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World Rose News

NEWSLETTER of the WORLD FEDERATION of ROSE SOCIETIES



China Rolls out The Red Carpet



All photos on this page, featuring the opening ceremony, Zijing Park in Changzhou, lecture room at the Traders Fudu Hotel, and the dragon boat races on Taihu Lake, were supplied by Gérald Meylan and were taken by the official photographer

Contents

President's Message	2
Editor's Comments	4
China reports	
The Convention	6
The Post-Convention Tour – Beijing	9
The Post-Convention Tour – Shanghai	11
Further Impressions	13
Taicang – the Entian Rose Park	18
Honours	20
Committee Reports	20
Classification/Registration	20
Conservation	21
Heritage Roses	21
International Rose Trials Standardisation	22
Shows	24
Rose Trials	25
Tributes	33
Prof. Gianfranco Fineschi	33
Trevor Griffiths	34
Des Wright	33
Baron Jean-Charles Velge	35
Coming Events	35
World Heritage Convention, Sakura, Japan 2011	
World Federation of Rose Societies, Sandton, South Africa 2012	
Regional Convention, Palmerston North, New Zealand 2013	
World Heritage Convention, Sangerhausen, Germany 2014	
World Federation of Rose Societies, Lyon, France 2015	
Articles (from the Changzhou Lecture Programme)	
Helga Brichet	37
Ye kang, Hu Yong-hong, Jiang Chang-hua, Li Jian	41
Contact details	47



President – 2009 - 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – June, 2010

SHEENAGH HARRIS - in Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Rosarians of the Forty-one member Countries,

This is the third *World Rose News* you are receiving in less than a year and I thank Richard Walsh for all the time he has devoted to producing a publication which is hopefully of interest to all our readers and our thanks are also due to Helga Brichet who is Chairman

of the Editorial Board. It is very important that *World Rose News* reaches all our members throughout the world as it is our best means of communication and spreading the good news of what is happening in the rose world.

I suppose it is inevitable that from time to time we will have deaths to announce of our most respected rosarians and this time we pay tribute to Frank Benardella and Professor Gianfranco Fineschi, who have died recently. They will most certainly be missed.

Again I would like to thank the societies that have kindly sent me a copy of their annual or rose periodical and I very much look forward to hearing from those whose publication(s) haven't found their way to my desk as yet! This is such a good means for me to learn what is happening in your area.

Those of you who attended the Regional Convention in Changzhou, China, will know what a success it was and will always remember the most spectacular Opening Ceremony. The Changzhou Municipal and Gardening and Greening Management Bureau supported by Gérald Meylan, Chairman of the Convention Committee, did everything in their power for the smooth running of the convention and to make the 184 delegates who attended from 13 different countries most welcome. However, we missed those who were unable to attend due to the Iceland volcanic ash – 31 from Romania and 10 from Luxembourg, apart from individuals who were travelling independently. Although delegates were sorry not to see many roses in bloom the rose exhibits and displays were eye catching and novel and were enjoyed by all.

The convention and post convention tours ended on 6 May and since then I have visited 6 member countries in Europe and attended 5 annual rose trials. I thank all these countries for a very warm welcome. The Chelsea Flower Show with 3 rose stands of well known British rose breeders was a highlight particularly as I hadn't been to Chelsea since 1960 when **Super Star** was launched and was a focal point of the show.

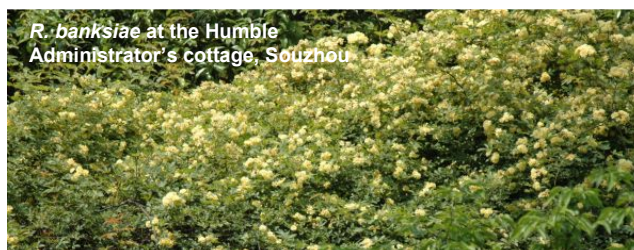
I will continue my eight-week tour through more rose member countries before returning to South Africa on 19 June for the all important pruning season and will report more fully in the next *World Rose News*. I urge our Vice-Presidents and representatives throughout the rose world to ensure this worthwhile publication reaches as many rose lovers as possible.

Enjoy your roses, no matter what the season.

Rose Regards,



Sheenagh Harris



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WFRS was founded in 1968 and is registered in the United Kingdom as a company limited by guarantee and as a charity under the number 1063582. The objectives of the Society, as stated in the constitution, are:

- To encourage and facilitate the interchange of information and knowledge of the rose between national rose societies.
- To co-ordinate the holding of international conventions and exhibitions.
- To encourage and, where appropriate, sponsor research into problems concerning the rose.
- To establish common standards for judging new rose seedlings.
- To establish a uniform system of rose classification.
- To grant international honours and/or awards.
- To encourage and advance international co-operation on all other matters concerning the rose.

DISCLAIMERS While the advice and information in this journal is believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication, neither the authors, editor nor the WFRS can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The WFRS makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Ever since watching the video of *The Quest for the Rose* with Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix traveling to China in search of the ancient Chinese roses, I have wanted to go there. This was following the 1988 Expo in Brisbane, Australia, where the China pavilion was my favourite. Rural China with wild roses was a dream I wanted to follow.

We were sad especially for the organisers of the regional convention that winter was late and there were few roses in Changzhou, but we did see early blooming roses on tour, including *R. banksiae lutea* in gardens and *R. laevigata* on the roadside; there were shrub roses also beside West Lake (Hangzhou) and then touring north after the convention, some potted **Old Blush** plants at the base of Fengdu “Ghost City” temple; we found quite a few especially in Xian as street plantings, at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and at the Warriors visitor centre. There were also quite a few in Beijing, street plantings including wild roses and a couple of very interesting specimens at the Forbidden City. Our thirst for roses was satisfied.

Our indebtedness to China for the roses with which we are so familiar was reinforced in the lectures. The significant percentage of the world’s wild roses in China, many of which are yet to be used in breeding and extending the gene bank for modern roses, is still an exciting prospect. We know the contribution made by the four stud Chinas that made their way to Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and these thoughts made China for me more of a pilgrimage.

I have to say a big “thank you” to the Chinese people for their impeccable organisation and their incredible hospitality. They treated us royally.

We can also now say we have been to China because, in the words of Chairman Mao, “we have walked on the wall”...Richard



Roses in Zijing Park, Changzhou



R. laevigata near Lake Taihu



Rose at Expo



Rose near West Lake, Hangzhou



Old Blush at Fengdu



At the Warriors visitor centre



Street planting, Xian

All
photos
this
page by
the
Editor



At Little Wild Goose Pagoda, Xian

The 4th China Rose Exhibition & WFRS Regional Convention 2010

The Conference, Veronica O'Brien, Australia

The Convention, hosted by the Chinese Rose Society and the Changzhou Municipal People's Government, commenced on April 28 2010

Changzhou, situated in the heart of the Yangtze River Delta halfway between Shanghai and Nanjing, was once known as the City of the Dragon. It is a fine mix of ancient China and a revitalised new city, well aware of environmental issues that face China and indeed, the whole world. As one of the top Rose Centres of China, it was an ideal choice to host the first International Convention in that country.



Photo Veronica O'Brien

We arrived late the evening before and as always, it took quite a while to register for the Convention, book into the Traders Fudu Hotel and have our luggage sorted and delivered to our rooms. During this time we were served tea in a separate room to avoid congestion, graciously and with smiling faces, and this was to become the norm during the whole Convention.

The opening ceremony, held outdoors in Times Square, Zijing Park, was spectacular. Fan Dancers in colourful costumes greeted us as we were ushered to our seats after travelling from the hotel by bus with a police escort (10 buses in a line was a lot even for this city traffic to cope with). Drummers, dragons, balloons and floating Chinese lanterns created a carnival atmosphere. The raised dais for the dignitaries behind a wall of flowers was adorned with beautiful floral arrangements as was the foreign VIP section. Speeches were a part of the opening but these were surrounded by music, colour and more young girls dancing. In our President's words, it was "a photographer's delight", even for the many amateur photographers. For me personally it was a pleasure to see the general public enjoying the morning's activities and even the gardeners downed tools to watch.



Photo Veronica O'Brien



Photo Veronica O'Brien

A quick tour of Zijing Park was over all too soon with our wonderful guide always there to keep us from straying, which was a great temptation with so many interesting things to see. It was a pity there were not too many roses in bloom due to a severe winter and very little spring. That said, with a lake, art work and many other plants to see, we were not deprived of photo opportunities, especially when we were taken to the Exhibition being held in a very modern building.

The display of Floral Arrangements was outstanding. There is never enough time, so we moved quickly to the amazing

Botanical Art, Calligraphy and Photography. The Floral Art and Photography always impresses me.

Our guides, mostly English students/graduates, were always there to answer questions and take us to catch our designated buses. I was impressed with large parking areas and even larger intersections. It was quite an education to travel on these multi-lane major roads: road markings don't mean very much, with much lane changing, often without indicating. They use their horns to indicate their intentions specially if the vehicle in front is going too slow.

Lunch was always a buffet with Chinese and western cuisine in abundance served in the lovely Zuan Shi ballroom.

The varied and interesting lecture programme was held each day in the Hong Yun ballroom. After a speech by the Vice-Mayor of the Changzhou Municipality, lectures on ***Rosa Chinensis* (Ancient Rose) and Roses in the World** were given by the following speakers:

Helga Brichet	The Chinese Rose Revolution
Hu Yonghong	Investigation and Breeding Prospects of Chinese Old Roses
(Maurice Jay	New Progenies...Chinese x European roses in XIXth Century) was scheduled, but Prof. Jay was unable to attend)
Wang Guoliang	Morphology, Classification and Creditability of Chinese Old Roses

For those not interested in lectures, a Tour of Changzhou Museum and the Science and Education Town which is an enormous collection of five vocational colleges and a university with more than 76 000 students, not to mention 7.000 technology professionals. In the evening we attended a reception by the Municipal Government of Changzhou, followed by the Award Ceremony and Grand Musical Acrobatic Show held at Changzhou Grand Theatre. It was exactly that – GRAND. An award winning production "Pilgrimage to the West" is an intriguing story of monkeys, monks, a princess and a queen in the kingdom of women in a struggle for a better life. The acrobatic feats were truly amazing.

The lecture theme on the second day was **Rose Cities and Rose Gardens**

The speakers were:

Malcolm Watson	The National Rose Society of Australia and Roses Grown in the World's Driest Continent.
Zhao Shiwei	Rose Gardens and Rose Collection in China
Minoru Ishii	Creating A City of Roses in Fukuyama
Daniel Boulens	City of Lyon (France), Park de la Tete d'Or, Convention 2015
Koji Tanaka	Flower Festival Commemorative Park, Gifu, Japan

Having been to both Gardens in Japan I found these lectures of great interest. Do go to these gardens in Japan if ever you get the opportunity.

Photo the editor



City Tours were conducted to Weidun and Dongpo Parks. It was impossible to do everything and on this day I chose the lectures.

After lunch, we visited Tianning Temple and Pagoda which is the highest and largest Buddhist Pagoda in China; 153.79 metres tall with a gold-plated roof and jade decorated wall. It was very impressive.

Red Plum Park was built on the same property in 2006. It is free for the public and tourists to enjoy many activities. It has two million visitors annually.

Photo Ruth Walsh



Rose Genetics and Breeding was the theme for the last day of Lectures:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Naoki Ishikawa | Rose Trials in Echigo Hillside National Park |
| Zhao Liangjun | Advances in Breeding, Tissue Culture, Post Harvest Physiology and Technology |
| Ge Hong | Evaluation and Application of Wild Roses, Xinjiang, China |
| Zhao Huien | Construction and Maintenance of International Rose Gene Banks |

The afternoon's Tour of Qingfeng Park was very relaxing. Gardens, lakes, a skate park, a mountain to climb for a great view of the whole park (with terrific elevator for those who did not wish to climb), full of people enjoying the activities and the wonderful weather on the artificial beach.



