, guests of the Conseil General du Val de Marne and the Association “Les Amis de la Roseraie” strolled through the rose garden at L’Hay-les-Roses in small groups. Young musicians from the conservatoire played Renaissance excerpts in a sheltered corner. The hosts had prepared an informal reception to celebrate the presentation of the first WFRS “Plaque of Merit” as part of the festivities around the garden’s centenary. Present were the representatives of many of the Federation’s members, members of ‘Les Amis de la Roseraie” and officials from numerous French rose gardens as well as the local municipality, owner of the “Roseraie du Val de Marne”.

Mr. Michel Germa, president of the Conseil General, welcomed all to the historic and beautiful setting, created by Jules Gravereaux and his landscape architect Edouard Andre to house the collection of all known species and varieties a hundred years ago. The WFRS President Mrs. Ethel Freeman read the citation in French and unveiled the plaque to applause and thanks expressed by Mr. Bel, president of “Les Amis de la Roseraie”. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres served in front of the pavilion, the heart of the breathtaking setting, brought the event to a successful close.

Second Plaque of Merit — Carla Fineschi Garden
WFRS Regional European Conference - Cavriglia and Monza, Italy - 1996
The Italian Rose Society in conjunction with the Carla Fineschi Foundation hosted a Regional European Conference, May 20-24, 1996. The convenor was Mrs. Helga Brichet, the author of this article. The first two days were spent at Cavriglia, just south of Florence, where guests from 17 of the Federation’s members had the opportunity to wander freely through the historical collection of more than 6,000 rose species and varieties which Prof. Gianfranco Fineschi had gathered around his family homestead. President Ethel Freeman was accompanied by Honorable Treasurer Naylor, Vice Presidents Dr. Sieber, Baroness Velge and Mrs. Villar as well as Past Presidents Baroness de Gerlache and Mr. Balfour.

Lectures centered around the theme “The Past, Present and Future of the Most Important European Rose Collections”. While Prof. Fineschi and Dr. Stelvio Coggiatti represented the home team and Mr. Balfour showed lovely slides of the Gardens of the Rose at St. Albans, Mr. Andre Brunel, former curator at L’Hay-des-Roses as well as Mr. Ingomar Lang and Mrs. Hella Brumme from Sangerhausen presented interesting and much-applauded lectures regarding these historical gardens.

On the second evening a delicious dinner of local Tuscan specialties was served in the greenhouses on the Fineschi property. President Freeman presented the host with the Federation’s second Plaque of Merit award in recognition of his wonderful “living museum”. Outside the local band struck up and soon enticed happy guests to dance away the warm evening.

The second half of the program fell under the banner “Monza Welcomes the New Millennium of Roses in Europe” in that city where participants had been transferred by bus. Lectures included a wide range of topics such as “Roses in Scandinavia”, “Roses in Russia”, “The Perfumes of Roses” and an outline of the Poulsen...
The first day’s lectures were held at the Foundation Minoprio and were followed by a visit to the surrounding gardens where lunch was served. That evening guests were free to relax or to attend an organ concert in the Romanesque church of St. Pietro Martire. The following morning a visit to the society’s rose garden at Villa Reale was highlighted by the baptism of a rose created by the society’s founder, the late Ing. Niso Fumagalli. A display of floral art illustrating the history of the rose through the centuries welcomed all to the elegant Sporting Club, where the closing lunch was held. Many were the thanks to Prof. Fineschi and the society’s President Ester Fumagalli for an enjoyable conference.

Eleventh World Rose Convention - Benelux - 1997

The Benelux World Convention was jointly hosted by the rose societies of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, July 5-12, 1997. The honor of the opening ceremony fell to the latter society in the presence of the Grand Duchess Josephine Charlotte at the thermal station of Mondorf-les-Bains. The society’s president, Baroness Antoine de Schorlemer, and her committee had organized an informal and friendly buffet followed by a choice of afternoon tours.

The following day brought two exhibitions on the Grand Place in Brussels. The first was an interesting collection of rose books and stamps from around the world, and was graced by a visit from Queen Fabiola. At the second, a glorious rose display had been arranged in what is probably the world’s most beautiful Town Hall. In a moving ceremony, the famous Belgian breeder Louis Lens dedicated a new variety, ‘Rosalita’, to Queen Paola.

