



CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE - ISSUE 20, SEPTEMBER 2019.

FOREWORD

Any rose seen alone, just for itself, certainly is beautiful, but knowing something of its historical context can enhance the rose fancier's interest and appreciation. In this issue our roses are imbued with the scent of history, starting with the Swedish writer Håkan Kjellin's meditation on the poetess Sappho and the "Queen of Roses." Next, Jeff Wyckoff's deep research into the question "What exactly are the Centifolias?" is a fascinating trip into rose history. Darrell g. h. Schramm presents nine roses that highlight events and personalities from the mid-19th century. Girija and Viru Viraraghavan discuss the many ways how during more than two millennia "foreign" roses might have reached the India subcontinent. Finally, please note the newly formed WFRS panel of specialists available to help any rose lover identify "what's that rose growing in my garden?"

Our authors and ourselves are always interested in hearing from readers, and any article proffered will be most carefully considered. We are Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert and Alan Gilbert at: alannimet@gmail.com

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THE MYTH OF SAPPHO AND THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS

By Håkan Kjellin

Sometimes a claim is repeated so many times that it becomes a fact and one such claim concerns the rose as the queen of flowers.

In a great many texts about the rose, from lavishly illustrated coffee-table books to more scholarly works to simple texts on the Internet, the rose is introduced in words like “the Greek poet Sappho celebrated the rose as the queen of flowers”. But did she really? The first time I came across such a claim it made me pause, because I did not remember it at all from my reading of Sappho. In what fragment (Sappho’s poetry has survived only in fragments—with one possible exception) was the rose celebrated as the queen of flowers?

I re-read all of Sappho in various editions and translations, which was quickly done since not many lines have been preserved, and came up with—nothing. Sappho mentions the rose a couple of times, but only in standard phrases like “Eos with rosy arms”, “rose-like Graces”. So where have all these writers about the rose got the idea of Sappho writing about the rose as the queen of flowers? I went back in time.

Among the poems of Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) I found the following poem which in one edition is called “A translation of Sappho”:

Song of The Rose

*If Zeus chose us a King of the flowers in his mirth,
He would call to the rose, and would royally crown it;
For the rose, ho, the rose! is the grace of the earth,
Is the light of the plants that are growing upon it!
For the rose, ho, the rose! is the eye of the flowers,
Is the blush of the meadows that feel themselves fair,
Is the lightning of beauty that strikes through the bowers
On pale lovers that sit in the glow unaware.
Ho, the rose breathes of love! ho, the rose lifts the cup
To the red lips of Cypris invoked for a guest!
Ho, the rose having curled its sweet leaves for the world
Takes delight in the motion its petals keep up,
As they laugh to the wind as it laughs from the west.*



Rosa alba ~ ‘Sappho’
<http://roses.shoutwiki.com/wiki>

It is hard to imagine anything less like Sappho’s poetry and yet it has been quoted as an example of how admired the rose was already in ancient Greece. Are the words Browning’s own or had she possibly read J.-L.-A. Loiseleur Deslongchamps’s book *La rose, son histoire, sa culture, sa poésie* (1844)?

Because there you find “If Jove had wanted to give the flowers a queen, the Rose would have been that queen” and he goes on using words that are almost identical to Browning’s.

The anthology *Anacréon, Sapho, Bion et Moschus: traduction nouvelle en prose* (Paris 1773) is named as his source, and in that book one finds the following words, recognizable from Browning’s and Loiseleur Desclongchamp’s texts:

If Jove had wanted to give the flowers a queen, the Rose would have been the queen of all flowers. She is the jewel of the ground, the splendour of the plants, the eye of the flowers, the dazzling colour of the meadows, a radiant beauty. She breathes Love, she attracts and holds Venus. All her leaves are a delight, her shining red bud opens up in infinite grace and smiles in an exquisite manner at loving zephyrs.

