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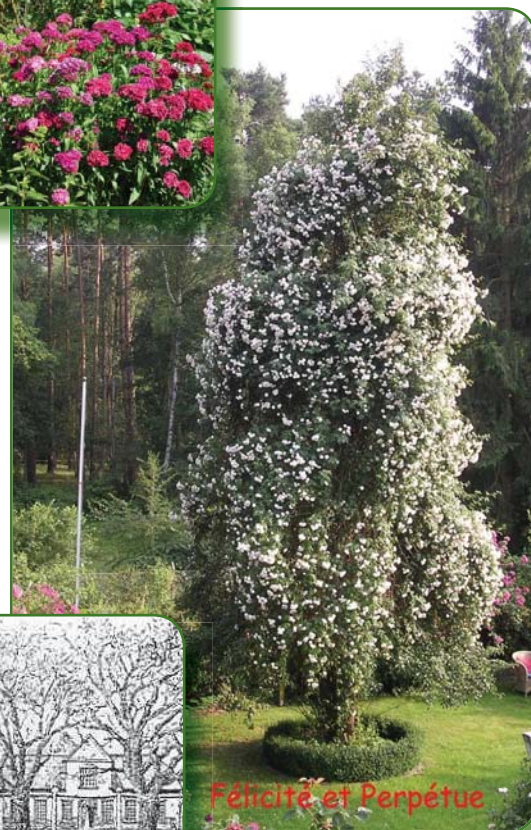
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Lady Hillingdon

WFRS Heritage Committee

Presidents Report

5th Edition, October 2011

BY DAVID RUSTON

I am writing this in the last week of September in the Australian spring. Flowering peaches, apples and pears are in full bloom, with the wisteria cascading downwards from trees and my choice of all are the quince with its single blush pink delicate flowers amid soft grey green foliage is breathtaking.

The early species roses are a picture with my favourite *Rosa laevigata* a sight to behold, with its long canes bedecked with single white flowers with glorious stamens. *Rosa fortuneana* is the first rose to flower in my garden followed by *Rosa banksiae* and the Alister Clark hybrid giganteas - *Jessie Clark*, *Harbinger*, *Courier* and the gigantia x noisette *Golden Vision*, with evergreen foliage and in bloom for two months. For large gardens a combination of wisteria, climbing *Lorraine Lee* and yellow *Rosa banksiae lutea* on a rustic trellis can be a great welcome to spring, but it needs lots of room between each.

A large contingent of Australians are going to Sakura for the 12th International Rose Conference from May 28th to June 3rd 2011. there are twelve morning lectures by prominent rosarians from all over the world.

On the first day Viru Viraraghavan from India, famous for his varieties of Tea and Gigantea roses with evergreen foliage, opens the batting. Viru's topic is *Sustainable Rose Growing - An Indian Dream*.

Next is Japanese expert Kentaro Okagi et al. dealing with *Fragrance of Species Roses Native to Japan*.

This is followed by China's Zhao Shiwei on the *Grace of Chinese Old Roses*, many of which we would all love to grow. The final talk will be from Japan's Hideaki Ohba on the controversial matter of the *correct name of Rosa wichurana* (also called *Rosa wichuraiana*)

On Day two we start with a presentation by Eva Kigyossy from Germany and Erich Unmuth from Austria. The subject is, *Roses at the end of the 19th Century as Presented by the Hungarian Rose Periodical (1889-1896)*. Gregg Lowery, one of the most knowledgeable rose men of the world today, discusses the *Hybrid Setigera - known as the Prairie Rose*. These should be more popular than they are at present as they are almost free of disease. Previous President of Heritage Roses in New Zealand, Jocelen Janon, a Frenchman, and the next speaker of the day, his subject is *Japan and the rise of Rosa polyantha*, most of which extend the spring rose season and make excellent borders. Jocelen is a superb photographer

with a huge folio of rose prints. Lastly, the incomparable Helga Brichet discusses two rose breeders with a passion for species roses: *Rudolf Geschwind* and the late *Louis Lens*, breeder of some wonderful Hybrid Musks and shrub roses.

On the last day Peter Boyd as Scot, living in England talks of his passion for *Rosa spinosissima* and its relationship with people from pre-history to the present day. Di Durston, a good friend from western Australia who has typed out and edited all my reports, and one of the six experts who wrote the classic book on tea roses. *Tea Roses, Old Roses for Warm Gardens*, then speaks on *roses and the importance of their preservation in the modern garden*. Di is the committee member for Australia, WFRS Heritage Committee.

Lars - Ake Gustavsson a former Vice-President of Northern Europe of the WFRS and an expert on suitable choices for sub-arctic conditions, reports on the *Present National Inventory of Roses*. And the grand finale is The Curator of the famous Huntington Rose Collection in San Marino in the Los Angeles area, Clair G. Martin III. His all important subject is *Preserving and maintaining Public Rose Collections*, it is so important that such gardens are repositories for the roses of yesteryear.

Highlights of our stay in Sakura will be the Kusabue - No - Aka Rose Garden, a peaceful and beautiful sanctuary dedicated to Heritage Roses. After the magnificently organized WFRS Convention in Osaka in 2008, I visited this garden and was enthralled. Huge great steel loops were supporting a large collection of Ramblers, such as *Adelaide d'Orleans* cascading downwards rivaling cherry blossom, three years on will make it even better.

A post-conference tour to Gifu up in the mountain country with beautiful deciduous and evergreen forests. Gifu is a highly organized mecca for tours of the rose, which averages 40,000 visitors a day for eight weeks in spring and again in autumn. it is the largest and best maintained rose garden in the world, still weeded by hand, using no toxic herbicides! Several days are needed to see all the different corners, and a very high viewing tower gives a splendid view of the whole area with a background of mountains.

Finally, I am happy to report that the Chinese city of Taicang near Shanghai will put in a bid for the next International Heritage Rose Conference in 2014. There is a large City Memorial Rose Garden dedicated to Mrs Jiang en-Tian, a woman whose passion for roses made a big impact on making roses more popular in China. Member countries who would like to put in a bid for a conference in 2014 should do so as soon as possible as the venue will be decided at Sakura. I am looking forward to a memorable conference and meeting old friends and making new ones.



from Australia

David Ruston statue unveiled

BY MELANIE TRIMPER

The David Ruston Sculpture was officially unveiled on Saturday 16 October, 2010 by Mrs. Sheenagh Harris, President of The World Federation of Rose Societies. Sheenagh represents rosarians from over 40 member countries which make up The World Federation of Rose Societies and body with which David has been associated since its inception. This Federation has also been largely responsible for David's huge international reputation and highlights the World Federation's respect for David and his global contribution.

The imposing sculpture is well positioned in the beautiful Jarrett Memorial Gardens near the Riverside Walk, in the centre of the Town of Renmark, with the grand old River Murray forming an impressive backdrop.

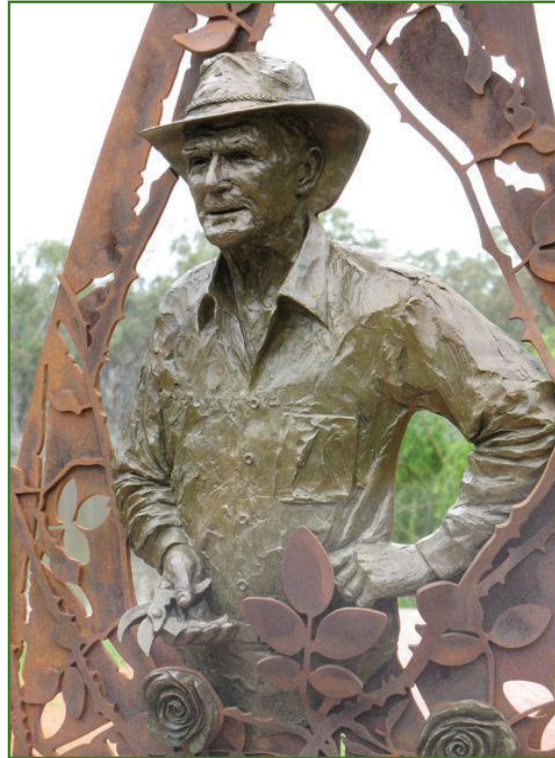
The sculpture was erected to honour Renmark's Living Legend and world famous Rosarian, Mr. David Ruston OAM, President Emeritus of The World Federation of Rose Societies and Renmark resident since his birth in 1930.