Photo Veronica O'Brien

The factory where we observed the comb and bamboo carvings actually being made by hand was very interesting. The opportunity to purchase was too good to miss, with the wonderful random stitch embroidery a highlight. We saw ladies working on silk with the finest of silk threads, with just a photograph to guide them.



Photo Veronica O'Brien

An early start to the day with a Heritage Roses meeting at breakfast followed by a fabulous tour of Yancheng Remains Park which is a large scale Fantasy Theme park depicting the history and culture of the Chunqiu period. This 2,500 yr old city, actually

three cities set among rivers and three moats, is very well preserved and was a great experience. I found it interesting that in China they manage to combine both the old world and new technology of the modern world with all the fun of an amusement park.

Lunch at the Taiuwan Jinling Hotel preceded the 9th Asian Dragon Boat Race on nearby Taihu Lake rounding off the sunny day nicely. Treated like royalty again at velvet covered tables high on the banks we watched as Australians participated with a very vocal Aussie cheer squad. All good things must come to an end.

Changzhou can be rightly proud of their impressive first International Convention.

Post Convention Tour - Beijing Steve Jones, USA

After the Changzhou Convention, 34 of us flew to Beijing for the post-convention tour. Unfortunately they had unseasonably cool weather and snow on the ground 1-2 weeks before we arrived, much like in Changzhou, so the roses were not blooming.

As a result of a late plane trip to Beijing, we started late and some of the itinerary had to be rushed to complete everything. Our tour guide, Arthur, was excellent and full of the history and culture of China, and the bus driver was phenomenal. It commenced with a tour to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven. Tiananmen Square can handle one million people and is said to be the largest public square in the world; it is next to the tomb of Mao Jedong (often written as Zedong, we call him Mao Tse Tung). The square covers 108 acres. The Forbidden City is also very large, over 178 acres and the buildings inside were opulently painted with bright colors. It is called the Forbidden City because only the royal family could live there. The moat surrounding the city is about

a mile and a half around. They have a nice royal garden, but the emperors were more interested in traditional Chinese gardens with unusual rocks and trees than roses.



There were roses blooming along the street after we left the city on the way to the bus. One thing I noticed is the soil in Beijing is not very easy to work with. It is thick brick clay and cracks when dry, similar to Georgia clay. The roses were small, but came in nice colors. I wasn't sure what varieties they were as they weren't familiar. I am not sure I would grow roses in this soil without adding a lot of amendments so they did

well to have them blooming as they were.

At the Temple of Heaven, which covers 675 acres, there is an ornate temple on a hill overlooking the city which is the largest sacrificial temple still in existence. Here, retired people come and play cards, games, instruments, sing, dance, or take their pet bird, etc. The day we were there the covered walkways were full of people enjoying themselves. The rose garden is just over two acres, but again, nothing was in bloom. The design was very nice with a formal plan around a large round fountain/sitting area in the middle.

Another few weeks... We did see an impressive display of lilacs which were in full bloom and sweetly scented the air next to the rose beds.

One of the tours Susie really wanted to do was to climb the Great Wall of China. It is an amazing structure, very large and steep. The steps are uneven so it is not possible to get much pace going without tripping. We hiked up to the top and I continued along the ridge until it stopped before we had to head back down.



Afterwards we traveled to the Beijing Botanical Garden. There we met with Zhao Shiwei, the newly appointed director of the gardens and one of the Changzhou lecturers. The roses were not blooming and they had just transplanted the standard roses from the greenhouses. The garden is nicely laid out and will

be awesome in a few weeks. The botanical garden covers 140 acres, and the rose garden covers 17 acres with over 100,000 roses and 1,000+ varieties. The main part of the rose garden surrounds a large fountain. The roses are mostly modern with an old garden rose section donated by Australia. **Rosa xanthina** was the only rose we saw in bloom. Despite no blooming roses, we were treated to an



aweso
me
display
of over
500,000 tulips in full bloom. They planted the bulbs so the colours weaved back and forth among the trees and fields. Also the crabapples, cotoneasters, and ornamental peaches and cherries were in full bloom. Anything blooming is good for a gardener. We visited the conservatory and thought it was funny to see plants we grow outside in the States.

Later we saw the Olympic Village and the impressive Bird's Nest (the main stadium). Unfortunately we arrived too late so we could not see the inside of the Nest. What was also impressive was a series of buildings next to the Nest which was shaped like a dragon.

The next day the remaining members of us who did not fly home boarded the bus to see the Summer Palace, the summer home of the emperor, located near the mountains. He had labourers dig out a large lake, move



the dirt so they could build a large hill. The covered walkways were lavishly painted with different scenes, and the four main areas were painted for each of the seasons. We hiked up the hill to see a Buddhist temple and the Buddha inside was from the early 1500's. In between the above tours we saw factories where they made silk, jade jewelry, cloisonné, and fresh water pearls. It was very interesting, but I personally would rather have seen more gardens and had more time at each garden, especially the Botanical Gardens. I would love to go back when the roses are in full bloom.

Post-Convention Tour – Shanghai **Pam Hawthorne, Queensland, Australia (Photos the Editor)**

After a very informative convention in Changzhou, and a rousing send off from the hotel staff, we departed by coach for Suzhou. Here we visited the Humble Administrators' Garden, covering 12 hectares.



It was the May Day holiday weekend and many people were visiting this beautiful garden, filled with willows, azaleas and Japanese maples. Many streams traversed by low bridges meandered through the garden. A very cold winter had delayed the spring flowering of roses, so we were unable to see many on the post conference tour.

The group then visited a silk factory, viewing the process of harvesting silk from cocoons. Many purchases were made here! A sumptuous 8 course meal was then eaten at the Glamor Hotel. We will all need to exercise more.



Next stop Zhouzhuang, which has a history dating back 900 years. There were narrow streets winding through a network of canals, an easy place in which to get lost and I did just that! Thanks for sending out the search party. Many small shops here sold beautiful silk, pearls and art work.

A 3 hour drive through fields of mulberry trees grown to sustain the silk industry, took us to Hangzhou. Fireworks lit up the horizon as we drove through the busy streets, and we arrived at our hotel at 9.30pm.

Monday

We learnt that many residents travel nearly 200 kilometres to Shanghai for work daily on the high speed train, taking only 45 minutes.

We visited Hangzhou West Lake. Many beautiful early 20th century homes line the road to the lake, which is surrounded by hills on three sides.

Three 800 year old stone pagodas positioned in the lake



are featured on the 1 yuan banknote. A ferry took us to the islands in the lake. These were covered with wonderful oriental gardens, with even a few china roses. Small stall holders selling various trinkets lined the pathways at intervals.



A 15-minute walk took us to the Leifeng Pagoda, a wooden structure of 5 levels. This was rebuilt in 2000, the original building having been destroyed during war.

After lunch we visited Hu Xueyan's former residence. He was the richest man in China 150 years ago, keeping 13 wives in the beautiful Qing Dynasty residence.



Another three-hour trip took us to Shanghai and the end of another great day.



Tuesday

It was heartening to see many pockets of parkland in this huge city of 20,000,000 people. The World Expo was our destination that morning. A huge crowd waited to enter the

China Pavilion and we were

escorted to the front of the queue! All the Chinese technology was on show, with a small train taking us through the various displays.



We left Expo and were taken to the Shanghai World Financial Tower, 492 metres high, the second highest



building in the world. Up we went, 100 floors, what a view!

The group then visited the City God Temple, which holds a statue of Qin Yubo, the Taoist god of the city of Shanghai. The temple is surrounded by a thriving marketplace, and most of the store buildings are over a century old.

This evening was spent shopping; I hoped the planes would carry it all.

Wednesday

We awoke on our last day of the post conference tour to rain. This did not deter us, as we set off to the Pudong District Markets. 700-800 years old, these contain hundreds of small shops selling what China has to offer, including some interesting Chinese medicines. We were warned by our guide to be on the lookout for fake designer brands and to be prepared to haggle about the price of any items we may wish to purchase.



What an interesting place. After another beautiful meal at an interesting teahouse, we were driven to the airport, arriving in plenty of time to relax before our flight home.

The Chinese Rose Society put together a wonderful itinerary to showcase this fascinating area of China.

Thank you sincerely.

Impressions of the WFRS Regional Rose Convention in Changzhou China

Capt Eddie Krauss, USA

After 20 hours of travel it was great to see the WFRS icon flying high as we left the controlled passport check area. Steven and Jammi, our official Welcoming Committee whisked us off in a chauffeured SUV for a three hour drive to the important Industrial city of about 4 million people, Changzhou, the Dragon City. Most of the Convention activities took place at the Traders Fudu Hotel. Being a day early to the Conference meant I got to meet many of my International friends on their arrival.

The very first was Dr Gérald Meylan, the person who has worked hard with the Chinese Rose Society since 2008 to ensure that the Peace and Harmony conference would not only be a success but fill us with fond memories of this first International Rose conference in China. This was followed by lots of hugs and kisses and handshakes from the Susanne, Ruth, Di, Veronica, Crenagh, Yuki, and Helga as they arrived.

The opening ceremony was an excellent display of art and theatre with the younger girls in fantasy costumes that looked like Morning Glory petals for wings; doves flying at the conclusion of the welcoming speeches with lots of cannons and music blasting. It was at that moment as we walked through the park's rose garden that we realised that the tough winter did its dirty job and left China with few roses to greet us at the Rose Convention. While we were most disappointed we all understood Mother Nature.

There were a dozen or so lectures on roses, broken into 3 major categories. The first was, Rosa Chinensis and Roses in the World followed by Rose Cities and Rose Gardens with the final session featuring Rose Genetics and Breeding. I did not attend all the lectures but enjoyed Helga Brichet's presentation on The Chinese Rose Revolution as well as Zhao Liangjun's paper on, Roses: Advances in Breeding, Tissue Culture, Post Harvest Physiology and Technology.

For the tours every day we were assigned buses by countries. I was assigned to bus six and got to spend quality time discussing the lectures with my friends from Canada, the Elliotts, and Sheenagh Harris, our President. Steven and Jammi, our very first friends from Changzhou, were bus six monitors to make sure the tours went well and that we did not get separated from the rest of the group, which at times was not an easy task. We did get to see the International Dragon Boat Races on Taihu Lake. It became more and more interesting for us as the shouting from the 60 or so Australians in our group got louder and louder till there was a great roar as the Australian boat passed the finish line first. How thrilling it was to be at this first rose conference in China. Disappointing that there were so few roses but the memories of the Lectures, tours and new friendships are what I took home with me to Amissville.

Nilda Crivelli, Argentina

I was asked to write some brief comments about the Convention, and one word is enough..."SUCCESS".

Success for considering Changzhou, the Dragon Town, which was willing to hold a Regional Convention.

Success because its Mayor and Government authorities were proud and grateful for this opportunity to showcase their city to the rose world.

Success because they organized an unforgettable opening ceremony in a park, beautifully designed and full of roses, built from scratch in two years, showing what can be done with order and responsibility (and Gérald Meylan's consultancy).

Success because the lectures were appealing as well as the historical places and gardens visited.

And the dinner offered by the Mayor? And the Gala Performance at the Theatre?

Success!

In spite of the difficulties for everyone to speak in English, the staff at the hotel are remembered for their gentle, smiling, kind and friendly treatment, as were in the volunteer students who accompanied and took care of us wherever we went.

I almost forgot to mention the Post Convention Tour we made to Beijing. Also success!

In short, congratulations to the WFRS and gratitude to the Chinese hosts.