Apart from the fact that this “fragment of Sappho” cannot be found in any modern edition of the poet and that the tone and contents are immeasurably far from Sappho’s poetry, the whole of this text is taken from Achilles Tatius’ little second century romance *Clitophon and Leucippe*. In one scene the girl Leucippe is singing in a garden:

“If Zeus had wished to give the flowers a king, that king would have been the rose; for it is the ornament of the world, the glory of the plants, the eye of all flowers, the meadows’ blush, beauty itself glowing; it has the breath of Love, it is the go-between of Aphrodite; its foliage is of sweet-smelling leaves, it glories in its rustling petals which seem to smile at the approach of the Zephyr.” Thus she sang; but to me it seemed as if I saw that rose upon her lips, as it were flower converted into the shape of her sweet mouth.

It seems, then, as if this is the origin of the “queen of the flowers”. How Achilles Tatius has turned into Sappho is a mystery, but clearly a whole lot of writers about the rose ought to make some changes in their texts.

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TALES AND TRAILS OF THE CENTIFOLIAS

By Jeff Wyckoff

“in the absence of facts, myth rushes in...” Stacey Schiff, “Cleopatra: A Life”

Myth, legend, fable, or in newspeak, “misinformation.” As one of the world’s most beloved and oldest flowers, roses abound with such tales: the “twice blooming rose of Paestum”, the fair Rosamund/Rosa Mundi stories, the Lancastrians and Yorkists riding into battle with roses on their doublets. All have been given credence by authors who, like Winston Churchill, in his “History of the English Speaking Peoples,” regarded the Rosamund legend(s) as an “excellent tale”.



Rosa centifolia foliacea
P.J. Redouté ~ *Les Roses*

Few plants are more beset by myths than are roses and, with the possible exception of Damasks, no old rose family has accrued more supposition than have the Centifolias. Hard facts concerning their origin, their parentage, and their development are disputed—and often much disputed. It is daunting to separate fact from fiction.

Starting with the basics, we are repeatedly told that “Centifolia” means “hundred petaled”, when in contemporary Latin it means “hundred leaved.” Theophrastus (the Greek “Father of Botany”) and Pliny the Elder (the Roman writer on botany who took up the term and established Latin as the “language of Botany”) could not possibly have meant literally “hundred leaved,” or could they? Probably not, unless we imagine 30 ft. canes on ‘American Pillar’ or other ramblers.

Two thousand years ago, scientific botanical terminology was in its infancy, and during that infancy, according William Stearns, author of “Botanical Latin” (4th ed., p. 22): “For flowers and leaves, . . . his (Pliny’s) vocabulary was very limited. Moreover, the same word could have a variety of meanings.” The words “leaf” and “petal” as botanical terms might well have been conflated by Theophrastus to describe a rose known to him that had many petals, and this confusion was compounded by Pliny, who created the term “centifolia” (“hundred petals”) as a translation.

Early botanists aside, we know that our “Cabbage Rose” first appeared at the end of the 16th century. It was mentioned by Matthias de l’Obel in his *Plantarum seu stirpium Historia* in 1576 and appeared in Gerard’s 1597 Herbal as *Rosa Hollandicasive Batava*. John Parkinson termed it “Red Province” in his *Paradisi in sole* (1629), while English botanist Philip Miller in his “The Gardeners and Florists Dictionary” (1724) changed “Province” to “Provence,” but also termed it *Rosa provincialis*, a confusion that remains to this day. Its ultimate name of *Rosa centifolia* was bestowed by Linnaeus in 1753.

One of the more scholarly rose historians of the 20th century, Gerd Krüssmann, in his 1971 *Rosen, Rosen, Rosen* (translated from the German as “The Complete Book of Roses”, Timber Press, 1981), says this about the Centifolias (p. 77): “It [the Centifolia] was established in Europe about the end of the 15th century and its total development, from beginning to end, occurred in Holland from 1580 to 1710. In that time about 200 varieties of centifolia were introduced. . . . As the centifolia have very double blooms, they do not set many seeds; the garden varieties were all the result of mutation.”