This special occasion drew a crowd of several hundred people with dignitaries from overseas and interstate together with local friends and colleagues. It was wonderful to see Sheenagh Harris make the journey from South Africa, Tony Stallwood, President, National Rose Society of Australia attended from Queensland and Sue Lorraine represented Arts SA and Minister John Hill. The David Ruston Sculpture Committee, Artist Janette Moore, Landscape Artist John Draper and the Project Manager Margaret Worth no doubt felt great satisfaction to see their project finally completed and unveiled in front of such a prestigious gathering.

The Committee members were Neil Martinson, Mayor; Barry Hurst, Renmark Paringa Council CEO; Margaret Worth, Peter Burton, John and Claire Angove, Liz Manifold, Richard Fewster, Sue Zwar and Shirley Yates. Kelvin Trimper, Chairman of the Sculpture Committee thanked everyone involved for raising the necessary funds for the sculpture.

In 2006 the idea to recognise David Ruston's unique and significant contribution to the Rose World and Floriculture was suggested by Renmark resident Merridy Howie. A small group was formed which met with the Renmark Paringa Council to promote the concept of a David Ruston Sculpture. It became clear that raising

money for the project was critical to its success and would involve securing grants from Government bodies as well as private fundraising. It was therefore decided to engage a professional to advise and guide the project and Margaret Worth, a public places art and design consultant was subsequently appointed. Soon after Margaret's initial advice had been received, a Sculpture Steering Group comprising local Renmark representatives, and Regional, State Rose Society and Heritage Rose Group representatives was formed. What an amazing group of talented and passionate people. They adopted a vision, set goals and achieved them, particularly the fund raising goal in spite of the tough economic climate which prevailed throughout the fundraising period.



With Margaret's assistance, a brief for the sculpture was prepared and thanks to an Arts SA Grant, five artists were short-listed to develop a concept for consideration. Representatives of the Committee supported by professionals then selected a preferred artist and concept, but everyone held their breath in anticipation of David's view since it was David and his work which was to be captured – and, as he was still alive, they thought they should ask his opinion. Fortunately, he loved it. The artist, Janette Moore, and the Landscape Artist, John Draper were selected and hired.

The committee had a concept and an artist, all they needed was the money. So they commenced a diverse campaign of direct mail, raffles, events, advertising and promotions across the country and overseas to raise the funds necessary. The Renmark Paringa Council was also approached and it made a significant commitment of in kind support to ensure that the project could be completed.

The sculpture will have permanent interpretive signs erected in the near future to complete this impressive work of art which commemorates the life and legacy of a very special man, David Ruston.



from Switzerland

A rose garden in Switzerland

BY MAGDALENA PEITSCH-KOGUT

Our rose garden is situated in the village of Froideville on 840 m altitude above Lausanne and the lake of Geneva.

By the end of October it will be 37 years that my husband and I live here and grow roses for our pleasure and those who come to visit. Very often we hear the remark: Oh! We didn't realise that roses can grow on this altitude, in this sometimes quite rough climate.

Having attended the WFRS Regional Convention 2010 and the Heritage Rose Group in Changzhou, China, which we both greatly enjoyed, we met very nice and interesting people and learned a lot!

I was asked by Di Durston to give some information on our garden and other Rose Gardens in Switzerland.

So I kindly ask you to follow me on a short tour around the house. When entering the garden you will find on the left side along the pathway a border of *Rosa rugosa*, peonies and modern Rose bushes: **Hansa**, **Scabrosa**, **Blanc double de Coubert**, **Therese Bugnet**, **Souvenir de Philémon Cochet**, **Maigold**, **Händel**, **Herbstfeuer** with (very beautiful big hips in autumn), **Ilse Krohn Superior** (a very hardy bush with lovely snow white blossoms and a wonderful fragrance), **Sensass Delbard**, **Märchenland**, **Chinatown**, **Westphalenpark** and **Westerland** close the row. On the right side there are a group of rose bushes along the house wall and a few TH.

It is true that it is not easy to grow TH (and most of the English Roses) at this altitude on the Jorat. The Jorat is a hilly chain, a moraine of the former glacier of the Rhone, reaching down to the lake. We have a light sandy soil and often very little rain. Also the temperature changes quickly.

We have about 120 different old and historic roses.

Coming to the south east part you will see **William Lobb** sharing a pillar with **Mme de la Roche-Lambert**. Continuing our walk to **Paul's Himalayan Musk** (reaching 8 m up a larch tree) we come across **Parkzauber**, **Great Western**, **Constance Spry** and **Prosperity**. Behind

the **City of York** there are some old trees where we like to spend our free time. I try to give the garden a harmonious structure, where the different colours produce a feeling of pleasure, harmony and peace and induce to stay a while by the pond. **Filipes Kiftsgate** and **Minnehaha** try to take over the place, so we have to prune them every two years!



Across the pond below the winter garden on the right side you may admire the **Duchesse de Montebello**, **Henri Martin**, **Aïcha**, **Roseaie de l'Haye** and **Souvenir de Philemon Cochet**. On the other side **Fantini Latour**, **Fritz Nobis**, **Scharlachglut**, **Golden Wings** and **Windrush** share the place with peonies and Hosta. Throughout the garden the roses share their flower beds with about 65 peonies and 18 tree-peonies. They are my husband's speciality! They thrive very well in our climate at this altitude.

We continue our walk, come across the arch where **Alexandre Girault**, **New Dawn**, **Mme de Sancy de Parabère** and **Thalia** seem to like each other very well.

The Damascena roses **Mme Hardy**, **Ispahan**, **Compte de Chambord**, **Rose de Rescht**, **Jacques Cartier** and the **Duc de Cambridge** have their own place with a Mountain Ash (Sorb) who lends itself to **Lykkefund** as a climbing help.

On the way to the vegetable garden you will meet the most beautiful **Great Maidens Blush** and **Alba Semiplena**. They have as background a 30 year old Taxus and a Chamaecyparis obtusa.





On the left side before coming to the Gallicas and Rosa Albas we very often spend a while in the shade of a Hornbeam tree to admire the beauty of **Tuscany Superb**, *Rosa gallica officinalis*. **Alberic Barbier** and **Veilchenblau** have elected two hazelnuts to support their climbing fury and **Albertine** uses a Pillar Juniperus as uphold. We have about 14 Rosa gallica and 10 Rosa Alba. I think it would be too long to enumerate them all. They do extremely well in our climate. At the end of our garden, behind the vegetable plot grows **François Juranville**.

We now come to the end of our walk; passing by Rosarium **Uetersen** (a very beautiful and hardy climber) we reach the front side of our home. There two 30 years old Chamaecyparis aureus give way to the front door. The Chamaecyparis on the left hand is bordered by **Marie Bugnet**, **Martin Frobischer** and **Ferns**.