**The Success of WFRS Regional Convention 2010 & 4th China Rose
Show Changzhou, China
Organising Committee**

With the theme of “Peace and Harmony,” the WFRS Regional Convention 2010 and 4th China Rose Show jointly sponsored by the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS), Chinese Rose Society and Changzhou Municipal People's Government, was officially opened in Changzhou on April 28th. The Deputy Director of the Committee of Population, Resources and Environment of the CPPCC and Chairman of the China Flower Association, Madame Jiang Zehui; Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress, Mr. Li Quanlin; President of the WFRS, Mrs. Sheenagh Harris; Immediate Past President of the WFRS, Dr. Gérald Meylan; Deputy President of the WFRS, Mr. Takamasa Tsuge; President of Chinese Rose Society, Mr. Zhang Zuoshuang; Secretary of the Changzhou Municipal Committee of the CPC, Mr. Fan Yanqing; Mayor of Changzhou, Mr. Wang Weicheng; and the President of Changzhou Municipal Committee of the CPPCC, Mr. Yu Chao, attended the opening ceremony.

Aiming at improving the ecological environment of modern cities, this convention gave a full display of the developmental achievements and orientation of the rose. It strengthened the technological exchange and co-operation in the breeding and application of roses at home and abroad. The convention accelerated the industrialisation of gardening and horticulture, thus building a harmonious environment between men and nature, promoting a healthy modern lifestyle, improving people's living quality and contributing to a harmonious society.

The theme of this convention was “Peace and Harmony.” Peace is because the rose is a symbol of world peace and the common aspiration of people of all countries, while harmony is the theme of a harmonious society, as well as a common vision of all people.

For the opening of this rose convention, the Changzhou Municipal government built a new park covering an area of 20.17 hectares, Zijing Park, as the main venue. Changzhou is the only city in China where the 120 degree east longitude, which is the reference meridian of the “Beijing Time,” passes through the city's urban area. Zijing Park is located at just this longitude. The park will build the only ring-shaped Ferris wheel in the world that represents the 120 degree east longitude. At a height of 84 metres, it will be built in the lake and named “Good Fortune”. Meanwhile, according to the itinerary of the convention, there are exhibition areas displaying different rose gardens set up by the participating cities, top quality potted roses, flower arrangements including roses, rose-themed paintings and calligraphic works, as well as the history of Chinese roses. Besides, a permanent rose garden was built to fully showcase Changzhou's achievements with roses during recent years.

The China Rose Show was held from April 28 to May 20. With the theme of “Peace and Harmony,” 50 participating cities and units exhibited 42 rose scenic spots, 50 top quality

rose booths and 64 rose arrangement works, all of which featured their unique regional culture. Besides, 85 rose paintings and calligraphy works, 100 photographic works of roses and recent new roses cultivated in China were exhibited as well. At the same time, themed lectures lasting for three half-days were held. 15 rose experts from home and abroad delivered speeches on topics of “the Ancient Chinese Roses and Roses around the World”, “Rose City and Rose Garden” and “Rose Heritage and Breeding”. The extensive exchanges conducted during the rose convention further promoted the sound and continuous development of both Chinese and world rose undertaking.



Photo Ruth Walsh

Mayor of Changzhou, Mr Wang Weicheng with WFRS President, Mrs Sheenagh Harris

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing. ...Keats, Endymion

Dale Akerstrom, Canada

The Host City of Changzhou is a city of 3.5 Million “official” residents, or some 6 million if you include the migrant workers who are not registered as living there. It is about 200 kms to the northwest of Shanghai. The Municipal Government of Changzhou and the Chinese Rose Society hosted the event.

There were about 300 attendees at the conference, from 17 countries. The biggest foreign delegation was the Australians, numbering about 60. It was fun to meet up with people again from past conventions from Europe, South Africa, South America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

The Conference was held at the Traders Fudu Shangri-la Hotel in Changzhou, a 5-star hotel built 5 years ago. The rooms were very comfortable and modern, with lots of marble in the bathrooms, nice woodwork, and a tasteful décor. Our \$500 - 600 USD registration fee (depending on how much in advance you registered) was all-inclusive, and covered 5 nights’ hotel, three buffet meals a day, all speakers, and local tours.

The Opening Ceremony on the first day was held outdoors at the entrance to the Changzhou Rose Park. This was quite the Ceremony, with dragon dancers, drummers, hundreds of costumed, choreographed singers and dancers, lots of speeches from Civic officials and Rose Society VIPs, and even a big finish with daytime fireworks and the release of balloons and pigeons. Luckily the day was warm and dry, although unluckily the roses were not yet in bloom. They planted a really large rose garden in Changzhou a couple of years ago, but they had a long, cold winter in China this year, and all those roses were in bud, not in bloom. They did have an exhibit of floral art containing roses in the arrangements in one of the pavilions at the Rose Park, and another exhibit of rose photos

The rest of the Conference consisted of international speakers on Rose topics, and tours to various sights in and around Changzhou. We were even treated to a Monkey King live acrobatic show at the Performing Arts Centre in Changzhou the first night of the Conference, as well as a special meeting with the Mayor and dinner for VIPs at the City Hall. We saw the sights of the city and the various “theme parks” around Changzhou (Dinosaur Park, Ancient Remnants Park), as well as a silk embroidery factory, and a decorative wooden comb factory, which are the distinctive handicrafts of this area.

Our handlers at the Conference were municipal employees of the Changzhou “Foreign Affairs Department.” I asked one of the translators what the “Foreign Affairs Department” did, and she matter-of-factly replied that they “managed” the foreigners in the city. They took great care not to lose anyone, and to make sure everyone was where they were supposed to be.

So, the Convention was a very well-organized and well-executed event, with generous sponsorship from the City of Changzhou. It was wonderful to catch up with rosarian friends from around the world, and to experience another part of China which we would otherwise not have seen.

PEACE AND HARMONY

Dr Gérald Meylan

The idea of holding a regional convention in China, under the auspices of the World Federation of Rose Societies, was put forward in April 2008 during my first visit to the Chinese Rose Society and in record time an organising committee was set up and planning was under way. Credit must be given to the Municipality of Changzhou and its Mayor, Mr Wang Weichang, as well as the Changzhou Municipal Gardening and Greening Management Bureau and its Director, Mr Zhu Weiping, along with his colleagues and employees, and the Chinese Rose Society and its President, Mr Zhang Zuoshuang.

The organising committee went about its task with enthusiasm and professionalism in order to produce a major event for foreigners and Chinese alike. I was impressed by the concern of the team in Changzhou to settle the smallest detail, their desire to welcome overseas and Chinese delegates under the most favourable conditions, their wish to make known to foreign visitors both the traditions and dynamism of the Chinese people and of course their willingness to put the Queen of Flowers, THE ROSE, in the centre of our debates, lectures, visits and meetings.

The delegates of the 17 National Societies present appreciated the excellent program laid on for them, including the opening ceremony, magnificent rose garden, choice of excursions, interesting lectures, high class quality of the hotel, meals and transportation. The foreign delegates were also particularly touched by the happy smiles and kindness of the Chinese people, as well as their continual efforts to speak English to their visitors to ensure that their stay in Changzhou would be a very pleasant one.

Amateur and professional rosarians once again shared their passion and experience, but this time it was with the Chinese in their own country, where many botanical roses originated and which have given birth to numerous modern roses. For me it was both a pleasure and an honour to have contributed in a small way to the success of this convention.

Many thanks to the organising committee of PEACE AND HARMONY for extending such a warm welcome to delegates and for giving us the opportunity of enjoying a wonderful experience, leaving us with fond memories which will never fade.



The President of the WFRS, Mrs. Sheenagh Harris, receiving a gift from the Mayor of Changzhou, Mr Wang Weichang at the Mayoral reception. Photo supplied by Dr. Gérald Meylan

Taicang - The Entian Rose Park Helga Brichet, Italy

Taicang is a well kept city about half way by road between Shanghai and Changzhou, where the WFRS Regional Convention was staged. The streets are lined with well-trimmed, decorative shrubs, artistically arranged in colourful designs, while the traffic is certainly not that of a normal, large city.



Mme Entian, photo Chen Di

Taicang is also the city where Jiang Entian was born in 1908, and where her son, Chen Di, decided to create, with the local authorities, a memorial to her and her love of roses, a place of beauty, where members of the public could go to hold a party and enjoy themselves, pass an educational afternoon with their children in the greenhouses at the New Agricultural District of the city, or get closer to nature and, above all, to the flowers which Jiang Entian adored more than any others, roses.

Jiang Entian's youth was not easy, but she managed to be admitted to the prestigious University of Tsinghua in 1929 and after graduation in Western Literature chose to teach in the far-off northern provinces in order to repay her study loan.

The turning point in her life arrived with the gift of some 200 varieties of roses and gardening books in English, received from Wu Laixi, an ex-patriot, with the proviso to care for them and pass on the love of roses to others. The young woman transferred these plants to her home in Beijing and then to Tianjin, at the same time becoming engrossed in their history, methods of cultivation, multiplication and breeding. Her love and promotion of roses came to prominence, and in 1959 she was requested to create a Rose Garden in front of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing as part of the celebrations of China's tenth National Day. Consequently Jiang Entian was invited to become consultant to the Beijing Gardening Bureau and, until 1966, wrote extensively about her experiences with roses and rose gardens in Beijing and later in Tianjin, where she died in 1975.

Rosa Madam Entian, photo Meilland

Today the Jiang Entian Memorial, dedicated to the "Rose Lady" by the City Municipal Government, and the Rose Park and Research and Development Centre pay homage to the courage and intelligence of this outstanding rosarian. Surrounding the rose museum, large beds of Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Miniatures and Climbers, as well as an interesting collection of trees, line the sinuous paths and dot the lawns around the lakes. Particularly striking is the bed of **Madam Entian**, a velvety-red Hybrid Tea created by Meilland International and dedicated to her in 2008.



**What would it be like if you lived each day, each breath,
as a work of art in progress?
Imagine that you are a masterpiece unfolding, every second of every day a work of art
taking form (Thomas Crum)**

WFRS Honours

The following Honours were presented in China –

1. WFRS Silver Medal Wang Weicheng
The Mayor of Changzhou
2. WFRS World Rose Award Mr Zhu Weiping
Director of the Department of Construction and Gardens of Changzhou and
Director of Secretariat of WFRS Regional Convention 2010
Mr Zhang Zuoshuang
President of the Chinese Rose Society.



Photo taken at the awards ceremony by Ruth Walsh

Committee Reports

Registration & Classification Committee Report Gerta Roberts, Chairman

The committee, having worked extremely hard and having put in much time and effort during my previous term as Chairman, now seems to be left in a complete lull.

I have worked hard to investigate the workings of Registration with the Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. I personally travelled to London for a most informative meeting with Dr Janet Cubey.

However, on submitting this information to the WFRS and the publishers of *Modern Roses 12*, we found that all our work was totally ignored. *Modern Roses 12* was printed against our recommendations, containing no code names. I know that a subsequent publication containing code names has been published, leaving rose-lovers everywhere to buy an additional book. It should be remembered that many, many rose-lovers are not computer literate, do not own computers, and cannot check out websites or look up information.

This has made MR 12 a rather worthless document, instead of the bible of the rose world. A worrying trend is emerging as many breeders now fail to register their roses, preferring to Trade Mark them instead.

We now feel there is little we can do to make recommendations to Rose Societies, some of whom simply choose to ignore the advice of the WFRS.

Conservation Committee
Marijke Peterich, Chairman

In January of this year an interesting rose collection of old garden and wild roses in the Botanic Garden of Wageningen was discontinued by the University in Nijmegen. Mr. Piet Bakker, the Dutch Rose Society and the Dutch Garden Society managed to slip all the roses and in doing so preserve the genetic material while gaining time to find a new home for the entire collection.