Tours in Belgium included the well known rose gardens of Mechelen and Deurne near Antwerp, but of particular interest was the visit to the park at Enghien where the hybridizer Parmentier had brought together an awe-inspiring number of rose varieties, destined to be auctioned shortly after his death. (The national society is presently collecting as many of Parmentier’s varieties as possible from many sources around the world to ensure that the park returns to its former glory.) A visit to Hex Castle enabled many to enjoy the garden of roses which was to win the Federation’s third Plaque of Merit presented to the owner Count Ghislain d’Ursel in the spring of 1998 at a special ceremony.

Of great interest too was a visit to the research station at Melle where numerous award winning roses, such as the convention mascot ‘Benelux Star’, had been bred. That evening was indeed wonderful — after a visit to the medieval city of Bruges, guests were invited by the Count and Countess of Flanders to a never-to-beforgotten banquet in the historical belfry of the city and entertained by musicians, buffoons and magicians. What a night!

In the Netherlands were interesting lectures and tours to various nurseries and flower auctions at Aalsmeer. The main interest was, of course, concentrated on the beautiful rose garden and trial grounds in Westbroekpark. Many participants were thrilled to meet the well known breeders who had assembled to be present at the annual, prestigious rose trials. The closing buffet dinner at Madurodam Miniature Village gave those present the opportunity to thank the Presidents of the hosting societies, Baroness de Gerlache de Gomery, Mrs. Mariette Edelman and Baroness de Schorlemer, but especially the convenor, WFRS Vice President Marie Louise Velge, and Convention Director Jacques Rathe for their charming hospitality and hard work.
During the interval since the Christchurch Convention a small committee had been working on updating of the constitution with an eye to dissipating any points which remained open to dubious interpretation, and in order to bring it into line with the legal requirements of the United Kingdom. Thus the Federation might become a “Registered Company Limited by Guarantee” recognized as a charity disseminating, as it does, information regarding the rose, and thus benefitting under U.K. tax law. The result would be that each member’s liability be limited to 10 pounds sterling. This new legal structure required two basic documents to be drawn up, a Memorandum of Association setting out the objects of the WFRS and the powers it has to achieve them and the Articles of Association which explain the contract between members and the Federation’s practical working arrangements. After a majority of members had decided by postal vote to accept limited liability under English Law, both documents were lodged at Companies House for incorporation of the company receiving an identification number for use on all official documents (3382562). Application was then made to the Charities Commission for formal recognition, and the WFRS was registered under the number 1063582.

The basic working structure of the Federation remained very near to that in use up to that moment, however certain changes and clarifications were made to the constitution which now became known as “Rules and By-Laws”. Important among these was the abolition of proxy votes with the exception of those for officers, which were to be sent directly to the secretary. This office had become a paid position, thus the holder, while remaining a member of the Executive Committee, may no longer vote. The length of tenure of members of this the Executive Committee is quantified as is the manner of their nomination. Provision is made for associate membership and the future use of electronic means to conduct committee meetings. An annual report is required by the Charities Act as is a financial statement by law. This information is available to the public together with details of the memorandum and articles of the company and also the names and addresses of its members and officers.

Requests for membership had been received from the Rose Societies of China, Finland, Greece and Slovakia. Unfortunately contact had been lost with the Society of Sri Lanka. Members now numbered 34.

Council approved the establishment of a Selection Subcommittee in order to consider and decide with equity on the recipients of Gold Medals and rose pins. The WFRS Gold Medal was awarded to the breeder from New Zealand, Sam McGredy, and a rose pin to the outgoing president, Mrs. Ethel Freeman. The “World’s Favorite Rose” competition was won for the first time by a climber, and a sport, 67 years old at that, ‘New Dawn’. Mrs. Trechslin’s watercolor portrait was accepted by the ARS President Dr. Jim Hering. Seven gardens were nominated as candidates for the Plaque of Merit, won by Hex Castle.

Mrs. Geldenhuys announced her decision to step down as Publications Committee Chairman and WRN editor. The Federation’s Directory, which a small committee had assembled from information gathered by vice presidents over the previous period, would be updated annually and hopefully expanded to include all useful rose-oriented information in members’ countries. It was hoped also to put the WFRS on the Internet, perhaps publishing parts of the directory there.

The Fund-raising Committee Chairman asked for Council’s approval for the following activities: the sale of postcards showing the latest WFRS Hall of Fame winner ‘New Dawn,’ numbered and signed prints of the same and also linen tea towels at world conventions and regional conferences. Mr. Ruston also spoke of a plan to introduce WFRS Patrons from the year 2000.
The main concern of the Classification Committee was the appropriate classification of the “English Roses” and similar varieties. The Committee recommended, and Council approved, that they be classified as Shrub roses.