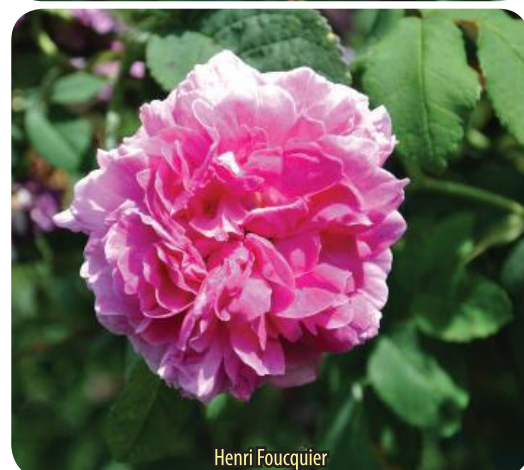
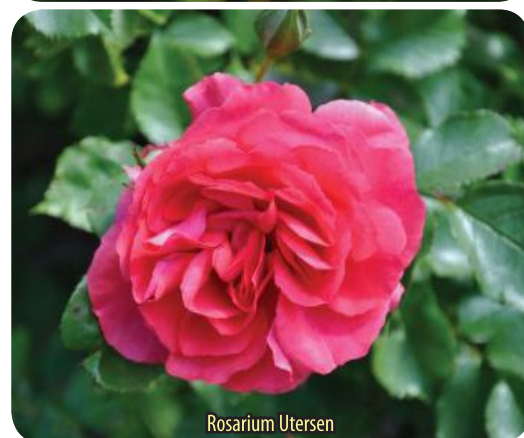
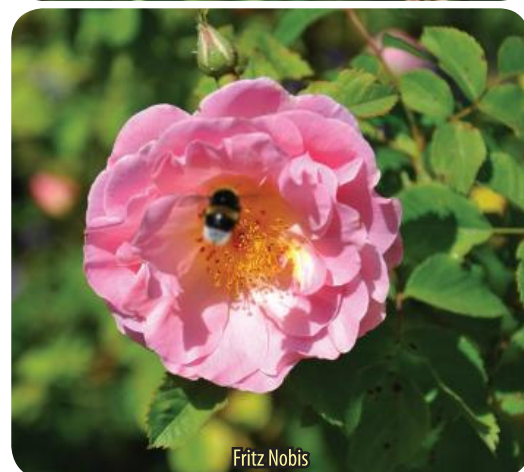
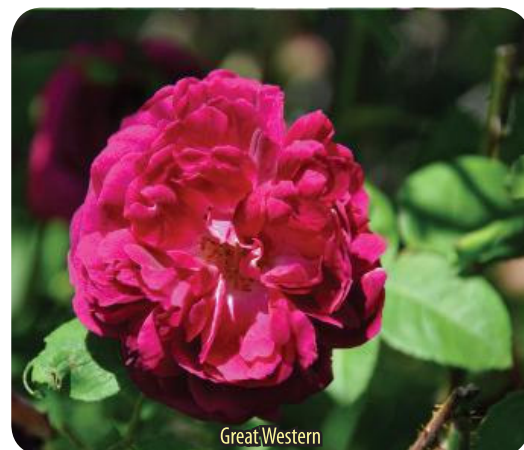
A brief note on Swiss Rose Gardens:

The Swiss Rose Society is divided in two parts: the German and French speaking Rose Societies. They are closely connected and have a common Homepage: www.rosenfreunde.ch. There you may find the Index of gardens to visit in Switzerland.

We have two excellent rosarians and breeders especially for historic and old roses! Mr. Richard Huber at Dottikon: www.rosen-huber.ch and Mr. Alain Tschanz at Aclens: www.rosiers.ch

I hope that this short excursion (on paper though) may instigate your power of imagination. I cannot describe the beauty, fragrance and uniqueness of a blooming rose garden.

But as experts in matters of "roses", you will undoubtedly know what I mean. The numerous hours of cultivating and nursing are worth while the effort!





from Germany

the German garden of Helmut & Renate Peters

BY HELMUT PETERS

In 1985 we read in a garden magazine that it is possible to let roses grow in old fruit trees. Because we have two old pear trees, we tried it. In a rose catalogue we found the roses 'Lykkefund' and 'Félicité et Perpétue', suitable for this aim. With an iron bar I looked for a space between the roots of the pear trees, after finding enough space I made a hole 10 cm in diameter, and I planted the roses in the holes. (At this time I knew nothing about roses). Despite this improper planting procedure both roses reached the top of the trees five years later and they are blooming wonderful.



Since then we have had two very severe winters. During the first one in 1998 we had -20°C for two weeks, and the 'Félicité et Perpétue' was frozen down to the earth, but after three years she reached the top of the tree again. Last winter was also very long and hard, and the 'Félicité et Perpétue' has again suffered 50% frost damage.

In contrast to the 'Félicité et Perpétue' the 'Lykkefund' is extremely frost resistant. She hasn't had any frost damage, and is blooming wonderfully every year.

Very often we are sitting under this tree and we smell the fragrance.....



the Gardens of Victoria, Vancouver Island

We live in Greater Victoria (48° 26' N 123 ° 22' W) at the southern tip of Vancouver Island which is the large island which lies north of the Olympic national park in the USA and west of the city of Vancouver. Victoria is the capital of British Columbia, Canada. There are an exceptionally large number of entries for the letter V in our phone book! The climate is modified Mediterranean with a cool wet winter and cool dry summer. We never get the extreme cold associated with Canadian winters. (That cold water surrounding us on three sides averages 13°C winter and summer alike.) Further north on the east side of the Island the climate is a little more extreme with cooler winters and warmer summers. The west coast is true cool rainforest comparable to southern Chile. We have three native rose species, *Rosa nutkana*, *R. gymnocarpa* and *R. pisocarpa* on the Island

Our native vegetation is Gary Oak woodland with a number of spring blooming plants including Camassia (Camas), Dodecatheon (Shooting Star), and Erythronium Sp (Fawn Lily). One of the larger of the remaining areas of native vegetation has been restored at Government House and is well worth a visit in spring. Arbutus menziesii (Arbutus or Madrona) are distinctive trees on the south east of the island with their strong honey fragrance in May. Their disadvantage as garden trees is that being evergreen they drop their almost indestructible leaves all year but principally in August.

Butchart's Gardens was created by Jennie Butchart starting in a limestone quarry after it had been worked out by her husband's cement company in 1903. It was her second garden, the first being in Owen Sound, Ontario. It now covers thirty acres and consists of a series of formal gardens that flow from one to the next and can absorb a phenomenal number of people. In summer it is least crowded first thing in the morning and late in the afternoon. A relatively recent development is the spectacular lighting during the Christmas season. Not a plantaholics garden but cannot be faulted on design and presentation. We recommend the afternoon tea in the dining room as being preferable to the tea in a well known downtown hotel. For a snack meal we like the clam chowder followed by Nanaimo Bars a local speciality. The shop has a good range of goods from inexpensive to very good quality. There are numerous tour buses from Vancouver and Victoria and the Gardens are also served by a city transit bus route.

Finnerty Garden is where to go to see the best collection of Rhododendrons in Victoria. This garden was started with a donation by the first students to graduate after the university moved to the current site in nineteen sixty five. The first site proved unsatisfactory and the present site shows what can be done in about forty years. There are companion plantings which make this a year round garden, but there are very few roses, just minimal species. This is a part of town which suffers from a very large population of feral rabbits which can always be seen round the University.

Government House is the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia (The Queen's representative in the Province). The third garden which



is a National Historic Site in this area. The grounds are normally open to the public from dawn to dusk and consist of eleven acres (4.6 Hectares) of formal gardens and fifteen acres (6 Hectares) of restored Gary Oak woodland. The estate has been gardened for over a hundred years. The public service gardeners were almost all transferred to other departments in the early nineteen eighties and the gardens languished until the Friends of Government House Gardens were formed in 1991. Now the gardens are a mix of contract gardeners who mow lawns and keep the bedding plants, arborists who maintain and hazard prune the trees and volunteers who plant and maintain the rest of the formal gardens. There are about eighteen gardens each with its' own crew of volunteers. There are two rose gardens, one a scaled down copy of the one at Warwick Castle in England and the other in a less than ideal location is a series of beds set in cement paths which has been redesigned and replanted in 2003 since it was planted in 1998. We always said that we liked the mature Gary Oak (*Quercus garryana*), but, couldn't it be moved away from the west edge of the rose garden. In addition there are roses of various vintages and mainly unknown varieties scattered around the formal gardens and native species in the woodland. This free public garden is one of the unknown gems in Victoria about two kilometres from the centre of town on Rockland Avenue and not very close to public transit. In the last few years the gardens have suffered from the ravages of several urban deer and there does not seem to be a solution as the three gates have to be kept open all day.

The Abkhazi Garden is much smaller at two acres (0.8 Hectares) including a small house, lots of glaciated bedrock and two pools, and was begun in 1948 by a couple of dedicated gardeners. When they eventually hired a gardener the collection of rare alpine plants suffered from Round-up. It was offered to the City of Victoria, but the maintenance was considered to be too expensive. It is now owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and is not being restored but continued as it is imagined that the Abkhazi's would have done. This garden specialises in Rhododendrons and alpines.