Meanwhile efforts are under way to save the historic garden of "Malmaison" which is in danger of disappearing.

As we can see with the example of Mr. Bakker the efforts of one single person can make all the difference in the disappearance of a garden or a rose. As long as we do not think we are powerless, a lot can be accomplished. Even merely identifying a problem can already make way for others to get into action.

Mrs. Peggy Martin visited Bermuda in April to judge at the Agricultural Exhibition and brought with her slips of the '**Peggy Martin**' rose, a mystery rose that survived hurricane Katerina. Slips from Bermuda mystery roses are for sale through the Antique Rose Emporium in Texas and are growing happily in the Chambersville Garden in Texas and in Lakeland, Florida diminishing the risk of losing them if Bermuda is hit by a disastrous hurricane.

Norway and Sweden in past years have done a very thorough inventory of all their Old Garden Roses and I hope other countries will follow.

I hope to see you all at one of the future WFRS events.

Heritage Roses
David Ruston, Chairman

As Chairman of the WFRS Heritage Roses Committee, I am doing all I can to get contributions from all our committee members (the 21 who were elected at our meeting in Vancouver last year.) We have put out our first newsletter with 52 pages of news and are working on the second one for April 2010. I need more information of activities from member countries, especially those in the colder areas where the old Gallicas, Albas, Centifolias, Mosses and Damasks have a much longer flowering period than they do in warmer areas.

I realise that our bulletins receive many more articles on Teas, Chinas, Noisettes and Polyanthas, but we can only print what we get.

Forty-nine (49) members from Australia joined the trip to the Changzhou WFRS Convention from April 27 to May 1. This is being organised by the Executive Director, Malcolm Watson, and Vice-President for Australia, Kelvin Trimper. There will be a pre-conference tour to Beijing and a post-conference tour to Shanghai. Almost all the lectures at the convention are on old roses and rose history.

For a long time I have realised that President Emeritus The Baroness Lily de Gerlache de Gomery, Foundation President of the WFRS, is not well known to our newer members. This needs to be rectified because Lily did more for the Federation than anyone on the early days of its existence. She was President of the Belgian Rose Society for many years, attended at least 8 world conventions and judged rose trials all over Europe. Her garden in Belgium contained many old roses and her library of rose literature was comprehensive.

I am happy to say that the Baroness Marie-Louise Velge and Frans Thomas, long time secretary of the Belgian Rose Society, are to write a “little booklet” on Lily’s life. It is of interest that Lily followed her father as the President of the Belgian Rose Society and her daughters are also great lovers of roses.

For any information on any activities, contact our secretary/treasurer, David and Crenagh Elliott, by email, theelliotts@shaw.ca. Our bulletins are available for anyone wishing to receive them.

2011 will be our next WFRS Heritage convention from May 28 to June 3. The conference is now completely planned with typical Japanese efficiency – lectures, tours and the choice of a post-convention tour to Gifu, which I consider to be the most amazing rose garden in the world attracting 40 000 visitors per day in both spring and autumn. It covers an enormous area in a most glorious valley in the mountains.



Then in 2012 we have the 16th WFRS World Rose Convention in Sandton in South Africa, followed by a tour of Heritage Rose gardens from Capetown, along the garden route to Grahamstown, guided by World President Sheenagh Harris. This is an absolute must as we will visit Bedford which is to be the home of all the old roses described in Gwen Fagan’s historic book, *Roses at the Cape of Good Hope*.

You have no idea of the tremendous release and deep peace that comes from meeting yourself and your brothers totally without judgement.

International Rose Trials Standardisation

Bernd Weigel, Chairman

Trial gardens for rose novelties of international reputation have existed in Europe for more than 100 years. The most well-established gardens are:

France: Bagatelle

Italy: Rome and Monza

Switzerland: Geneva

Spain: Madrid and Barcelona

Great Britain: St. Albans, Glasgow and Belfast

Netherlands: The Hague

Germany: Baden-Baden

Important and well-known rose breeders from all over the world provide the trial gardens with about 100 – 140 new varieties for judging. Under ideal conditions international judges should work with the same varieties in every trial garden. This would make sense as judges would be able to observe growth and health of the same variety in different climate areas. Most of the judges evaluate roses in from 3 up to 8 rose trials; in this respect they gain an ideal survey of new varieties and correspondingly comparative values of new roses.

Unfortunately most of the trial gardens work with different criteria with the effect that a direct comparison of the results between the different gardens is not possible. Hence a special concern of the WFRS is the establishment of equal rules for all trial gardens.

In the past the focus of judging roses was mostly on attraction, beauty and novelty; today disease resistance, weather adaptability and vigour are of major importance, whereas in past years fragrance and charm (exceptionally beautiful roses) were more important.

In Baden-Baden we have worked on the improvement of judging criteria for more than 20 years with the result that we have, in our opinion, found an optimal evaluation scheme.

The decisive point is the maximum score of 100 points. Exceptional roses are judged as follows:

general effect	15 points
foliage	10 points
disease resistance	15 points
bloom and bud (flower form)	15 points
appearance after flowering	5 points
fragrance	15 points
novelty	15 points
charm (flower elegance)	<u>10 points</u>
in total	100 points

As agreed in Japan six years ago I worked out a simplified system for the WFRS in order to be able to optimize this system for international use. As a matter of fact the trial gardens could still apply an individual focus on new varieties, however, the maximum score of 100 points should still be accepted.

Most of the rose societies publish the results of the rose trials in their annuals so that a comparability of the results would be of utmost importance. The simplified system could be handled as follows:

novelty	20 points
general effect	30 points
disease resistance	30 points
fragrance	<u>20 points</u>
in total	100 points

In general this system could be used for all varieties, however, a problem could occur for ground covers and climbers as far as fragrance is concerned.

Nevertheless an expert judge should be able to evaluate fragrance objectively in such cases as a slight fragrance of climbers is to be rated much higher than fragrance of hybrid teas.

In my opinion a judge should attend several rose trials during the year as long time experience and communication as well as regular international exchanges with other judges are highly important.

Show Standardisation Committee Ed Griffith, Chairman

The Primary objective of the Show Standardisation Committee, or commonly called The Judging Committee, is to encourage our member countries and rose societies to conduct competitive amateur rose shows. In order to accomplish this, we need to have experienced horticulture rose show judges. A number of our member countries have formal judging programmes for their national organizations. The Judging Committee also encourages member countries to invite foreign accredited judges to judge in their local and national shows. Some of our judging members are accredited in more than their home country, and this is good.

It has come to the attention of our committee, the Judging Committee, that the WFRS needed to establish a special designation for those who qualify; a designation of "International Rose Judge" and this was accomplished at our last convention. Through the diligent efforts of Malcolm Watson, Jill Bennell and Sheenagh Harris we have been able to establish an appropriate badge for those who qualify and so desire the status. (Let me refer you to the last edition of *WORLD ROSE NEWS* where the details of the designation and requirements were explained).

Those who are interested should contact me, Ed Griffith at: roseone@concentric.net or by "snail mail" at 2517 Oak View Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36606 USA

Once you receive approval you should contact Malcolm Watson with whom you can order the badge. The cost of the badge is 20 pounds sterling.
I trust all this goes smoothly.

I also look forward to hearing from you as we strive to improve and encourage the WFRS Judging Programme.

Rose Trials

Rose Trials In Europe Steve Jones, VP North America (Photos Steve Jones)

We decided to attend the WFRS convention In Changzhou, China, then fly to Europe for judging four rose trials in Spain and Italy, before heading home. We will spend almost 50 hours in the air and travel over 21,000 miles by the time we are done. Our travel will cover a very narrow latitude of the earth, from Shanghai as the lowest (31°) and Monza as the highest (45°). Thank goodness for frequent flyer miles. In all areas, the rose season was late, so very few blooms were available for us to see during the trip.

We left the post-convention tour in Beijing and flew to Barcelona via Istanbul. Susie and I both agree that Barcelona is one of our favorite large cities in the world. The town has a good feeling and the people are so nice. That night we listened to an invigorating speech by José F. Ballester Olmos on “Roses: Art, Technique and



Sheenagh Harris and
Susie Jones at the Garden
of Excellence Award
ceremony at Cervantes,
Barcelona

Society.” He is a member of the Spanish Association of the Rose and a professor of gardening and landscaping at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. The talk centred on the roses of Catalonia, especially those of Pedro Dot. The next day we were taken by bus to Parc Cervantes for the rose trials. Susie and I got our scorecards and headed off to judge 68 roses. We judged each rose based on a 100 point scale. We were very impressed with the miniature climber **CHEWsunnyblue** (which ended up winning best climber). It had great colour with semi-double 2” blooms, purple edging with a pink/cream centre and a nice fragrance. The plant was vigorous and very clean, a definite keeper. Unfortunately the trial roses were not all in bloom, and many had to be eliminated, and we ended up judging roses with a bud or two showing colour. It was difficult. Afterwards we went to the Pedralbes Monastery which dates back to the 1300s. We had an excellent lunch at the gardens where they handed out the trophy winners. The winning roses were announced at lunch. J&P won the best miniature with **JACifeve**; Tantau won best hybrid tea with **Midsummer**; Meilland won for best floribunda with **AM-807-FL-POL**; Reuter won best fragrance with **REUmine**; and Chris Warner with **CHEWsunnyblue**.



CHEWsunnyblue



Midsummer

In Rome, we stayed at the Domus Sessoriana, the host hotel for the jurors and where the organisers would pick us up for the events. It is an interesting hotel, part of a working church, Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, and the rooms were once a part of a monastery. The

church is marvelous, like so many of the churches in Rome with staggering artwork and very opulent. That night they drove us across town for an elaborate dinner at a well known fish restaurant, Checco dello Scapicollo.



Bright and early the next morning they took us over to the Roseto. It started to rain early in the morning, but we continued and judged 65 entries. Luckily we had enough blooms to judge most of the classes, with miniatures being the exception, only two blooms on nine entries. In addition we were selected to judge the roses for fragrance. Now most European roses during this time of the year are about 12-18 inches high, and for my 6'2" (185 cm) body to stoop down to smell the blooms was quite a task, especially since

it was raining off and on. I figured out that if I laid my umbrella on the ground, I could put my knee on it so I could smell the roses and not get my suit pants wet. Most of the other judges found this amusing as I was serious about my "job". Each rose was judged based on a 0-30 point scale. It was interesting to see the permanent judges' scores up to 38 which were actually on our scorecards. It is known Italians always give extra points for scoring if they like the rose, aka the rules don't apply, which is common throughout most of Europe. Generally, the higher scored roses we rated highly as well, but not 100%. As we finished judging and walking around and enjoying the garden, the skies opened up. We were getting pretty wet and the wind was strong enough to destroy my umbrella. Lunch ended up a stand up affair under canopies. Eventually the rain slowed down and we made it back to the hotel. We stayed in since it was still raining and we had seen most of the local sights by then. That night they took us to the main garden headquarters. There were about 500 people and they were dressed to the T. The event started at 8 and finished about midnight. The food was excellent. The winners were announced with great fanfare. Even the mayor of Rome attended and spoke. We really think this is the social highlight of the year. For floribundas, Poulsen's **Charlottenburg** won the gold; Keisei from Japan won the gold hybrid tea with **KSR293**; Interplant won the gold for their shrub (groundcover) **INT B142-04**; Dalla Libera won the best climber (which we really loved) with **24-CGL-16**; and NIRP won the best miniature, fragrance and best overall rose with **NIRPaylux**, **NIRPcrazy**, and **NIRPerfu** respectively. We loved the strong fragrance of **NIRPcrazy** and it has a beautiful bloom (HT).