If Centifolias were “established” about the end of the 15th century, it seems odd that they are not mentioned until a century later. As for 200 Centifolia varieties being introduced prior to 1710:

- Brent Dickerson’s “Old Roses: The Master List” (2001) lists only 41 Centifolias and Centifolia Pompons for which records exist by the year 1700, and only 129 a century later.
- The first edition of Philip Miller’s “Gardeners Dictionary” listed only 46 Centifolia roses. while a French catalog from 1690 listed only fourteen.
- Despite extensive documentary evidence of the Dutch “Tulip Mania” of the early 17th century, there are virtually no records of rose development or commerce during this period, and Krüssmann offers no documentation for his assertion.



‘Blanchfleur’ Vibert 1835
© David Austin Roses

With regard to Krüssmann’s statement that “the garden varieties were all the results of mutation,” it would seem extremely unlikely that any rose could have produced 200 color sports between 1580 and 1710 and then virtually none in the succeeding three centuries. While Jean-Pierre Vibert wrote in 1826: “It is among the Centifolias that we find the most examples of these tricks of Nature (sports), which technique does its best to preserve, and which soon disappear, for the most part,” the disappearance of c. 160 seems questionable, even if they were all unstable sports. Further, in his “History of the Rose” (1954), Roy Shepherd states: “...the usual paucity of seeds (in Centifolias) is caused by the structure of the

blossoms and not by lack of fertility. Blooms with the central mass of petals removed have exceptionally fertile pollen and produce good seed". However, this would only be possible with "controlled breeding," which did not become the practice until the middle of the 19th century.

What then of the Pompon Centifolias? 'Rose de Meaux' came into being c. 1637 and 'Pompon de Bourgogne' (Burgundian Rose) in 1664. But from where? From the supposedly sterile Cabbage Rose, whose growth habit is dramatically different? If so, crossed with what? Both have generated a great number of opinions over the years as to their origins and heritage. At present the site *HelpMeFind.com* classes the former as a Centifolia/Hybrid Gallica, and the latter as a Centifolia, while Modern Roses has them as a Centifolia and a Gallica respectively.



'De Meaux' prior 1637
© Peter Beales Roses

Whatever their heritage, both have shown affinity for the Gallicas, an observation seemingly supported by two pieces of recent DNA research. Firstly, M. Martin *et al.* (2001), "The Domestication Process of the Modern Rose: Genetic Structure and Allelic Composition of the Rose Complex," reported that 'De Meaux's closest relative is 'Red Damask' (before 1789). (I note that most authorities now consider 'Red Damask' to be *Rosa gallica* 'officinalis'.) Secondly, J-C Caissard *et al.* (2006), *Chemical and Histochemical Analysis of 'Quatre Saisons Blanc Mousseux', a Moss Rose of the R. damascena Group*, asserted that *R. centifolia* trichomes (modified prickles) were found to resemble those of *Rosa damascena* 'bifera'.

In 1941, noted English geneticist Dr. C. C. Hurst published "Notes on the Origin and Evolution of our Garden Roses," in which he concluded that *R. centifolia*, the Cabbage Rose, contains genes from *R. gallica*, *R. phoenicia*, *R. moschata*, *R. canina*, and *R. damascena*. This assessment has been accepted by virtually all 20th-century rose writers and experts, to include the likes of Krüssmann, Graham Stuart Thomas, and Peter Beales. Beales takes Hurst's material one step further, and in his "Classic Roses" (1985), Beales states (p. 23): "Examination by plant cytologists in recent years of the chromosomes of *Rosa centifolia* prove beyond doubt that it is a complex hybrid and not, as previously thought, a true species..." The late C. V. (sic) Hurst declared that they were one of the youngest groups, developed in Holland some 300 years ago, contradicting the belief, based on references to "hundred petalled roses" as early as 300 B.C., that they were among the oldest.

Despite Beales' assurance, this writer could not find any research by "plant cytologists in recent years" of *R. centifolia*, so it is reasonable to assume that his

statement likely relied on Hurst's and his team's analysis made 70+ years ago. Further, while chromosome analysis remains a useful tool, as Dr. David Byrne, Professor & Basye Endowed Chair in Rose Genetics, Department of Horticultural Sciences, at Texas A & M University, notes (in personal communication, 2013): "Karyological analysis (the comparison of chromosome measurements, a traditional cytogenic step) is not a precise method to determine if a plant has multiple parents and which ones they are. It is useful but additional information is needed before such a conclusion could be made."