Another small garden is Point Ellice House which is on the Gorge Waterway. This house remained in the same family for over a hundred years and then was passed to the Province. The family rarely threw anything away so records remain of what plants they bought. The current partially volunteer staff are continually finding roses as they clear the property. Most of the roses were bought prior to the nineteen forties with some added when the gardens were being partially restored in the nineteen ninties. Identification of roses is challenging even when you know what could be found.

Beacon Hill Park is the largest public park in town. A bird sanctuary donated by Sir James Douglas is probably our best used park as it extends along the

waterfront. It contains the City Parks Headquarters and a heronry as well as a formal rose garden, rock and alpine area, perennial borders and a collection of old Rhododendrons. One of the early head gardeners, when he retired, took his personal collection of Rhododendrons by train and boat to Ucluelet on the west coast where the climate is very suitable for Rhodos. There was no road access at that time and even forty five years ago the route included fifty miles (80 Km) of gravel road over a mountain.

Other public gardens in Victoria include Playfair Park with Rhodos and a perennial border. Saanich Municipality is noted for its street plantings and the Gorge Waterway Park perennials. Glendale Gardens (ex Horticultural Centre of the Pacific) which is a demonstration and teaching garden sits on a site with an interesting natural underground water system. One of its oldest developed gardens is the Doris Page winter garden where bulbs and fragrant winter shrubs grow under a canopy of Douglas Fir. Roses have never done very well here because of the clay soil and personality conflicts. Now some roses have been planted using the Earthkind system. It will be interesting to see how they do.

There are more rose gardens on Vancouver Island and an active Mid-Island Rose Society.

from Australia

Peace and Harmony

BY MARGARET GREGORY

The World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention was held in Changzhou, China from April 27 – May 1, 2010. It was the first time such a convention had been held in China, and our hosts went to great lengths to ensure a warm welcome and a full, interesting, varied programme complemented by pre and post convention tours in Beijing, Shanghai and surrounding areas. There were more than 200 delegates from around the world including 60 from Australia. The theme of the convention was "Peace and Harmony".

Beijing, like many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, had experienced the heaviest snowfalls in 20 years, so most roses in the ground were only a few inches high, just emerging from their winter protection of soil and mulch. An exception were the species roses in 'Laurie's Garden' in the Beijing Botanic Gardens, growing strongly, albeit too early for flowers. (Laurie Newman, a member of the Heritage Roses in Australia inc. has been working with the Director of the Beijing Botanic Gardens for many years, to establish this collection of roses). However azaleas, lilacs, prunus, and magnolias were in glorious bloom, and everywhere we went were beautifully planted and maintained parterres and avenues of trees

The opening ceremony of the Convention at the rose garden in Changzhou Botanic Gardens was amazing – warm welcome speeches, dancing girls, hundreds of pigeons and balloons released into the air, and fireworks. We were well primed and eager to start.

The Convention programme was an excellent balance of well chosen speakers, garden visits, and an introduction to traditional Chinese culture and crafts. On day two the topic was **Rosa chinensis (Ancient Rose) and Roses in the World**. Helga Brichet spoke on the Chinese Rose Revolution and the influence of Chinese roses. Maureen Jay spoke of the outcome of breeding Chinese and

European roses in the 19th century and Hu Yonghang and Wang Guoliang spoke of the breeding prospects and the classification of Chinese old roses.

Another day the topic was Rose Cities and Rose Gardens. Malcolm Watson spoke of the National Rose Societies of Australia, and roses grown in the world's driest continent. Zhao Shiwei (who had been so generous with his time

showing us the Beijing Botanic Garden) spoke on the rose gardens and collections in China, Daniel Boulens (Lyon), Minoru Ishi (Fukuyama) and Koli Tanaka (Gifu) all shared their particular experiences in creating rose gardens in cities

The final day of talks, speakers addressed different aspects of rose research and breeding

We saw many beautiful gardens and parks some old, some new, some with carefully constructed features, all interesting. The parks were utilized well – we saw large groups of people practicing Tai Chi, dancing kite flying and other exercises. In Changzhou Botanic Gardens there were large beds of roses in full bloom – all in pots. They had gone to considerable effort to ensure flowering roses despite the unusually cold winter

In Red Plum Park (formerly part of Tianning Temple) there were magnificent well established arbours of **Rosa banksiae Purizza** (also known as **The**

Pearl) backed by wisteria. This glorious picture will stay in my mind forever.

In Shanghai planting along the roads included carefully clipped rose bushes in bloom, alternating with similarly shaped green and russet coloured bushes. Beautiful!

In Xian (and optional extra tour) we saw rose bushes, including species growing naturally and freely near the magnificent peony garden adjacent to the excavations of Banpo village, a 6000 year old matriarchal society. A sight for sore eyes.

The first WFRS Regional Convention in China was a great success, and a tribute to all involved in the organization. It was also a privilege to visit China, the home of the parents of so many of the roses bred in the past 150 years. The theme of the convention – Peace and Harmony – was fulfilled.



The Rose Symbol of Changzhou City, Changzhou Botanic Garden



R. banksiae Purizza flanked by wisteria at the Red Plum Park, Changzhou



obituary

Gianfranco Fineschi (1923-2010)

BY HELGA BRICHET

On 10th April, a chilly spring evening, Professor Gianfranco Fineschi died at the age of 87 as had 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 was born in Florence on 17th March, 1923 and passed 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 formation 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, both from a botanical as well as historical and cultural points of view. He was proud of his Italian heritage, generous with those desiring slips and bud-wood of his plants, and of 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.



from America

Polyanthas – are old new again?

BY STEVE JONES

I was asked to give a talk on polyanthas at the 2009 World Federation of Rose Societies convention in Vancouver, Canada. This is the article based on the talk and comments from the audience.

what is a polyantha?

In a dictionary, I found the following definition of a polyantha:

Small, rounded plant, with small blooms in clusters, often cupped, and comes in white, pink or red shades.

The American Rose Society (ARS) in Modern Roses 10 defines polyanthas in part as:

... loosely applied to descendants of *R. multiflora* and cluster-flowered roses in general.

In the Handbook For Selecting Roses, ARS defines polyanthas in part as:

... sturdy plants with large clusters of small 1-inch diameter blooms often used for massing, edging and landscaping.

As you can see, none of the definitions are specific and polyanthas are described by their growth habit and bloom rather than by a botanical classification.

Even more confusing are all of the theories on where polyanthas came from, including seeds received from a multiflora cross, second generation crosses, repeat dwarf sports of ramblers, and lastly a seedling of a seedling of *Rosa multiflora* 'polyantha'.

The rose nursery family Guillot is credited with not only creating the first polyantha, but also the first hybrid tea. From their website (www.rosesguillot.com) they paint a different answer about polyanthas...

The history of these roses could well be the original story told by Gaston Leroux ... One moonless night in 1865, an individual called Fortune introduced into France - it is not known from where - a Multiflora rose. From hand to hand, under the cloak, the pink rose arrived in Lyon where it was soon to be found in 1870 chez Guillot Fils. This Dr Frankenstein of beauty crossbred this species with a dwarf rose from China, and in 1875 obtained "Paquerette", the first Polyantha rose. From this stock a family of miniature

shrubs, as generous as they are small, was created, flowering in profusion from the spring until the first frosts.

We do know some polyanthas are dwarf sports of ramblers, with **Little White Pet** as the best known example. As to **Paquette**, we will let you decide if the story is credible. Modern Roses 12 lists **Paquette's** parents as a seedling from a seedling from *Rosa multiflora* 'polyantha'.

Modern Roses 12 lists 890 polyanthas. Of which, 97 have unknown dates. Actually the first polyantha listed in Modern Roses 12 is **Achille** (1836) by Guinoisseau and not **Paquerette**. In 2003, I wrote an article on Sport Kings, which discussed the tendency of polyanthas to sport. The following is an excerpt from the article.

The real Sport Kings are found among the polyanthas. The all time Sport King is **Orleans Rose** (1909) with 47 sports, including the popular **Miss Edith Cavell** (1917) and **Coral Cluster** (1920). **Phyllis** (1908) has sported 19 times, **Dick Koster** (1929) 12 times, **Joseph Guy** (1921) 9 times, and **Mme Norbert Lavavasseur** (1903) and **Eblouissant** 8 times each.