NIRPcrazy

The next trials were in La Tacita Country Club, Roccantica. It had rained most of the previous day and night, but the sun looked like it wanted to come out. Oh to judge without rain! We arrived early and went to the main rose garden. The Vacunae Rose Garden was designed by Gian Paolo Bonani, whom we met in Vancouver, who was also present during the trials. It is laid out in several sections with the centre made into a rose maze with an overlook. Gian also designed several unique fountains in the garden. The rose garden is chronicled in the book by Gian called Tacita Rosa, which is available in Italian and English. With all of the rain, the garden was not in as good a shape as it should be due to a lot of weeds. Many of the old garden roses and species were in bloom. Susie and I headed to



the trial garden and started to evaluate the roses. Each rose was judged on a 10 or 100 point system, our choice. The climbers were all in full bloom with many of the other roses mostly in bloom except for the minis and ground covers. We had about 10 roses left to judge of the 60+ and the skies opened up. We ducked under a large cherry tree until it let up. Then we ran to finish up and it rained hard again, so back to the cherry tree. Susie said the cherries on the tree were good. The next clearing we finished and headed up the hill to the country club for some prosecco and snacks. Lunch was a first class affair

with plenty of rose themed food and wine. Gian spoke about La Tacita, then Helga Brichtet announced the award winners. During lunch it rained hard and furious with lightning and thunder. Other winners included Laperriere's **Vanille-Fraise** which won the best fragrance, and was dedicated to Prof. Gianfranco Fineschi, the late President of the Permanent Jury; Keisei won the best groundcover with **KSI 281**; William Radler won the best floribunda with **Double Knock Out** (which I accepted for him); Kordes won the best hybrid tea with **Beverly**, and best climber and best rose in the trials was Meilland's **Palais Royal**, which is an **Eden (Pierre de Ronsard)** look alike. In these trials you can have a rose in commerce up to five years.



We hopped on the train to Monza and the host hotel, the Hotel de la Ville. This hotel is truly first class, well appointed rooms and exceptional service. It is located across the street from the Villa Reale, the palace of former Italian royalty and home to the Monza Rose Garden and the rose trials. We felt this rose garden has to be one of the best, if not the best rose garden in Italy!

Helga Brichtet, Sheenagh Harris and Susie Jones at Monza

The next morning Susie and I got up and headed to the rose trials. We both got our badges and scorecards. After instructions we went on our way. Each rose was judged on a 100 point system with two extra classes, fragrance and "landscape". In all of the trials, we judged separately and compared scores afterwards. Funny, we rarely were more than two points off, with five being the max. Not bad! Here we had 65 roses to judge. After the trials we had a wonderful lunch after cocktails at the hotel, then a break



before returning the Villa Reale for the official awards. The Villa is a large neoclassical building and is on the scale of Versailles in France. The park behind it is the largest walled park in Europe. NIRP won best fragrance with **NIRPcrazy**, the same rose that won at the Rome trials; Kordes won best HT with **KORaruli**; Meilland won floribunda with **MEImardies**; Tantau won best climber with **MARITUM**, a highly fragrant large bloom rose with nice form in a red bloom; Barni won the best Italian rose with **BAR6546**, and Meilland won the best landscape/garden rose with **MEImardies**. The trials honoured the Chinese conductor, Xian Zhang and one of the winning roses was named in her honour. The



Xian Zhang, Sheenagh Harris and
Silvano Fumigali

Chinese Symphony was in town performing and she took a break to help with the awards. After the ceremony, a harpist and flautist played while we had hors d'oeuvres and prosecco before a simple pasta dinner. It was a wonderful way to end a wonderful day.

This was the first time we had attended these particular trials and we loved all of them! We will definitely come back.



Propagating roses with clover at Little Wild
Goose Pagoda, Xian – photo the editor

The Royal National Rose Society International Rose Trials 2009 Results, Anna McGowan

2nd Year Trial Beds

The RNRS has almost continuously in various locations, conducted rose trials since 1928. Initially only cut roses were judged at a special show. In the 1950's trials for new rose seedlings were established to which both professional and amateur rose breeders were invited.

Rose varieties are entered in the trials for a three year period. In the first year they are given a chance to establish themselves and judging takes place in the second and third years after planting.

It was decided in the spring of 2009 to dispense with fungicides and use instead the plant stimulant Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic (UTRT), a Potassium Phosphate fertiliser. Horticultural soft soap was also introduced against insects and a systemic insecticide was only to be used where there was a severe attack of aphids, which usually occurs once during the growing period. The newly planted roses are given UTRT throughout the year. However in the 2nd year UTRT is stopped mid June and mid July in the 3rd year. Roses which are affected by rust will be removed as soon as such infection has been reported. Varieties which are repeatedly badly affected by other fungal diseases will be removed at the end of

the 1st and 2nd years. Whilst this is a tough regime it will assist in selecting only the most disease resistant varieties.

Irrigation has been applied during dry spells and black matting placed over the beds to aid weed-control as well as retain moisture. Whilst the matting assisted in reducing labour cost experience has shown, that in this location it can cause problems to the roses. It has



therefore been decided not to use such matting in the future.

List of Awards RNRS International Rose Trials 2006-2009 Series

Certificate of Merit

TG No 3y/1078/06-09 FLO No 408 Breeder: Alain Meilland - France
Cluster Flowered (Floribunda) Yellow, double blooms; slight fragrance;
Very floriferous throughout the trial, bushy, spreading habit with mid
green, glossy foliage. Points 73.03



Certificate of Merit and Henry Edland Fragrance Award

TG No 3y/1020/06-09 FLO No 014 Breeder: Alain Meilland - France
Large Flowered (Hybrid Tea) Light yellow blooms, borne singly and in clusters;
Excellent fragrance; medium green, glossy foliage. Points 71.24

Certificate of Merit

TG No 3y/1056/06-09 RT99199 Breeder: Rosen Tantau – Germany
Dwarf Cluster Flowered (Patio) White/blush, double blooms borne in
Clusters, very floriferous throughout the trial; medium green, glossy
Foliage. Points 70.2



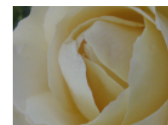
Trial Ground Certificates

TG No 3y/1204/06-09 KORgellan Breeder: Kordes Sohne – Germany
Shrub – Pale yellow, double blooms with pronounced stamens;
Good fragrance; medium green, glossy foliage. Points 69.69



TG No 3y/1073/06-09 KORplunblo Breeder: Kordes Sohne -Germany
Cluster Flowered (Floribunda) Medium pink, semi double blooms with a white eye, borne in many clusters; dark, glossy foliage; compact habit.
Points: 69.50

TG No 3y/1018/06-09 KORpenparo Breeder: Kordes Sohne – Germany
Large Flowered (Hybrid Tea) Cream/white fully double blooms, borne singly and in clusters, medium fragrance; medium green, glossy foliage. Points:69.10



Trial Ground Certificate and Torridge Award

TG No 3y/1201/06-09 SCRIVbyscent Breeder: Scrivens - England
Shrub Medium pink double cup shaped blooms with white reverse; borne singly and in clusters; Excellent fragrance; medium green foliage; upright habit.
Points: 67.86



TG No 3y/1070/06-09 HORanylove Breeder: Colin Horner – England
Cluster Flowered (Floribunda) Vermillion, semi double blooms; borne in clusters;
dark green, glossy foliage; upright, compact habit. Points: 67.74



TG No 3y/1074/06-09 KORrahibe Breeder: Kordes Sohne - Germany
Cluster Flowered (Floribunda) Medium pink blooms with a white eye and pronounced stamens borne in clusters, very floriferous; glossy, medium green foliage; compact habit.
Points: 67.47

TG No 3y/1053/06-09 DICjury Breeder: Colin Dickson – Northern Ireland
Cluster Flowered (Floribunda) Apricot/yellow blooms borne in clusters; medium green, glossy foliage; good hips spreading habit. Points: 67.46

TG No 3y/1076/06-09 KORgeleflo Breeder: Kordes Sohne – Germany
Cluster Flowered (Floribunda) Yellow, double blooms with pointed buds, borne in clusters; slight fragrance; small, medium green, glossy foliage; spreading habit.
Points: 66.96

TG No 3y/1301/06-09 JACwhink Breeder: Zary/Jackson & Perkins/Dickson
Miniature Ground Cover. Clusters of single white blooms, pointed buds; compact spreading habit. Points: 66.49

TG No 3y/1354/06-09 CHEWjamityBreeder: Chris Warner - England
Climber Pink reverse yellow, double blooms, borne singly and in clusters; good fragrance; medium green, glossy foliage. Points: 66.28

TG No 3y/1208/06-09 99.54.55.8 Breeder: Delbard – France
Shrub Large Flowered (Hybrid Tea) shaped Lilac fully double, blooms; borne singly and in clusters; good fragrance; medium green, glossy foliage; upright habit. Points 66.28

Good fragrance

2009 Awards for 2nd Year Trial

Trial Ground Certificates are awarded in the second year to varieties which have been exceptional during the trial year and such awards are not made every year. This year there have been a number of outstanding varieties, as well as many novelties and the judges have decided to make the following awards:

Trial Ground Certificate 2nd Year of Trials

TG No 3y/2151/07-10 RT03515

Cluster flowering, red, very bushy
Breeder: Rosen Tantau



TG No 3y/2209/07-10 CHEWsumsigns

Shrub, pink with red eye, very novel R. persica hybrid
which flowered repeatedly throughout the year.
Breeder: Chris Warner



Other



R.
persica

2nd Year Trial - Climbers and other varieties



1st Year Trials - Overview



New International Rose Trials In Japan Dr Gérald Meylan (Photos Gérald Meylan)



Three rose trials are held in Japan – one at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Jindai Botanical Park; the fragrant rose trials at the National Echigo Hillside Park in Nagaoka-City; and a third from this year at Huis Ten Bosch, Sasebo, Nagasaki.

The first meeting of the permanent jury of Huis Ten Bosch took place on 30th May 2010. Eleven members studied the development of 65 varieties presented by 18 rose breeders from 6 different countries. Like the trials at La Tacita in Italy, these trials are open to those varieties, which have been in commerce for at least five years at the time of planting.

The permanent jury congratulated the gardeners of Huis Ten Bosch for the work already accomplished and the excellent maintenance of the rose garden. The growth of the plants is of a very high standard. The permanent jury will gather together again in July and October of this year. In the meantime, each week the gardeners will note the development of the plants, number of flowers and cultivating techniques carried out. The international jury will meet in May 2011 to award the prize winning varieties with their medals. The best landscape rose will receive a special award and the general public will have the opportunity to choose the rose which most appeals to them.



Tributes

Gianfranco Fineschi (1923-2010) Helga Brichet, Italy

On 10th April, on a chilly spring evening, Professor Gianfranco Fineschi died at the age of 87 as he had wished, at his home, Casalone, in Cavriglia, Tuscany, surrounded by his family, his animals and his roses. The funeral was celebrated in the garden in the presence of an endless sea of his friends, and accompanied by the town's band. A great music lover, Prof. Fineschi had, in fact, been President of the "Concerto Society" of San Giovanni Valdarno and the "Umberto Giordano Philharmonic" of Cavriglia from 1965 to 2005.

Prof. Fineschi posing as Saint Fiace – photo Helga Brichet



Prof. Fineschi was born in Florence on 17th March, 1923 and spent all his school years with the Scolopi Fathers. Thereafter he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Florence, and specialized in Orthopaedics and Traumatology under Prof. Oscar Scaglietti, the father of Italian orthopaedics. In 1950 he became assistant to Prof. Scaglietti at the Tuscan Orthopaedics Institute in Florence and thereafter at the Tuscan Traumatological Centre in Careggi.