The chairman of the Registration Committee reported that many breeders were still refusing to register their new varieties with the IRAR because of the restrictions the trademark laws place on registered roses in the United States and Germany. The American Rose Society had dropped its requirement for roses to be registered before being exhibited in shows.

The Conservation Committee concentrated on the possibility of producing a worldwide data base of roses building upon a partnership already working between a number of European countries and to include the Federation’s members.

Mr. Beck, chairman of the Convention Liaison Committee, announced that guidelines for hosting a convention had been drawn up and sent to the directors of the Benelux and Houston 2000 Conventions.

There was only one application to host the 2003 World Rose Convention. The RNRS president and officials from Glasgow City Council, the chosen city for the venue, gave a presentation of their program for the period July 18-25, 2003.

The following officers were elected for the period July 1997 to April 2000:

- President: Mrs. Helga Brichet (ITA)
- Secretary: Mrs. Jill Bennell (UK) - ex-officio
- Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J.I.M. Naylor (UK)
- Vice Presidents:
  - South America: Mr. Jean Pierre Hounie (URG)
  - North America: Mr. Frank Benardella (US)
  - Africa & Near East: Mrs. Esther Geldenhuys (SA)
  - Asia: Dr. Takeo Nagata (JAP)
  - Australasia & So. Pacific: Mrs. Lois Tabb (NZ)
  - Europe: Mr. Bernd Weigel (GER); Baroness M. L. Velge (BEL); Lt. Col. Rein Solberg (NOR)

The following chairmen were elected:
- Awards: Mrs. Milly Weyermann (SWZ)
- Publications: Mrs. Ethel Freeman (CAN);
- WRN Editor: Dr. Tommy Cairns (US)
- Fund-raising: Mr. David Ruston (AUS)
- Classification: Mr. David Ruston (AUS)
- Registration: Lt. Col. K. Grapes (UK)
- Convention Liaison: Mr. Robert Begg (ARG)
- Conservation: Mrs. Helga Brichet (ITA)

Third Plaque of Merit — Hex Castle, Belgium - 1998

In early June 1998, the weather was damp and grey at Hex Castle. It was the weekend of the annual Rose Festival which attracted thousands of enthusiasts to admire the beautiful gardens and, perhaps buy plants from the nurseriesmen’s stands put up in the courtyard. This year the festival was special because the garden of roses surrounding the castle, winner of the WFRS Plaque of Merit would be the site of the award’s presentation. The Benelux organizing committee had sent out the invitations, and indeed numerous were the representatives of WFRS members who had gathered from Europe and further afield. Two WFRS past presidents, three vice presidents and the honorable treasurer as well as many well wishers awaited the arrival of the Queen of Belgium, a friend and co-national of the deceased Countess Michel d’Ursel, who had inspired the renewal of the gardens.
The Federation’s president unveiled the Plaque and presented it to the Countess’ son, Count Ghislain who, after thanking the WFRS for this honor in the name of his family, offered a toast of champagne with rose petals and a superb lunch in the castle. The sun appeared to crown the happy day.

WFRS Regional Conferences

For the period between the “Benelux ’97” and “Texas 2000” conventions, permission was granted to stage four regional conferences - indeed a fifth to be hosted by the Rose Society of Argentina in the mid spring of 2001 was also approved. All applications had conformed to the requirements that these conferences not be held within six months before or after a World Rose Convention and that, while there could be more than one per year, the conferences should be in different regions. All hosting societies had agreed to guarantee the Federation’s levy for a minimum of 100 participants.

In November 1998, the Rose Society of Uruguay would host the first South American Regional Conference, in January 1999 the Indian Rose Federation and the Rose Society of Rajasthan would host the first Asian Regional Conference, in July 1999, the rose societies of Sweden and Finland would host the European Regional Conference in “Nordic Lights” (very regrettably this much looked forward to event had to be canceled at the last minute), and to end the millennium, the National Rose Society of Australia and the Rose Society of Victoria planned to host the Pacific Regional Conference during “Roseweek ’99” to celebrate the centenary of the latter society.

First South American Regional Conference
—Punta del Este, Uruguay - 1998

The South American Regional was held November 11-14, 1998, at Punta del Este where the convenor, Mrs. Mercedes Villar, and her valiant team anxiously awaited the 237 participants expected from 16 countries including the president, Mrs. Brichet, past president, Mr. Balfour, and European vice presidents, Baroness Velge and Mr. Weigel. Particularly significant was the presence of delegates from the newly created Rose Society of Chile as well as rosarians from Brazil, where interest in roses as garden plants was on the increase.