Many sports begot more sports. The Koster line of polyanthas is usually sports of sports of sports. From **Greta Kluis** sported **Anneke Koster** (1927) which sported **Dick Koster** (1929) which sported **Margo Koster** (1931) which sported **Greet Koster** (1933), **Margo's Sister** (1954) and **Margo's Baby** (1987). Also **Dick Koster** sported **Mothersday** (1949) which sported **Orange Morsdag** (1956).

evolution of polyanthas

Polyanthas didn't take off right away, but they were popular from 1900s through the 1930s and commonly used as landscape plants, borders and underplantings. Breeders started crossing polyanthas with teas, hybrid teas, and other roses, creating larger plants with larger blooms, which were called hybrid polyanthas. In 1940, ARS changed hybrid polyanthas to floribundas, as suggested by Dr. J.H. Nicolas of Jackson & Perkins.

Polyanthas started to wane for several reasons. Floribundas became more popular, had more bloom and different colors, bigger plants and blooms, and better disease resistance. Further, hybridizers stopped registering roses as polyanthas, the names were often too long or hard to pronounce (i.e. **Mme Norbert Lavavasseur**), and they did not offer a big range of colors, usually white or pink, with some red and mauve.

But did they die off during this time? Hybridizers stopped classifying polyantha type roses as polyanthas in favor of miniatures, floribundas and shrubs. Plus the polyantha name ceased to be marketable, so for all practical purposes, they went into witness protection.



Felicite Perpetue

Examples of polyantha type plants registered under different classes include **Popcorn** and its sport **Gourmet Popcorn**, **Sweet Chariot**, **Summer Snow**, **Carefree Beauty**, **Snowcone**, **Green Ice**, **Elfinglo**, **Raven**, **Flower Carpet** series, **Drift** series, and **Meidilands**, especially **Alba**, to name but a few.

However, polyanthas did not totally die off from the public view. There are several polyanthas which are available today and commonly used in the landscape. They are readily found at most nurseries in bush and climbing forms. They are still popular today largely because the public recalls them from their parents and grandparents yards. Examples include **Mlle Cecile Brunner**, **Pinkie**, **China Doll**, **Margo Koster** and **The Fairy**. **Pinkie** was the first polyantha to win All American Rose Selections (AARS) in 1946.

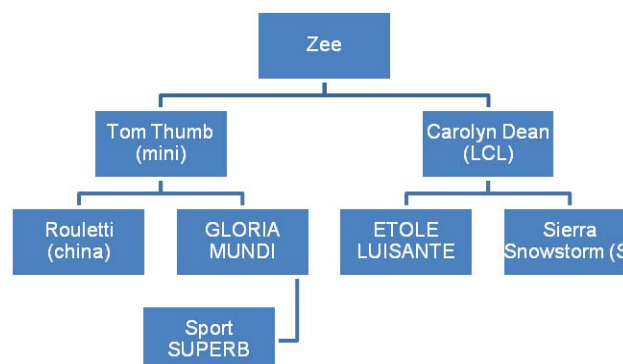
are miniature roses really polyanthas?

This was the most controversial subject during my talk and had the most discussion. Miniature roses have a dominant "dwarf gene" which original came from a dwarf china. Actually, miniature roses are hybrid chinas, but let's save that discussion for another article. However as we discussed earlier, each of the original polyanthas also were dwarf forms of ramblers or dwarf by breeding, even Guillot thought with a dwarf china. So the breeding of each is similar. **Little White Pet** is a dwarf sport of the rambler **Felicite et Perpetue**. **Rosa multiflora** is a huge plant, yet crossbreeding with supposedly dwarf china roses created dwarf plants. So the dwarf gene is not only in miniatures but also in polyanthas. The main difference is the miniature gene is dominant, while the polyantha is allegedly recessive. Anyone who hybridizes roses knows you will end up with a lot of dwarf roses and singles in your crosses. Dee Bennett hybridized hybrid teas with miniature roses and got all miniature roses, however, many of her roses were larger, miniflora sized.

However, my point is not about genes, but whether the rose looks like a polyantha since most definitions are based on growth habits and not breeding. I base most of my discussion on them having similar growth habits and bloom, the plants are around the same size, the breeding of miniatures used polyanthas as seed or pollen parents, and polyanthas were crossed with chinas, as were miniature roses. **Tom Thumb** is considered one of the first miniature roses. It was crossed with **Rouletti** and a polyantha **Gloria Mundi**. **Tom Thumb** was used in many of the other early rose crosses.

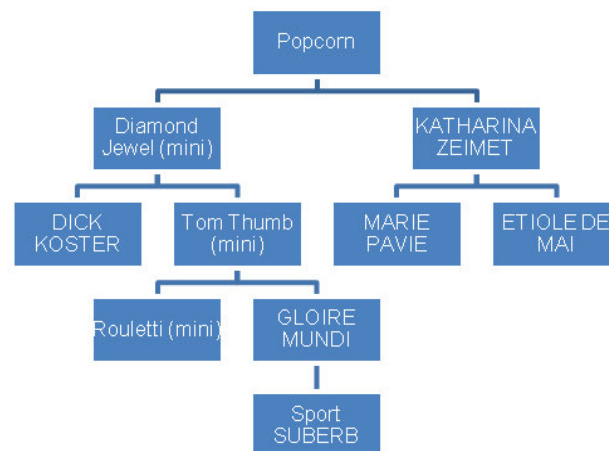
Let's start with Ralph Moore, the Father of Miniature Roses. Many of his crosses have polyanthas as parents or in past generations. His first major breeding rose was the climbing miniature rose **Zee** (1940), which was registered, but never introduced.

Let's look at **Zee's** parentage:



All of the roses in capital letters are polyanthas. **Zee** has polyanthas on each side as grandparents. Several of his introduced roses were from **Zee** including **Yellow Doll**, **Jackie**, **Candy Cane**, **Pink Cameo**, **Lemon Drop**, **Bit o' Sunshine**, and **Fairy Princess**. **Lemon Drop** was the first rose I used in my breeding program, although nothing of consequence came from the crosses.

Now let's look at **Popcorn**, which sported **Gourmet Popcorn**.



As you can see, **Popcorn** has more polyantha in its breeding than **Zee**. One parent was clearly a polyantha and the other side had several generations of polyanthas. Of all miniature roses, **Popcorn** and **Gourmet Popcorn** are more typical of a polyantha in growth and bloom than other miniatures.

Other early miniature roses also had polyanthas as a parent including **Pixie** (1940) and **Midget** (1941) (**Ellen Poulsen**), **Perla de Alcanada** (1944) and **Perla Rosa** (1946) (**Perle des Rouges**), and **Perla de Montserrat** (1945) (**Mlle Cecile Brunner**).



Marie Pavie

comeback kids

Until recently, few polyanthas were seen at rose shows, nurseries or in gardens. The common landscape polyanthas were the only ones easily available. Largely because of old garden rose enthusiasts and exhibitors, many of the older polyanthas were brought back into the fold. Since polyanthas are such great landscape plants, people became interested in buying more polyanthas, including the elusive **Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs**. Thanks to efforts from nurseries such as Vintage Gardens, Roses Unlimited, Eurodesert Roses and Ashdown Roses, more polyanthas are available today than ever before.

The following table shows the number of polyanthas registered since inception listed in the Modern Roses 12 database:

Time period	No. polyanthas
1875-1890s	44
1900-1910s	144
1920-1930s	280
1940-1950s	101
1960-1970s	99
1980-1990s	88
2000-now	31

The heyday of polyanthas was during the 1920s and 30s. But steadily over the years, roses were still being classed as polyanthas, we just didn't know about them. The more recent players in the polyantha market were in the 1980s with Harkness and the Fairy Series, 1990s with Ralph Moore & Paul Jerabek, and the 2000s with John Bagnasio & the Tolmasoff's.

resurgence

As you may gather by now, polyanthas never went away. Today, there is more interest in landscape and groundcover roses which is changing people's minds about roses. With smaller yards, people like small plants and small blooms. Polyanthas are very versatile, they make great border roses, and newer varieties have more colors available. No longer are the hybridizers afraid of the polyantha name when registering their roses and more roses being introduced as polyanthas. Tom Carruth of Weeks Roses started this trend by registering **Wing-Ding** as a polyantha in 2006. The parents are **Red Fairy** and **Raven**, the latter a shrub rose with small polyantha like blooms. **Red Fairy** is a cross of **Simon Robinson**, a miniature with *Rosa wichurana* as a parent, and no polyantha despite its name.