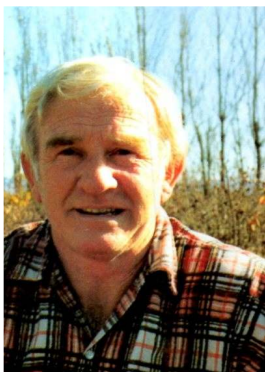
In 1966 Prof. Fineschi was called to occupy the prestigious position of Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, based in Rome, a role he fulfilled until his retirement in 1997. During this period he was responsible for the training of countless orthopaedic surgeons, whose names were later to become household words, in other universities and medical institutes in numerous countries, most particularly in South America.

Prof. Fineschi was a member of the most important orthopaedic societies around the globe, as well as convenor of innumerable Congresses and a lecturer at scientific conventions in Italy and abroad.

Gianfranco Fineschi was known internationally as an orthopaedic surgeon, "the Pope's doctor," but to rose lovers around the globe, many of whom flocked to see his garden each year, he was revered and admired as the creator and custodian of the world's largest private collections of roses, important both from a botanical, as well as historical and cultural point of view. In 1994 the "Roseto di Cavriglia" became the "Fondazione Roseto Botanico Carla Fineschi" in honour and memory of the Professor's wife. He was proud of his Italian heritage, generous with those desiring slips and budwood of his plants, and infinite knowledge, which he readily and patiently shared with those whom he considered truly interested in the flowers he adored. Thanks to his professional commitments, he travelled extensively, visiting very many rose gardens, rose trials and meeting innumerable rosarians and rose breeders. However he always considered Jules Gravereaux to be his mentor and often returned to the rose garden at L'Häy-les-Roses, near Paris, to find renewed inspiration.

After the religious service, Prof. Fineschi's sister, Maria Paola, and his daughters, Antonella, Cristina and Sylvia, replying to numerous enquiries as to the future of the garden, announced that they would do all in their power to maintain the Professor's "living museum" as he had desired.

Trevor Griffiths. 1928-2010
Dawn Eagle, New Zealand



Trevor Griffiths, an enthusiast of old roses, nurseryman and author, passed away after a long illness. He was known throughout the world for his accomplishments as an author and photographer of old roses, and had eight books published on roses.

He, together with his wife Dixie, ran a nursery just north of Timaru on the South Island of New Zealand, specialising in old roses and later, English roses; there was a very comprehensive display garden there.

When the nursery closed after Trevor's retirement this collection of roses would have been lost if it hadn't been for the efforts of the Timaru Beautifying Society which established the Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden, set in the beautiful surroundings of Caroline Bay.

These gardens, which contain more than 1200 roses including 600 modern roses from David Austin, are visited by thousands of people every year. They are a fitting memorial to a man whose main passion in life was roses.

Des Wright
Sheenagh Harris, South Africa

Des Wright died in Pietermaritzburg on the 21st June, 2010. He was diagnosed with cancer on his return from the WFRS Regional Convention in China early in May.

Des Wright's love of roses goes back a long way and he was a member of the Natal Rose Society from its early days. The Natal Rose Society is one of the oldest in the country and Des was its representative when the society joined ROSA in 1989. In 1990 Des was made President of ROSA and again in 2006. He attended a number of rose conventions in other parts of the world starting with the World Rose Convention in Belfast in 1991 and was Vice-President for Africa on the WFRS Executive Committee from 2003 to 2006. All who knew Des had a high regard for him as a rose judge and he was very much in demand in this role at rose shows.

What is more Des could be relied upon to attend National Conventions despite the pressure of work at his rose farm.

In 2004 Des was awarded the Zoe Gilbert Merit Award and in 2006 the President's Award. Des will be remembered in many ways including the bright orange/yellow miniature rose he bred, **Picaninni**. He will be greatly missed, not least of all at Garden Route Roses in October, 2010.

**Vale Le Baron Jean-Charles Velge
Malcolm Watson, Executive Director WFRS**

Baron Jean-Charles Velge, husband of Baroness Marie Louise Velge, passed away on the Saturday afternoon of 29th May, aged 80 years.

The Baron has supported Marie Louise throughout her involvement with both the Belgium Rose Society and the World Federation of Rose Societies.

The Velges had been regular attendees at Rose Conventions throughout the world for a number of years. Marie Louise received the WFRS Gold Medal in 2009 for her outstanding service to the Federation and the rose, and is currently a member of the Honours Committee.

As fellow rosarians we extend our deepest sympathy to Marie Louise and her family in the hope that the friendships she has in the World Federation will support her in this loss.

Coming Events

Hex Festival of Roses – September 11-12 2010

Letta Proper-Pranger, Phone: +32 12 747341, website: www.hex.be,
email: gardens@hex.be

12th International Heritage Rose Conference – Sakura, Japan, May 28 – June 3 2011
maebara@heritageroses.jp, www.heritageroses.jp/conference-sakura2011

16th World Rose Convention – Sandton, South Africa, October 10-18 2012

The organisation of the 2012 WFRS Convention in South Africa is well under way. The most important arrangements are already in place, with much of the forward planning identified and programmed for action.



1. The ROSAFRICA website went live at the end of January 2010 and can be accessed via a link on the WFRS website. It can also be easily accessed via the Google search engine. So far, very positive responses have been received from abroad.
2. A preliminary programme has been drawn up incorporating the following elements:
 - Pre and post convention tours
 - A Rose Show with peripheral exhibitions such as porcelain painting, cake icing, photographic competition, botanical painting, etc
 - Sight-seeing visits, private and public garden visits, local shopping expeditions

- Lecture programme running over three half days. Speakers have been identified and letters of invitation to be sent out in the second half of 2010
 - Evening functions and entertainment
3. A significant sponsorship has been obtained from cell phone provider Vodacom, which will allow the organisers some freedom in their planning. A further sponsorship from Neutrog has contributed to putting the website together
 4. A budget has been drawn up and an accountant appointed to manage ROSAFRICA 2012's finances
 5. In addition to sponsoring the convention, Vodacom will be hosting the opening and closing ceremonies at their prestigious venue in Midrand. Their rose garden of 18,000 roses, was planted and is maintained by Ludwig's Roses, and is a show piece
 6. The South African Floral Union have been appointed to manage the Rose Show and have already put forward some exciting ideas
 7. The convention venue is, in our view, perfect for our needs. It comprises a very large auditorium, exhibition and display areas, plenty of rooms for shop, office, side meetings, etc. A friendly area for tea garden and plenty of parking. The gardens surrounding the venue are currently being upgraded and should provide a beautiful show all of their own
 8. An ongoing advertising and marketing campaign is envisaged building up to a focus of activity in 2012
 9. Local rose society members will be called on to become involved and to volunteer their assistance with all of the above activities
 10. The organising committee is confident that South Africa will provide a wonderful experience for our overseas and local visitors alike. Much has been done by the SA Government as far as tourism, safety and security is concerned for the 2010 Soccer World Cup and we can only benefit from all this in 2012.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ROSAFRICA 2012

Visit our website www.rosafrika2012.co.za Email us on info@roseafrica2012.co.za
 Fax us on +2711 440 3371

Organised by the Gold Reef Rose Society on behalf of The Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa and The World Federation of Rose Societies



World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention – Palmerston North, New Zealand, November 22 – 28, 2013

17th World Rose Convention – Lyon, France, June 3-9, 2015

Hosted by the Société Française des Roses 'Les Amis des Roses'

For more information, please contact [Maurice Jay](#), email: maurice.jay@free.fr

From the Lecture Programme in Changzhou

The Chinese Rose Revolution The Voyages and Influence Which Roses From China Had On Those of the Entire World Helga Brichet, Italy (Photos the editor)

I should like to thank the City of Changzhou, and most particularly its mayor, Mr. Wang Weicheng, for this kind invitation to participate in the first WFRS Regional Conference in the Peoples' Republic of China, which is a landmark in the history of roses, and will be, I am sure, a most memorable event.

The huge Flora of the Peoples' Republic of China, edited by the Chinese Academy in 1985, is now available to lovers of roses around the world, also in English. The genus *Rosa* lists some eighty-two wild roses, their forms and varieties. Not too many of these wild roses, however beautiful and interesting as they are, have contributed to the rose, as it is known to the general public today.

With this lecture, I shall try to indicate those roses which literally revolutionised the world of roses by bringing new and unknown characteristics to the existing concept of this flower. Who were those intrepid men who found them in their natural habitat? How were they transported to the West? Which are some of their descendants, the result of breeding with varieties of occidental origin?

The truth is that, at least in the west, we know nothing of the introduction of many wild roses into Chinese gardens by diligent Chinese garden perfectionists nor their domestication over thousands of years. However, since time immemorial overland trade routes had brought exotics, silks, spices and who knows what else from Asia through the Middle East to the Mediterranean, very often to the magnificent port of Venice, whence they were spread across Europe. Pictorial evidence seems to indicate that some forms of repeat-flowering roses were to be found in Italy long before the Portuguese, Dutch and English, attracted by trade, opened the sea route around the Cape of Good Hope to India and the Far East. The Portuguese arrived in China in 1516 and it is curious that they never produced a botanist during the whole period of their Eastern Empire. The English were permitted to open a trading station in Canton in 1699 and in nearby Macao in 1710.

As a rule, scientific exploration throughout the world was far removed from political or commercial influence. Frequently botanical collectors were the first pioneers in parts of the world untrodden by Europeans. However, China had resisted all efforts at penetration for centuries. This is the outstanding case where scientific research had to follow humbly in the footsteps of political and commercial treaties.

The introduction of plants from China differs from that of all other parts of the world – for here there is a civilization far older, and in some ways, more advanced than our own. In addition, this civilization was also extremely fond of gardens and plants.

Initially, only horticultural flora, developed by the Chinese for use in their own gardens, was available to foreigners in the few ports where they were restricted and thus all plants which reached Europe, with few exceptions, for the next 150 years were of horticultural origin. This was naturally not grasped at the time in Europe, neither the treasure trove, which lay hidden in the unexplored Chinese wilds. The interior of the country was finally opened to foreigners only in 1860.

The problem of transporting these plants was by no means minor. The sea voyage back to England could take as long as 5 months, the equator had to be crossed twice, salty winds and rats were not favourable to the plantlets' survival, neither the fact that they had been forced and potted in clay, and in case of stormy weather, would be the first to be ditched overboard!

LAEVIGATAE SECTION

The earliest wild rose, which had possibly arrived in the West, was the *R. laevigata*, brought to the northern American continent, perhaps, by the people migration from northern China for medicinal purposes during the last ice age. There is no documentation of this migration, but there is evidence that the indigenes of the Americas are descendants of the Peking Man. A noted variety is **Anemone** and also her sport, **Ramona**.



BRACTEATAE SECTION

In 1792 an Embassy, led by Lord Macartney, was dispatched by the English government to the court at Peking in order to attempt to improve commercial relations. The mission was a sorrowful failure, not least because the only member who could speak mandarin was the eleven-year-old son of Sir George Staunton, Macartney's second in command, to whom we owe the introduction of the *R. bracteata*. **Mermaid**, we owe to Paul, (1918), and a recent cultivar by the Belgian breeder, Louis Lens, is **Pink Surprise** (1987). The American breeder, Ralph Moore, who passed away recently, aged 102, also introduced a number of very interesting varieties.



BANKSIANAE SECTION

In 1803 the Royal Gardens at Kew, in England, sent William Kerr to China as its botanical collector. He was able to buy the *R. banksiae banksiae* (*R. banksiae alba plena*), (double white), which was at the time taken to be a wild rose in Europe. So too was the *R. banksiae lutea*, (double yellow) sent back home by John Demper Parks. Here

again we see the arrival of the two horticultural varieties in Europe long before the wild *R. banksiae normalis*, here seen in Sichuan (with Ogisu and friends). These roses could only be of interest to those living in the milder climate of southern Europe and the United States, where its beauty was much appreciated. In 1961 the Italian Mansuino created **Purezza**, with bouquets of larger flowers and a tendency to bloom also in the autumn.