A short organ and child-soprano recital in a beautifully rose-decorated chapel welcomed participants who then proceeded to a rose exhibition and opening banquet, followed by a tango show that perfectly set the mood.

Lecturers had been invited from many countries and latitudes, and great indeed was the enthusiasm in this country so new to rose culture. Mr. Balfour, a perennial favorite, spoke on “Roses and Companion Plants”, Mrs. Masquelier from France delighted with “Teas, Noisettes and Bourbons”, Vice President Bernd Weigel described “A Landscape Architect’s Favorite Roses”, Mr. Berger (USA) found many enthusiasts for “Minis” as did Mrs. Fagan (SA) for “Old Roses”. Mr. Nottle from Australia suitably depicted “Gardens in the Sun”, while Mrs. Pimpalapure enchanted with “Roses in India as Spiritual Symbols”.

The gardens and panoramic tours were all sold out, as well as the one day post-conference tour to Rocha near the Brazilian border which gave foreigners an all too fleeting glimpse of indigenous flora and fauna in exotic settings. A visit to the restored rose garden at Santa Teresa National Park solicited much comment.

The closing, delicious dinner was at a seaside restaurant where happy guests then danced around the swimming pool under a shower of fresh rose petals. The society’s president, Mr. Jean Pierre Hounie, was much congratulated on his society’s
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sterling work in arousing interest in and enthusiasm for roses.

First Asian Regional Conference — Jaipur, India - 1999

Jaipur, the Pink City, of great historical and tourist importance, was chosen as the venue for the First Asian Regional Conference from January 10-12, 1999. On the lawns of the Ram Niwas Garden, where the All-India Rose Show was attracting much interest, the convenor, Dr. Meena Pimpalapure, welcomed guests from near and far. WFRS President Helga Brichet was accompanied by Past Presidents Baroness de Gerlache and Mr. Balfour and European Vice Presidents Lt. Col. Solberg as well as Asian Vice President Dr. Nagata. The same evening the inaugural dinner at the Grand Palace and gardens of the Sisodia Queen featured typically Rajasthani cuisine and music.

The following morning the state governor, HE Justice N.L. Tiberwal, officially opened the conference with IRF President S. Pandey and Rajasthan Rose Society President Arun Kumar. Foreign guests came from nine countries. Naturally Vice President Dr. Nagata brought enthusiasts from Japan, while a special salute was reserved for Pakistani delegates as well as representatives from the Rose Society of Bangladesh, which would hopefully soon apply for membership of the WFRS.

Among speakers of particular interest were Dr. Mahmooda Hashmi who lectured on species roses in her country, Pakistan; Mr. M.S. Viraraghavan who demonstrated his line of breeding heat-resistant roses; Dr. A.P. Singh from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute who illustrated new Indian breeding lines; and Mr. C. R. Chiplunker who discussed Indian roses.

Tours to rose gardens and sites of historical interest such as the Fort of Amer and the City Palace left only too little free time for shopping. Traditional hospitality was overwhelming - there was high tea with the governor at Raj Bhavan, his official residence; a wonderful lunch in rosarian Dr. Madhu’s garden; delicacies at the Anand nurseries and a magical dinner in the Jai Mahal Hotel’s garden. The days were really too few for so many rosarians brought together in this region of far-flung cultures, but enough to establish rose friendships irrespective of national boundaries. All are indebted to the hosts of this beguiling conference.

WFRS Pacific Regional Conference at Roseweek ‘99
Melbourne, Australia — 1999

The venue for the celebrations, the historic Royal Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne, was perfect. The Rose Society of Victoria Inc. was celebrating its centenary — the first of a Rose Society in the Southern Hemisphere — with a Regional Pacific Conference titled “Roseweek ‘99”, from October 29 to November 4.

Mr. Barry Johnson, president of both the national and local societies, officiated at the opening ceremony in the presence of the state governor, Sir James, and his wife Lady Gobbo. A boys’ choir and charming youngsters carrying baskets of roses which had won the “WFRS Hall of Fame” competition enchanted all participants from 15 countries who had gathered in the Main Hall.

The president, Mrs. Brichet, was accompanied by the treasurer, Mr. Naylor, and two vice presidents, Baroness Velge and Mr. Benardella, as well as Past President Ruston. It was a perfect moment to honor the greatly admired amateur breeder, Mr. Ron Bell, who was presented with the Queen Mother Award by the RNRS President Colin Horner.