Today, breeding patterns show more roses are being bred to duplicate the polyantha look and size. Some are

classed as groundcover roses, small shrubs or miniatures. The history of breeding shows floribundas were created by breeding polyanthas with larger roses. Today, floribundas are being bred with miniature roses which are creating a smaller version of floribundas, which is going back to where they started in my opinion, to polyanthas.



Some of the newer varieties today include **Wing Ding**, **Elizabeth Navarro**, **Too Cute**, **Orange Hearts**, **Zenaitta**, **Snowbelt**, **Lauren**, **Gwen Cleary**, **Marshmallow Fluff**, and **Spanky**.

In conclusion, polyanthas had never left the stage, they are back from hiding, they are a force to be reckoned with, and they prove once again, old can be new again.



Rosa gigantea

from Italy

three of the best things to come from China recently

BY HELGA BRICHET

Around the turn of this millennium three glorious roses, two horticultural varieties and a wild rose, all from China, were slowly making their way to Europe and, indeed, to botanical gardens and specialized collections in many parts of the globe. Only one of the former is repeat blooming and surely for nine months without interruption. The other two flower only in the early spring, but the show is so utterly sensational, that it is well worth waiting for until the following year.

The Chinese have for many years been diligent garden perfectionists, and so forms of the rose, and other major genera, such as the camellia and the azalea, have been nurtured for many hundreds, if not thousands, of years, as an integral part of their culture and philosophy. Traditionally Chinese taste preferred double flowers of all types, so it was natural that precedence should have been given to the striking peonies, chrysanthemums, azaleas and rhododendrons rather than the more modest, and thorny, species and wild roses abounding in many regions of that huge country. In fact, even now, there has not been any final decision made as to the choice of the national flower of China: the Chrysanthemum? the Peony? the double Hibiscus mutabilis, for the cultivation of which Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, had in antiquity been so famous? Or, more improbably, the Rose??

Published in 1993 by BBC Books, *The Quest for the Rose*, – the most highly illustrated historical guide to roses – also became an extremely popular English television series, and certainly gave the somnolent world of roses a shake. However, it is Chapter Four, “The Rose Quest in China,” that forms the crunch of the book. The authors, botanist Martyn Rix and artist/photographer Roger Phillips, describe their voyage to south western Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan, in search of roses in the wild, but also in remote villages and monastery gardens. Their plan was to proceed on their own along the road between Kunming, Dali and Lijiang in Yunnan, and then fly to Sichuan and meet up with Mikiyori Ogisu, the famed Japanese botanist, who had rediscovered the mysterious *R. chinensis* var. *spontanea* in that province in 1983, said to be the wild type of the China Rose, responsible for revolutionizing the future of rose hybridizing.

Thus the first two of the three roses I should like to draw attention to result from the authors outings in Yunnan.

“The Lijiang Road Climber” was first spotted around a corner of the mountain pass between Dali and Lijiang, and later in numerous other hedges and gardens in the area. It was described as a bright pink Tea China, very closely related to *R. gigantea*, not fully double, with bright yellow stamens and silky petals which faded slightly towards the centre. The long, pointed buds were also a bright, strong pink. Understandably, excitement was high, and numerous cuttings were taken and carefully stored away. These unfortunately were to come to an apparently bad end, for the authors, at the end of their voyage, returned to Europe via the United States. Fearing that the long journey would endanger the survival of the precious cuttings, these were left with a nursery in that country..... and never to be heard of again! But all was not lost, as we shall see later.

The second rose was spotted by Rix and Phillips growing at the Monastery of 10,000 Camellias, a few kilometres from Lijiang. It was a deep red, perfumed, semi-double China rose. Also in this case, no cuttings were successfully introduced into Europe. However, this rose would seem to be the same variety mentioned by the Australian Peter Valder in *The Garden Plants of China*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in 1999, which was found in Zhuozheng Yuan, Suzhou, situated in the Yangtze Delta. Certainly the morphological characteristics seem identical, and while Lijiang and the “Mighty” river’s delta are indeed distant, this would bear out Martyn Rix’s theory that many of the ancient Chinese varieties, bought in the nurseries of Canton and Macao by early European traders and plant hunters, had indeed been created in the distant south west of the country, the plantsman’s paradise.

The Rix and Phillips’ account of their Chinese expedition in search of roses created a fever-pitch of excitement amongst rose lovers, who realised how much was still waiting to be discovered in the remotest areas of that country. In 1997 in Italy, a group of amateur rose lovers, led by Vicky Ducrot as well as the nurseryman Walter Branchi, decided to emulate the previous expedition in Yunnan. The story is recounted in the book, *A Garden for Roses*, by Vicky and Isabella Ducrot, privately published in 2001. Upon arrival in Lijiang, they visited the Black Dragon Park and were delighted to be confronted by a very large example of the “Lijiang Road Climber.” Cuttings were once more taken and then the group proceeded to the Monastery of the 10,000 Camellias to find the red China, “an old gnarled plant growing against the retaining wall of the monastery garden.” In the town’s Botanical Garden cuttings were bought from an aged gardener for the modest price of “Five Yuan,” the name this rose today carries in a very few specialized rose catalogues in Europe. My own plant is a much valued gift from Vicky and Isabella. They were however not so lucky with the propagation of the “Lijiang Road Climber,” but were saved from bitter disappointment by the generosity



Rosa gigantea

of a friend, Gian Lupo Osti, who, a year previous to the Ducrot expedition, had visited the same area in search of peonies. Osti, too, had noticed the beautiful rose, had taken cuttings, and these had set root in his garden to the north of Rome.

Some years ago in the spring, Martyn Rix came from England to spend a few days at my home. A particularly memorable day was spent botanizing in the Appenine Hills along the road which leads to Norcia, and further up to Castelluccio, on the edge of the great crater. Then I took him to the rose nursery at the time owned by Walter Branchi – when, looking around, he suddenly exclaimed, “But that’s my rose!” And indeed it was the “**Lijiang Road Climber**” of which he had lost all tack on the way home from Yunnan. Thus finally the circle was closed, and Martyn took a plant of “his” rose back to England.

The third rose is the wild *R. chinensis spontanea*.

The rediscovery of this legendary rose in 1983 caused a sensation, and was featured on the cover of the Royal National Rose Society magazine. The first record of its growth in the wild was made by Augustine Henry in 1885, who described his discovery of the wild form of the China rose in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1902.

Then it was spied by Ernest Henry Wilson in 1910 and lastly by the American Joseph Rock, after which it seemingly disappeared, until the Japanese Mikinori Ogisu located it in a remote valley in SW Sichuan and introduced it to the West in 1987. The plants’ habit was variable, and it could become a healthy climber, romping up trees with the aid of its hooked, brown prickles, or a shrub with arching branches in open scrubland, or even a compact bush when heavily grazed. The colour of the blooms varied considerably from pale pink to brighter pink to buff or even white, only some showing the typical colour change from light to darker with age.

In his book, *In Search of Long Lost Plants*, (only in Japanese for the moment), Ogisu vividly describes the moment he happened upon this elusive wildling,

In the delirium of high fever, I thought I saw something red move in the dim field of vision. Could it be...? It was an area about 1,560 metres a.s.l. in Leipo Xian in SW Sichuan, on a dry slope facing west that I thought I saw something red move. There I saw red flowers 5 to 6 centimetres across on the twigs of a low shrub 1.5 to 2 metres high. I took a closer look and saw the open pistils sticking out of the calyx tube – the unique characteristic of roses in the Chinensis section. ***Rosa chinensis spontanea*!**

The flower buds were very pale pink – almost white – but as they opened, the pink of their petals got darker and darker, and the stamens also changed colour from yellow to crimson. How lucky I was to have forced myself to come here when I was not feeling very well! I seriously thought that I was guided by a god.

Guided by a god indeed, for that very same day he had come across the *Qiongzhusa tumidinoda* in its natural habitat at 2,000 a.s.l., a plant long hidden from the eyes of foreign researchers, and thus fulfilled two of his dreams.