Some rose writers have expanded on the second part of Peter Beales' citation above and declared that our "modern" Centifolia, the Cabbage Rose, could not be the same rose as that described by Theophrastus and Pliny because of its apparently complex parentage. Again, citing Byrne: "The only definitive way to know if the modern centifolia is the same as (or different than) that of Pliny would be to compare them directly". In other words, a "complex hybrid" (if indeed that is what it is) such as the Cabbage Rose could have originated 2 millennia ago as readily as 400 years ago.



'Unique Rose' Cels prior 1810
© Etienne Bouret

If cytogenic research is not a definitive answer to the ancestry and family relationships of the Cabbage Rose, what are we left with? The most intriguing piece of recent research, one that seems to have attracted little notice, comes from Bruneau *et al.* (2007), "Phylogenetic Relationships in the Genus *Rosa*: New Evidence from Chloroplast DNA Sequences and an Appraisal of Current Knowledge," published in the journal "Systematic Botany." They conclude: "Assuming maternal chloroplast inheritance in *Rosaceae* . . . our phylogeny would suggest that the maternal parent of *R.centifolia* var. *muscosa*, a complex hybrid believed to have been formed by the crossing of multiple species... is *Rosa gallica*. The chloroplast genome of *Rosa gallica* and *Rosa centifolia* for the markers examined is identical".

A Centifolia timeline count over the last couple centuries would look like this:

- In "The Rose Garden" (1848), William Paul lists 76 Centifolias and Hybrid Centifolias, plus 6 Pompon Centifolias. Including synonyms, only about two dozen of these appear in "Modern Roses 12." Of the so-called Hybrid Centifolias, Paul says: "But it may be asked, what are the hybrids now spoken of? There is a group in the Rose Catalogues termed Hybrid Provence. This group is remarkable for its heterogeneousness. I think it has hitherto been regarded as one in which any varieties differing from the mass of other groups might be classed; a sort of refuge for the destitute."

- In 1910, Jules Gravereaux, founder of the *Roseaie de l'Hay* (now the *Roseaie Val-de-Marne*), discovered a list of 197 roses labeled “The Roses of Empress Josephine.” Of these, 29 were designated as Centifolias; however, only about a dozen thereof appeared in Modern Roses 12 as Centifolias. Of the rest, some were reclassified as Mosses and a handful appeared as Hybrid Gallicas.
- Brent Dickerson, in “The Old Rose Adventurer” (1999) lists c. 70 Centifolias, not counting synonyms and pompons.
- “Modern Roses 12”, published in 2007, contained around 150 Centifolia varieties. Sixteen of these were listed as being in existence prior to 1800, fifty-six were introduced after 1840, and the rest fell somewhere in between these dates. The current “Modern Roses” lists 99 Centifolias.

These numbers indicate that opinions on what is, or is not, a Centifolia has varied dramatically from source to source over the years. While traditional information about Centifolias cannot really be considered myth, neither can it be taken as fact. Despite the copious bibliographical references in “The Complete Book of Roses,” there is nothing therein to support directly Krüssmann’s claims regarding the early breeding/sporting and development of the Centifolias. Likewise, claims as to its parentage from Hurst and others are shown to be little more than intelligent guesses. As to whether or not the Cabbage Rose is indeed a “true” species, the definition, as well as the taxonomic understanding, of “species,” has become so muddled as to make the question only marginally applicable.



‘Tour de Malakoff’ Soupert 1857
© **Palatine Roses**

In “The Old Rose Informant,” Brent Dickerson asserts: “Someone gets a notion, or makes a remark, in say, 1930, based on the results of research done to the degree of accuracy of that time, reporting, say, ‘Based on my work, it would appear that such and such’.” Now, as offered, this is a valid remark – ‘Based on my work’ and ‘it would appear’ make the remark honest. But then, in, say, 1950, someone happens on this forgotten 1930’s piece and announces to the world in a big article that “in 1930, so-and-so discovered such-and-such.” This

truth doth lie because the 1930’s worker didn’t “discover” anything other than the results arising out of procedures or instruments which were very possibly faulty of outmoded by 1935. And yet this “discovery” will be published again in 1950, and

every few years or so, someone will repeat it as God's own truth in newer articles or books...