CINNAMOMEAE (CASSIORHODON) SECTION

A *R. rugosa*, native to China, Korea and Japan, arrived in England in 1796. Today they are the true glory of the parks, gardens and highways of northern Europe. For



they are exceedingly hardy, disease resistant, wind and salt tolerant, defiant of urban pollution, vigorous and, in many cases repeat-blooming and very scented. In addition, there is the bonus of exciting autumn foliage and superb hips. However, at the time, they were not greeted with enthusiasm, being considered “coarse” and “unrefined.” Almost a century passed before substantial hybridising with this rose began to be undertaken. An early cultivar from northern

Europe is **Schneelicht** (1896) by Rudolf Geschwind, and in 1898 **Mrs. Anthony Waterer** was introduced in England – a most beautiful rose with an unparalleled perfume, – and in France Jules Graveraux produced **Mme. Julien Potin** in 1913. **Ann Endt** dates to 1978 and hails from New Zealand; she is said to be a cross between a *R. rugosa* and the American *R. foliolosa*.

B. *R. moyesii* is, of course, at home in the South Western provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan, from whence it was introduced by Ernest Henry Wilson. With the arrival of Wilson, we enter the era of the professional plant collector, for until around 1900 collecting had only been a corollary of some other activity, such as missionary work or government service. Many herbarium specimens had been sent to Europe successfully rather than live plants, considering the scarce possibilities of these arriving safely at their destination. The perfection of the Wardian Case had revolutionized plant transport and the new masters were botanical institutes, nurseries and gardeners, all craving for exciting new plants. The relatively late flowering, *R. moyesii* has multiple attractions: elegant arching branches with delicate fern-like leaves, blooms of a striking colour and dazzling stamens, but also extremely decorative, red, urn-shaped hips.

SYNSTYLAE SECTION

Most of the species in this large section come from S.E. Asia and all are diploid (with 14 chromosomes). Of these, by far the most important wild roses used in the development of today's climbing roses are *R. multiflora* and *R. wichurana*.

A. The *R. multiflora carnea* was imported to England in 1804 and became the basic seed-parent of the Multiflora climbers. It was followed in 1817 by the *R. multiflora platyphylla*, which is possibly a *R. multiflora carnea* x *R. rugosa* cross. The climbers, which were bred from the wild Multiflora were all once flowering, and today have been superseded by recurrent varieties. However, some are still very popular: **Ghislaine de Féligonde**, (Turbat, 1916.)

B *R. wichurana* is native to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Eastern China and arrived in Europe from Japan in 1880, while the very similar, *R. luciae* arrived in Europe in 1870. There is much confusion regarding these two wild roses, however together they left a most formidable heritage of climbing roses: **May Queen**, (Manda, 1898) and **La Fraicheur**, (Turbat, 1921.) The *R. luciae* was used to create the entire group of ramblers by Barbier in Orléans, France.

INDICAE (CHINENSIS) SECTION

The roses belonging to this section undoubtedly influenced, more than any other, the development of this flower to the present day. The *R. odorata* and the *R. chinensis* therefore merit our particular attention. What were the new characteristics which this group brought to the West? In three phases: new colours (yellow and "pigeons' blood" red); as well as new shapes (the high central corolla); and, above all, the ability to flower without interruption throughout the warm season.

A. The characteristics of the *R. odorata* or *R. gigantea*, found in China, Myanmar and North Eastern India, are exactly that, – the plant, the leaves, the flowers and the hips are all exceptionally large and beautiful. In 1824 John Dampier Parks was able to send **Parks' Yellow Tea-scented China** to his employers at the British Horticultural Society. (Here we have a painting by an unidentified Chinese artist: from the Reeves Collection, and also Redouté's **Bengale Jaune**.) The rose, which we grow today with this name, is not the original, simply because it is not recurrent, as the earlier variety was described to be.)

This was followed in 1845 by **Fortune's Double Yellow** named for Robert Fortune, one of the greatest plant collectors in the Far East.

So as early as about 1830 the development of the Tea Rose began in earnest in Europe – **Adam** (1838), commonly taken to be the first Tea.

The first Hybrid Gigantea variety to be bred in Europe was **Belle Portugaise** (Cayeux, 1898) and this breeding line was continued in the first half of the 20th century by the Australian, Alister Clark, who produced the greatest number of Hybrid Giganteas, such as **Courier** (1930.) More recently the Indian Viru Viraraghavan, in his search for cultivars suitable for warm climates, has given us, for example, **Amber Cloud**, (2006.)

B. It was the characteristic of repeat-blooming of the **Chinensis** group, however, which by far had the greatest influence on rose hybridization. It is true to say, that today there is not a new rose brought into commerce which does not have this attribute.



Of the numerous Chinese horticultural varieties, which arrived in Europe at the turn of the 18th century, few played so great a role as **Old Blush** (photo left), (alias *R. chinensis*), one of the parents of **Champneys' Pink Cluster** (1810) and thus the entire group of Noisette roses. By crossing this last rose with the true, repeat-blooming **Parks' Yellow**, the colour yellow was introduced into the Noisette group. Here's a personal favourite of mine, **Rêve d'Or**. (Ducher, 1869.) Teas and Noisettes

were crossed and often resulted in combining the best characteristics of both: **Mme. Jules Gravereaux (Rêve d'Or x Viscountess Folkestone)**, (Soupert & Notting, 1901.)

On the other hand, Hybrid Chinas were crossed with European varieties with the goal of combining the hardy characteristic of the Gallicas etc. with the new colours and, above all, the floriferousness of the Asiatic varieties. The first generation results remained obstinately once blooming, an example being **George 1V**, (Rivers, 1820.) However, in the second generation we soon have **Bengale Cerise**, (breeder and date unknown), **Cramoisi Supérieur**, (Coquereau, 1832), **Eugène de Beauharnais**, (Hardy, 1837) and later in the century, for example, **Louis XI** Guillot fils, 1859) and **Comtesse du Cayla**, (Guillot, 1902). A modern example of the direct use of a China is **Plaisanterie (Trier x Mutabilis)** (Lens, 2000).

My last photo, taken in my garden, is of an ancient Chinese horticultural variety, **Sanguinea** in the foreground with a view of a medieval fortified village in Italy. For me, this is symbolic of two distant cultures meeting to unite and form our world heritage. I should like to pay homage to the unparalleled contribution of roses of Chinese origin.

Investigating and Breeding Prospects of Chinese Old Roses Ye kang, Hu Yong-hong, Jiang Chang-hua, Li Jian (Shanghai Botanic Garden, Shanghai)

Abstract: Chinese Old Roses are the precious heritage of China with good qualities and rich connotation. They experienced two rises and falls in history, and many cultivars got lost in the periods of the Opium War and Cultural Revolution. Luckily, nearly 100 old cultivars survived. China is quite backward in rose breeding, with distinct regional differences, Beijing and Yunnan being the centres of rose breeding in China. Chinese old roses are not sufficiently valued in the breeding of new cultivars; basic scientific efforts are being strengthened in a wide range of crosses and diverse breeding techniques are being used.

However, there are few new cultivars with proprietary property rights. The disjunction between production and breeding resulted in the serious shortage of rose breeding in China and was the important restraining factor of new cultivar introductions.

1. Introduction to the rose

As a traditional famous flower of China and a popular flower throughout the world, the rose is honoured as the queen of flowers. China is the hometown of the rose with a long history of cultivation. As early as 2737 – 2687 BC, there were red roses and pink roses, whose fragrance and continuous flowering were deeply loved by the ancient people. In 413 BC (late Spring and Autumn period) Confucius recorded in detail the roses grown in imperial palaces and royal gardens when he travelled around the states. In the Qin and Han Dynasties, the rose was widely grown in gardens, and many new cultivars were selected and bred. Over 1000 years ago, shrubby and ever-blooming roses with nearly the same ornamental characteristics as modern roses were bred through many generations of gardeners' cultivation, propagation and selection.

The rose commonly grown in landscapes today are modern roses, most of which belong to an ever-blooming ornamental group developed after 1867 by repeated hybridization between old Chinese rose cultivars, some *Rosa* species from China, ***Rosa rugosa*** and and *Rosa* species from other countries. Roses before 1867 were called old roses. ***Rosa chinensis*** is a species of the genus *Rosa*, within the family Rosaceae, native to China and is one of the ancestors of the modern rose. A lot of excellent old cultivars were selected and bred through thousands of years of cultivation, and those are the Chinese old roses to be discussed here.

Chinese old roses are strong in vitality, adaptability, cold-hardiness, drought-enduring and disease-resistance. They are heliophilous and easy to grow. They have many petals and can bloom many times in a year. From 1789 to 1824, Chinese old roses went abroad: **Slater's Crimson China** and **Parsons' Pink China**, which were cultivars of ***Rosa chinensis***, were introduced to England. In 1809, another one, **Hume's Blush Tea-Scented China** was introduced there too. They were widely planted and crossbred with the European roses, changing the character from single coloured, once flowering roses to the modern roses we grow today. A large number of beautiful modern roses were bred from the Chinese old roses.

2. Resource history and the present situation

Chinese old roses are our precious native heritage, which reflect Chinese traditional garden culture for a thousand years. They were not only grown in the Imperial Palace and folk yards, but also celebrated in poems and songs throughout the centuries. Yang Wanly, the poet of the Southern Song Dynasty, once admired them: "I thought any flower cannot bloom for ten days. But this one can do almost every day." Song Qi, artist and poet, had praised them: "Why this flower so beautiful is, for it's blooming with deep or lighter red in every season" in the poem *Yuejihua*, for its habit of blooming more than once each year.

During the Northern Song Dynasty, Chinese old roses were generally planted in Luoyang, Shandong, Lianghuai, Suzhou, Yangzhou etc., and the varieties were slightly increased, mainly manifested by flower type and flower colour, such as white crimson red etc. 41 varieties were planted in Luoyang such as **Yin hong mu dan**, and **Lan tian bi yu**. Qun Fang Pu, Hua Jing and Guang Qun Fang pu reported many varieties during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Si Chuan Zhi reported that: "Chengdu is famous for Chami, which includes three varieties, **Bai yu wan**, **Lu yin** and **Yun nan hong**."

Yue Ji Qun Fang Pu collected more than 100 varieties, **Lan tian bi yu**, **Xi Yuan mibo**, **Nan hai tian zhu**, **Yue xia fei qiong** and **Chun shui lv bo** are the best of them. *Yue Ji Pu*, written by Wang Zonggan is very important in verifying rose varieties. The book enumerated 52 rose varieties and described the characteristics of most varieties. *Yue ji hua pu* recorded ten famous rose varieties; they are **Lan tian bi yu**, **guo guo dan zhuang**, **Jin ou fan lv**, **Yu shi Zhuang**, **Chi long han zhu**, **Liu chao jin fen**, **Shui yue zhuang**, **Xiao feng can yue**, **Bo luo huang** and **Chun shui lv bo**.

Entering into the twentieth century, Chinese old roses were damaged by two events. The first was the Opium War, causing our flower cultivation to go into decline, reducing the area of cultivation with many old roses disappearing. The second was the cultural revolution and again the cultivation of roses ceased and more varieties were lost or died.

Since the development of the new China, garden departments paid more attention to the collection and cultivation of old rose varieties, many rose gardens were constructed and varieties from foreign countries introduced. Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou became the three centres for rose varieties. The Shanghai and Hangzhou garden institution collected 45 rose varieties, Zhengzhou seven and Huaiyin seventeen.