Mikinori Ogisu was born in Owari in 1951 and early discovered his love for indigenous flora and set his mind on a career in horticulture. At the age of twenty he took off for Europe and found a welcoming home at the Kalmthout Arboretum in Belgium, founded by Jelena and George de Belder, where he stayed for almost two years. Thence he proceeded, again as a visiting student, to Kew and Wisley. It was natural that he should meet England’s foremost rosarian, Graham Stuart Thomas, who challenged him to endeavour to find the *R. chinensis spontanea* in its natural habitat. But at the time China was still closed to foreign students and private travellers, and Ogisu had to wait until 1980 before entering the country, and until 1983 before receiving permission to do research in the south western areas of Sichuan Province as a foreign student enrolled at the University of Sichuan. His plant introductions are wide-ranging and include an impressive number of new species, particularly of the genus *Epimedium*, but also *Helleborus thibetanus*, *Bergenia emeiensis*, *Lysimachia paridiformis* var. *stenophylla*, *Deutzia nitidula*, *Paeonia decomposita*, *Aucuba himalaica* var. *dolichophylla*, *Mahonia leptodonta*, *Carpinus fangiana* and *Meliiodendron xylocarpum*.

The number of Ogisu’s introductions goes on and on, and over the years he has been covered with awards in recognition of his work both in Japan and internationally. I personally met him in Osaka in 1998 and was honoured by an invitation to accompany him and five Japanese rosarians to visit the wilds of Sichuan and experience the immense and unforgettable joy of seeing the *R. chinensis spontanea* in its natural habitat. Mikinori Ogisu is an extraordinary botanist and plant collector, with a great sensitivity and respect for nature and the environment.

All three of these roses are today available in Southern Europe and are sure to delight rosarians. And with the change of climate they will soon undoubtedly feel more at home in an ever-increasing number of countries.



from Australia

Lady Hillingdon celebration

BY DAVID RUSTON

In 1981, I had a dinner party in honour of **Mlle Cécile Brünner's** 100th birthday. There were ten guests present, and the ladies wore **Cécile Brünner** roses in their hair, and the centrepiece arrangement was of the same rose. That was 29 years ago.

The idea stayed in my memory until last year when we conducted a worldwide plebescite on the World's favourite Tea Roses. There were 80 replies from fifteen countries and **Monsieur Tillier** was the winner, closely followed by **Duchesse de Brabant** (syn. **Comtesse de la Barthe**) and **Lady Hillingdon** was third. However, she was top of the pole in South Australia and the chosen one from knowledgeable people such as Odile Masquelier, Helga Brichet, Di Durston, Jill Perry from the San Jose Collection, Viru Viragnavan and me.

This led me to decide to have a garden party on May 16th to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the introduction of **Lady Hillingdon**, the rose bred by Lowe & Shawyer in 1910. Incidentally, Lady Hillingdon the woman was born in 1860 so she was 50 years old when her rose was introduced.

I got friends together and we decided to have a luncheon in the Ruston Visitor Centre and then a posh afternoon tea complete with cucumber sandwiches and asparagus rolls in my cottage and garden. The house was built in 1922. Jayne Kader, President of the Victoriana Society of SA was simply wonderful. She decided to come as her Ladyship in apricot silk and I had to be his Lordship - a bit tough as I had just turned 80 and Jayne looked not much more than 40! It looked like Victoriana cradle snatching. Jayne brought a party of 11 members of the Victoriana Society including three very dapper men in top hats and tails, and ladies wearing wonderful gowns complete with hats and parasols for the girls.

We ended with 70 acceptances. The house held 35 people, front verandah 10 and 25 were in the garden. All tables had linen cloths, napkins and arrangements of **Lady Hillingdon** on the dining Room table, **Mme Berkley**, **Rosette Delizy**, **White Ensign**, **Mrs Dudley Cross** and **General Galliéni** in the house - other comforts held the Austin roses **Troilus** and **Evelyn** which toned in well with the pastel shades of the gowns.

Pedestals contained purple castor oil plant, liquidambar and grey eucalyptus with long stemmed soft yellow blooms of the **Swan** and pale pink **Claire** rose (both David Austin cultivars).

Daniel Hoffman arranged nine sculptures in the garden using driftwood, grey succulents, purple and hot pink roses with cascading **Amaranthus**. Pomegranates, citrus and grapes were combined with dramatic palm spathes, driftwood and native **xanthorrhoea**.

We conducted tours of the Teas, Chinas, Noisettes and Polyanthas which were still flowering well and the men raised their top hats when they passed by the bushes of **Lady Hillingdon**! Over half of those attending came in period dress which added greatly to the occasion as did the maids dresses in period costumes with white bonnets and voluminous white starched aprons.

We were delighted that the rain forecast did not eventuate. One visitor quipped that the display of salvias round the house almost out did the roses, all of which were planted before 1957, with five of them go back to 1922 including a **Lady Hillingdon**.

It was a big undertaking and I must thank all my friends for their support especially setting up tables, rearranging the house furniture and providing the gourmet afternoon tea and for all those from all over SA who came for the occasion.

Finally, here is a brief history of Lady Hillingdon. She was born the Honourable Alice Harbord-Hamond in 1860, the fourth daughter of Charles Harbord, the fifth Baron Suffield. She married Charles Mills, the Second Baron Hillingdon in 1886 and had one son named Arthur who became the Third Baron Hillingdon on the death of his father. The Barony became extinct in 1982 and Hillingdon Court is now a school.

The rose **Lady Hillingdon** also had very few offspring and is notoriously difficult to grow from cuttings. We wanted to plant it around the sculpture but from 60 cuttings only four grew.

Lady Hillingdon will be remembered for her often quoted remark "when she hears his Lordship coming down the passage for his conjugal rights, she lies back, closes her eyes and thinks of England"! She must have been quite a girl as she was also an artist, preferring to stay in London for the Social Season while her husband enjoyed life in the country and managing his estate.

The rose named after her is her legacy, still grown in countless gardens in warm areas of the world.



from South Africa

Welgelegen restored

BY GWEN FAGAN

One of the earliest farmers at the Cape of Good Hope was Stevenz Botma, a Dutchman from Wageningen who was granted a tract of land to farm along the Liesbeeck River on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, in 1657. Here the devastating South Eastern wind which ruined crops in the Table Valley farms, did not blow, so that especially wheat could be grown successfully.

After 27 years Steven sold the farm, called Welgelegen, to his son in law, Johannes Heufke, married to his daughter, Aletta..

In 1756 Jacob Van Reenen bought the property, paying 11 200 guilder, which indicates quite a well developed farm complex. Van Reenen had been married twice by this time and had fourteen children. He appears to have been a wealthy man as he also owned a number of grain farms further inland. Welgelegen probably consisted of a windmill, a threshing floor, some barns, walled kraals for his animals and a cottage at the time.

When his son, Gysbert inherited the farm in 1794, the price had risen to 53 000 guilders. The property had been enlarged by additional grants of land but his father had also erected a larger house which shows on a drawing done by the land surveyor Thibault in the early 1800s.

I suspect that a formal garden was laid out at the same time. The farm remained in the Van Reenen family, passing first to Gysbert Junior and after him to his son – in- law Sybrand Mostert, married to Johanna Van Reenen, until Cecil John Rhodes, took transfer in the early 1900's. He instructed his architect, Herbert Baker, to change the entrance from the garden side, which faced east to the

view across the Cape flats, to the north where it was totally cut off from the main axis of the garden.

While we were restoring the windmill and threshing floor in the 1980's together with the Van Reenen graveyard further up the mountain slope, I inspected the rest of the property and discovered the formal garden on three terraces:

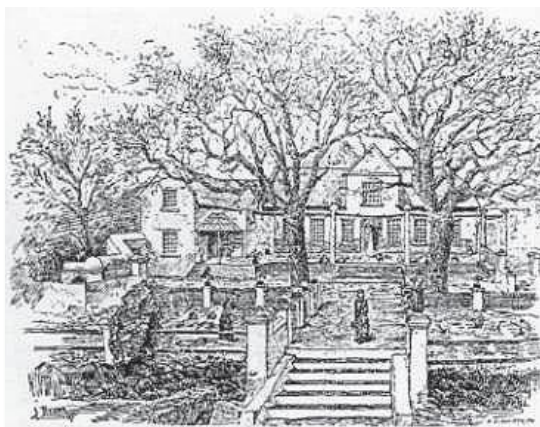
The top terrace lay directly under the stoep with its high columns and pergola. Old photographs showed two large oaks on either

side of the front door under the simple pointed gable which had been removed by Baker.