The following morning the International Rose Show, a Botanic Art Exhibition of water colors and, especially, a “Pageant of 100 years of Roses in Australia” presented by WFRS Past President David Ruston transformed the entire room into a
A wonderland of color and perfume. Local and foreign rose societies had decorated individual stands as had numerous rose-oriented commercial firms. The public arrived in excited hordes to see the National Competitive Rose Show. At the same time, a star-spangled, five-day lecture program had been organized by the indefatigable conference convenor, Mrs. Margaret Macgregor. Of particular interest to foreigners were local subjects: Mauveen Ross spoke on “100 Years of Rose Production in Australia”, while Tony Fawcett informed guests about “The Roses of Alister Clark” and Dr. Edwina Cornish intrigued with “Molecular Flower Breeding”. Foreign speakers were numerous and included such well known names as Roger Phillips, Frank Benardella and Peter Harkness, while Jacques Mouchotte represented Meilland International and Michael Marriott represented David Austin Roses. All lectures were top class and assiduously frequented.

On the program were many outings to explore the city and nearby spectacular scenery, but also to historic homes and gardens as well as a memorable visit to the Flemington Race Course embellished by 10,000 roses bushes for the annual Melbourne Cup and Racing Carnival. A visit to Werribee Park to admire the National Rose Collection was, of course, mandatory. The garden is currently being expanded to include older varieties and species.

Local hospitality was overwhelming. The Rose Society of Victoria hosted a dinner at the yacht club while cocktail parties at the City Hall were regular events. The closing banquet was another highlight to the celebration. Beautifully decorated tables, an elegant dinner, an amusing after dinner speech by WFRS Editor Dr. Tommy Cairns and rose friendship brought a memorable week to an end.

Concluding Remarks

The story of the WFRS begins with its founding 32 years ago by a small group of like-minded rose friends. Today, we have a streamlined organization and a professionally run administration. Membership has steadily increased and still seems destined to grow considerably.

The last few years have seen an appreciable increase in activity between world conventions. Regional conferences have demonstrated their popularity and value insofar as they involve many rosarians who would perhaps not be interested in attending the more extravagant and expensive World Rose Conventions. At the same time, hosting societies can test their organizational skills and gain experience for a possible future world convention. As we have seen, the next date for a WFRS Regional has already been set for October/November, 2001 in Buenos Aires.

Since the Benelux Convention, some committees have continued to be active. The Publications Committee, while responsible for the Federation’s website (www.worldrose.org), has annually updated the Directory with information supplied by members. World Rose News in a new format is published biannually and greatly appreciated. Fund raising, too, has received a boost from the beautifully printed cards of the most recent winner of the “WFRS Hall of Fame” competition. A series of cards of future winners is anticipated. The Specialized Conservation Committee has met annually and continues to gather information from members as well as public and private rose gardens for the international rose database appearing, for the first time, in Modern Roses XI, published by Academic Press for the American Rose Society. The date for this committee’s next meeting has already been fixed. Regular cooperation between this committee and those of Classification and Registration is to be envisaged.

In more recent years, vice presidents have been increasingly active, not only in their own regions, visiting societies and trial ground events, but also helping to
found rose societies in neighboring countries. Many have supported their colleagues by attending regional conferences in distant parts of the world.

During the last three years, the president has traveled to all the continents to be present at societies’ anniversaries and celebrations, and also to encourage newer and less prominent members of the Federation. A memorable voyage took her via Beijing, where she met the president and members of the Chinese Rose Society, then onto Osaka, Japan. Here she joined Past Presidents Baroness Lily de Gerlache de Gomery and Mr. Dick Balfour as well as Vice President Dr. Takeo Nagata to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Japan Rose Society at an International Symposium and All-Japan Rose Show graced by the presence of HIH Princess Nobuko. From Osaka the president then continued to Melbourne for the WFRS Pacific Regional Conference.

On the doorstep of the Twelfth World Rose Convention in Houston, “Texas 2000”, it would seem auspicious that the WFRS attracts, as associate members, organizations of rose breeders and rose nurserymen and all others whose interests concern the Rose, in whatever form, in order to encounter together the intriguing challenges of the third millennium.

Footnote:
Data sources for this article were the original minutes of all WFRS committee meetings, publications of national rose societies as well as those of the WFRS. I am very grateful to past presidents, office holders and rosarians from many countries who have kindly sent me additional information and reminiscences of the above events.