Following the Cultural Revolution, many rose societies were established and about 50 cities chose the rose as their city flower. A lot of garden institutions and rose amateurs made collections to protect the species and promote research into roses. Now there are about 100 old rose varieties, including **Yue xia fei qiong**, **Han gong chun xiao**, **Xi yuan mi bo**, **Chun shui lv bo**, **Nan hai tian zhu** and **Tao wu chun shen**.

3. Best qualities and Understanding Chinese old roses

The scientific evaluation of Chinese old roses' best qualities and extensive knowledge of them are very important for us to deeply understand their value in rose breeding, rationally protect our resources, and enable us to research the strength of its resistance and adaptability, which can be a guide to future breeding.

- A In nature it is distributed sparsely and is well adapted to the edaphic and climatic character of its region because of its strong resistance, having been cultivated and selected over a long period of time
- B Natural variability is usually the result of mutation during long-term cultivation and retained by cutting, grafting, rameting and sowing.
- C With many petals, especially flowering more than once each year.
- D Neither as rich nor honoured as the tree peony, nor as slender as orchids, it can be grown and tended easily and makes a popular cut flower.
- E Embodying Chinese wisdom and Chinese aesthetic standards, the rose is a precious national legacy, cultivated in our landscape for thousands of years.

4. History and present situation of rose breeding in China

With a long history of rose cultivation, China was the first country to start rose breeding. The earliest records are about the hybridisation with ***Rosa chinensis*** in 960 BC, but China is still quite backward in rose breeding; there are less than 500 cultivars bred in China and even fewer can be used in city greening.

Nowadays, breeding cultivars with fragrance and resistance to cold, drought and disease are the main objectives. As for breeding techniques, cross pollinating is still an effective

way to breed and then select suitable cultivars. In order to conquer the incompatibility of some crosses, research is being conducted into the growth behaviour and fertility of pollen and style, karyotyping, chromosome doubling and immature embryo rescue have been carried out. As for molecular breeding, transgenic breeding and molecular markers have been applied. Besides, irradiation mutagenesis, chemomorphosis, natural sport selection, somaclonal variation selection and plasmography have been tried successfully and combinations of several techniques have been used to breed new rose cultivars with excellent qualities.

It is after the liberation that rose breeding in China developed. Before the Cultural Revolution, some regions began to introduce modern rose cultivars from foreign countries, while some units also began investigating and collecting the old rose cultivars. This period can be seen as parent resources collection and preparation stage of rose breeding in China. Also after the Cultural Revolution, with the nationwide “rose fever”, roses associations were established; in the 1980’s the city flower selection in China’s major cities promoted collecting and breeding with our rose resources. It was in the 1980’s that Chinese rose breeders bred a number of new cultivars.

According to statistics, up to 2005, China had bred 78 new rose cultivars using the techniques of hybridisation and mutation. In 1978, **Da li shi, da lv zhou, Er tong le yuan** and other new rose cultivars for garden use were bred by Temple of Heaven Park, Beijing; since 1981, the Institute of Vegetables and Flowers, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences has bred 23 new cultivars for garden use and six for cut flowers through a combination of hybridisation and irradiation mutagenesis. They have also bred **Tian shan zhi xing, Tians han zhi xue, Tian shan zhi guang** and other cultivars with resistance to cold and disease.

From the late 20th century to the early 21st century, full scale rose breeding has developed. Currently Beijing and Yunnan are the leaders in this research. Beijing started rose breeding quite early and has set up a good basis. The Landscape Research Institute of Beijing has been breeding roses by hybridisation since the 1990’s and initially selected five outstanding cultivars. In 1994, Mr. Li Hongquan’s cultivar, **Yihongyuan**, won a bronze medal in the new cultivar competition held by the Rose Society of Japan.

The Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Institute of Flowers, Research Centre of Rose and other agricultural and forestry academies and institutions carried out research on germplasm resource distribution, population biology, morphology, propagation and phenology of *Rosa* species. They completed the observation and record of the cultivars’ ornamental and commodity characteristics, and collected 34 old cultivars. Through a focus on crosses on a wide basis, they researched genetic relationships, genetic diversity, chromosome ploidy and karyotype analyses, pollen morphology and pollen viability testing; stigma receptivity and fertility tests were carried out. At the same time, disease and cold resistance was researched and resistant parents were selected. Up to 2007, Yunnan Province has bred 17 new rose cultivars with proprietary intellectual property rights, accounting for 50% of the total number of new *Rosa* cultivars with property rights. The cultivar **Chinese Red**, the main floral material of presentation bouquets used in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, is also one of Yunnan’s new cultivars with intellectual property rights.

However, the emphasis on rose breeding at home and abroad is on highly resistant varieties and wild germplasm resources of *Rosa* that are not yet investigated or introduced are commonly used as the breeding parents. Old rose cultivar resources are not adequately paid attention to. Particularly in China, some units have collected a considerable number of old rose cultivars by any means, and established cultivar resources gardens, but further research needs to be strengthened.

Research on the development and utilisation of *Rosa* resources is relatively weak in China, with regional differences being significant. The main research work concentrates mainly on a few large research institutions, botanic gardens and private enterprises, such as Jiangsu Academy of Forestry in Nanjing, Beijing Botanical Gardens, Yang's Rose Garden of Kunming, Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences Dr Rose Garden. As for regions, the more systematic and concentrated research occurs in Yunnan and Beijing, especially in Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Institute of Flowers, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Institute of Flowers and Research Institute of Vegetables and Flowers. However, due to geographical restrictions, the two regions have an emphasis in germplasm collection. Further investigation into the cultivar resources scattered and grown in home gardens is needed.

Although the rose is popular among the people and is honoured as the city flower of many cities, its industrial development has lagged behind, especially in the area of the development of modern roses; there are not many new cultivars with independent property rights, the market share of cultivars with independent property rights is low, seed production and breeding are out of joint and it often occurs that best-selling foreign modern rose cultivars are in massive production while domestic new cultivars are not effectively transformed into production and promotion.

The good news is that in the new century domestic units engaged in rose breeding soared to ten and there are numerous private breeders. In recent years, more than ten new cultivars have passed provincial cultivar identification and validation, or have obtained the cultivar protection rights of the State Forestry Administration. Some of the cultivars are in large-scale production.

5. Breeding potentials of Chinese old roses

There are more than 25 000 modern rose cultivars with rich colours and abundant types. In the breeding history of 140 years since 1867, only 15 *Rosa* species (of which ten are native to China) were used in repeated hybridisation and back-crossing. There are about 200 wild species in the world, and China has the most *Rosa* species. According to *Flora of China*, there are 140 *Rosa* species (including subspecies and forms) in China. In comparison with *Rosa* resources, the genetic background of modern rose cultivars is rather narrow, and genetic resources are not sufficiently utilised. Let alone wild germplasm resources, the over 100 Chinese old rose cultivars preserved now in China are valuable resources for rose breeding.

Rose breeders at home and abroad felt that to make a breakthrough in modern rose breeding, the elite germplasm of Chinese old roses must be further explored and incorporated.

New rose varieties abroad have shown the limited nature of adaptability and disease susceptibility need the strengths of China's ancient roses.

The limited adaptability and disease susceptibility of foreign rose cultivars are simply the advantages of the Chinese old roses. Furthermore, the Chinese old roses include rich cultivars with more petals, and some are fragrant. These are the rose breeding goals focusing on internal quality. Therefore, breeders increasingly value the collection and utilisation of the old rose. The China Rose Society has organised experts to collect, identify and preserve the cultivars scattered in home gardens around the countryside, and made a preliminary determination of eight rose centres in Huaiyin (Jiangsu Province), Laizhou (Shandong Province), Zhengzhou (Henan Province), etc. More than 50 old rose cultivars like **Lv e** were ex situ conserved and some old rose cultivars such as **Ruan xiang hong**, **Jin fen lian**, and **Fen he xiang** were successfully used for the improvement of new rose cultivars.

Therefore on the basis of field experiment and observation, its morphology, propagation mechanism and phenology should be studied. Through multi-angle in-depth researches on growth and adaptation performance, physiological resistance, flowering performance, phenology and genetic basis, the evaluation system on the resources is to be established to rate the old rose resources one by one, and to rationally evaluate their resistance and ornamental nature, so as to grasp their breeding potentials and optimise the breeding resources. With modern biotechnology, excellent cultivars and strains with Chinese characteristics are to be bred through wild crosses between China-specific *Rosa* resources and old rose cultivars, so as to let the Chinese rose go to the world, catch up with developed countries and resume their place as the pinnacle of the rose world.

Some cities that choose the rose as their city flower can be allowed and guided to develop a rose industry according to the local conditions. Meanwhile rose cultivar breeding should be supported, production and breeding should guide each other and be both focused, so as to lead to the reasonable convergence of breeding and production, to realise the successful transformation of new cultivars, to build them into the flower industry with high technological content and social and economic benefits, and to get more cultivars abroad to contribute to foreign exchange.

It is worth mentioning that scientific communication should be further strengthened. Based on the existing forms of communication, a rose resources database is to be established on the internet to record data about *Rosa* species, old cultivars, modern cultivars and new cultivars and also to utilise multi-channel communication and resource sharing.



Roses on West Lake, photo the editor

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Member Societies

The World Federation of Rose Societies is the international organisation for 40 National Rose Societies around the world representing more than 100 000 individuals who share a love of the rose.

Argentina	<i>Rose Society of Argentina</i>
Australia	<i>National Rose Society of Australia</i>
Austria	<i>Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Österreichischen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft</i>
Bangladesh (Inactive)	<i>Bangladesh National Rose Society</i>
Belgium	<i>Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'/Koninklijke Nationale Maatschappij "De Vrienden van de Roos"</i>
Bermuda	<i>Bermuda Rose Society</i>
Canada	<i>Canadian Rose Society</i>
Chile	<i>Asociación Chilena de la Rosa</i>
China	<i>Chinese Rose Society</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Czech Rosa Club</i>
Denmark	<i>Det Danske Rosenselskab</i>
Finland	<i>Suomen Ruususeura R.Y. – Finska Rosensällskapet R.F.</i>
France	<i>Société Française des Roses</i>
Germany	<i>Gesellschaft Deutscher Rosenfreunde E.V.</i>
Greece	<i>Hellenic Rose Society</i>
Hungary	<i>Hungarian Rose Society</i>
Iceland	<i>Icelandic Rose Society (IRS)</i>
India	<i>Indian Rose Federation</i>
Israel	<i>The Jerusalem Foundation</i>
Italy	<i>Associazione Italiana della Rosa</i>
Japan	<i>Japan Rose Society</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Lëtzeburger Rousefrënn/Association Grand-Ducale des Amis de la Rose</i>
Netherlands	<i>De Nederlandse Rozenvereniging</i>
New Zealand	<i>New Zealand Rose Society Inc.</i>
Northern Ireland	<i>Rose Society of Northern Ireland</i>
Norway	<i>Norwegian Rose Society</i>
Pakistan	<i>Pakistan National Rose Society</i>
Poland (Inactive)	<i>Polish Society of Rose Fanciers</i>
Romania	<i>Asociația Amicii Rozelor din România</i>
Russia	<i>Russian Association of Rosarians</i>
Serbia	<i>Royal Serbian Rose Society (Kraljevsko Udruženje Ljubitelja Ruza Srbije)</i>
Slovakia	<i>Rosa Klub</i>
Slovenia	<i>Drustvo Ljubiteljev Vrtnic Slovenije (Slovenian Rose Society)</i>
South Africa	<i>Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa</i>
Spain	<i>Asociación Española de la Rosa</i>
Sweden	<i>Svenska Rosensällskapet</i>
Switzerland	<i>Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde</i>
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Unknown wild rose photographed at the Forbidden City.
Is it a ***Rosa xanthina*** hybrid?
Can anyone help me?



The bottom line is,
we have been to
China...because
we walked on the
Wall