On the same level lay two parterres, surrounded by short white columns linked with wooden palisades, on either side of a central path. A few straggly old roses grew here.

Steps led down to a lower terrace with four garden beds on either side of the central pathway. These were surrounded by remnants of clipped rosemary hedges, and in them were large clumps of tea and other heritage roses, looking very much the worse for wear.

The larger fruit and vegetable garden to the south side of this lower flower garden were bordered with dilapidated hedges of "Parson's Pink China" and "Louis Philippes" and the central irrigation furrow built of hard red bricks was still crossed by wooden bridges in a reasonable state of repair.



Left: before the Baker changes with front gable over the front door on axis of the main path and Right: after the changes with gable moved to the north facade. The basic lay-out of the garden remained unchanged, as may be seen in the late 19th century drawing of the garden (above).



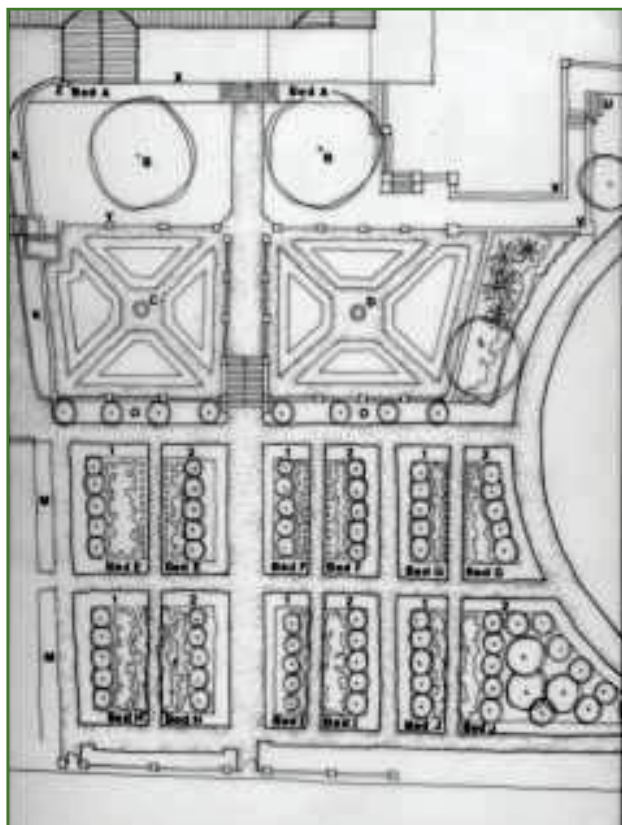
I measured and drew out the garden and approached the University Planning department to alert them about the historical importance of the garden, offering to draw up a detailed plan for its restoration. I was asked to get a price for the work, but received no further answer until a year later when I was asked to get a new price. Still no answer, until a month ago, 15 years later, when our office was asked to arrange for a landscaper to execute our plan under our supervision, as there was now money available.

The garden has in the meantime become overgrown with invader plants, many of the old roses and other old plants have died and some, like laurels have grown beyond their bounds and shattered retaining walls, so that a great deal of clearing is being done before the formal beds can be replanted with clipped hedges, heritage roses and ground covers from my list of plants dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Although there is at present money only for the restoration of the central part of the garden, we will carry on with the restoration of the fruit garden as money becomes available as well as a circular water garden which shows on the Thibault drawing but which is at present totally overgrown with Spanish reed,

When this work has been completed, the University of Cape Town will be the proud owner of the only restored formal 18th century garden in the Cape Peninsula.

My plan for the restoration of the central garden (below)



Plant list for the Welgelegen garden

Plant quantities to be from this final plantlist and not to be counted from the drawing, which show positions

Bed A

Climbers for the stoep pillars (one for each pillar)
Crepuscule X1, Goldfinch X1, Welvanpas musk X1, Veilchen Blau X1, Réve D'Or X1, Souvenir de Mme Leonie Viennot X1

Plants for bed below stoep (20 meter)

Rose multiflora nana X3, Lady Hillingdon X2, Amaryllis belladonna in groups of 5 bulbs, 6 groups (X 30 bulbs)

Front edging Agapanthus, small blue, double row X 72 plants

Bed B

The area between the stoep and enclosed squares below: the kikuyu grass is to be removed and replaced with Buffalo grass; the wisteria is to be trimmed back and fastened to the south wall so that it will eventually cover only this wall; the manatoka tree is to be removed and its roots poisoned; and two oak trees (Quercus palustris) are to be planted, one in the middle of each side of the terrace.

Beds C and D

After the lost pillars and trellice work between them have been rebuilt around these beds, and the hedges between the top terrace and bed C and D removed, the following plants are to be planted:

Bed C

Edging to all four beds to be Dianthus alpinus (small pink with grey foliage) 3 plants per meter X 220 plants

Centres to all four beds: one Variegated Lime trimmed as round topiary X4

Ground cover to all four beds Melissa officinalis X144

Bed D

The existing Rosa laevigata is to be maintained and fastened onto the top trellice

Edging to all four beds Lavendula stoeche X125

Ground cover to all four beds Hebe speciosa "Veitchii" X144

Centre topiary in each bed Variegated lime trimmed as round topiary X4

Lower terrace Outside edging of all beds on the lower terrace (E,F,G,H,I,J) to be of clipped rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis) Planted 80cm apart

Bed E

Edging of central path both beds 1 & 2 :Tulbaghia violacea X 20 on either side

Roses bed 1 R.odorata, X2 Marie van Houtte, X2 Archimedes, X1

Roses bed 2 "Gloire de Rosamene" X8

Ground cover bed 1 and 2 Prunella: X16



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Bed F

Edging	of central path, both beds 1 & 2 Tulbaghia violacea X 20 on either side
Roses bed 1	Rose Maman Cochet X1 (Keep existing) Rose "Général Galiéni" X2, "Baron Prevost" X1, "Celine Forestier" X2
Roses bed 2	"Felicia" X6
Ground cover	bed 1&2 Oenothera light pink X16

Bed G

Edging	both side central path : Lavendula stochoe
Roses bed 1	"Rose odorata" X2, Rose "Variegata de Bologna" X 2, "Homere" X2
Roses bed 2	Frau Dagmar Hastrup X8
Ground cover	beds 1 & 2 Prunella X16

Bed H

Edging	both sides central path Santolina chamaecyperus
Roses bed 1	"ArchdukeCharles" x 6
Rose bed 2	"Roxburghii" X5
Ground cover	beds 1&2 Melissa officinalis (Lemon balm)

Bed I

Edging	both sides central path Stachys lanata
Roses bed 1	"Maman Cochet" X1, "La Reine" X2, "Archimedes" X2, "Perle de Jardin" X1
Roses bed 2	"Gloire Rosamine" X3, "Rosa multiflora nana" X3
Ground cover	Heliotrope X16

Bed J

Edging	of central path both sides Pelargonium cucculatum X10
Roses bed 1	Hugonis X 6
Roses bed 2	Mutabilis X4
Central bed 2	Ceanothus X1, Berberis thunbergia "Rose glow" X1 Lonicera nitida X1
Ground cover	bed 1& 2 Artemisia abrotanum X16

Bed K

This bed to be planted with different azalea species X30

Bed L

After removal of the Kiggelaria, this bed to be planted with Banana plants X4 and edged with different species of azalea X15

Bed M

The existing plumbago hedge is to be trimmed and fertilized and new plants added where they are missing to form a complete hedge

Bed N

Japonica species X16 in two rows

Bed O

Roses:	"Louis Phillipe" X2, "Duchesse de Auerstadt" X 2, "Celine Forestier" X2, Lady Hillingdon X 2, Goldfinch X 2, Veilchenblau.X2, Goldfinch X1
Additional plants	Lonicera shrubs X5 , Clumps of Amaryllis Belladonna X 40
Edging	Lavendula angustifolia X25