Perhaps the best way to evaluate the Centifolias is to refer to the following breakdown of the genus *Rosa*:

Genus	Subgenera	Sections	Species
<i>Rosa</i>	<i>Hulthemia</i> <i>Hesperrhodos</i> <i>Platyrhodon</i> <i>Rosa (Eurosa)</i> - - - -	<i>Banksianae</i> <i>Bracteatae</i> <i>Caninae</i> <i>Carolinae</i> <i>Chinensis</i> <i>Gallicanae</i> - - - - - - - - <i>Gymnocarpae</i> <i>Laevigatae</i> <i>Pimpinellifoliae</i> <i>Rosa (syn. sect. Cinnamomeae)</i> <i>Synstylae</i>	Gallicas Centifolias Damasks

To again cite Bruneau *et al*: "In Hurst's phylogeny *R. × damascena* 'bifera' is a parent of *R. × centifolia*. Even if this phylogeny is contested, *R. × centifolia* and *R. × damascena* cultivars are both in the section *Gallicanae* and are genetically related." Hence, the components of the *Gallicanae* group will all show "affinity" for one another; the Gallicas may have come first, but after that.....?

While the hundred-leaved rose of Theophrastus and Pliny may forever remain shrouded in mystery, technology and research could soon more convincingly establish the true origins and development of the Centifolias.

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Jeff Wyckoff's many accomplishments in the rose world include: Past President of the American Rose Society, Current President of the Seattle Rose Society, Columnist for the "American Rose Magazine," author of "Rose Gardening" (published by Better Homes and Garden, Inc), recipient of the American Rose Society's "Klima Award for Excellence in Rose Education," and current member of both the WFRS and the ARS Preservation and Heritage Committees. An earlier version of this article appeared in "Rosa Mundi" in 2014. His email address is: kjwyckoff@comcast.net

ROSES FROM THE DAWN OF THE GLOBAL AGE

By Darrell g.h. Schramm

On May 1, 1851, the Great Exhibition of London, housed in the Crystal Palace, an enormous glass edifice 1,848 feet long, six times the size of St. Paul's Cathedral, opened to the public. To open the exhibition, Queen Victoria, in pink crinoline and scintillating tiara, arrived with her consort Prince Albert, who had been a driving force behind the event. Overall the more than six million visitors who attended left the venue astonished and agog, excited and exhilarated at the progress of industry and commerce. England, being the major international power, was proud to usher in the beginning of the global age.

On display were the first typewriter, first sewing machine, first gas stove, a device that manufactured and folded envelopes, American farm equipment like the thresher and the McCormick reaper, steam engines, the Colt six-shooter, and the flushing toilet. Certainly as important to progress was the founding of the "New York Times" (September 18, 1851), the successful laying of the telegraph cable across the English Channel, and Julius Reuter establishing his news agency in London. Now news to and from the Continent was swift, affecting trade, the Stock Exchange, and knowledge of European events.

Of the half-dozen surviving roses of that year, the Tea 'Mlle de Sombreuil' will claim our attention. This rose can be described as white, tinged with pale pink or light blush, blooming in small clusters on strong stems, and floriferous. Supposedly it was a bush form of the rose, but by 1898 Lord Brougham and Vaux, who grew it on the Riviera, wrote that it was "very effective growing up a tree." Was this the same rose, or was it a sport of the original—or another similar rose entirely?



'(Mlle de) Sombreuil'
Robert 1851 ~ © D. Schramm

An 1857 colored plate of 'Mlle de Sombreuil' flowers, contemporary with its introduction, shows the roses as loosely globular, like a Tea. And a French dictionary of roses in 1885 describes its "quantity of petals limited" and thus "almost full." However, in 1924 rose breeder Captain George Thomas described the shape as "somewhat flat." Two rosarians on HelpMeFind.com claim the large-flowered climber had been introduced into the U.S. in 1880. If they are correct, that may have been the rose Lord Brougham and Capt. Thomas referred to. Flat and climbing pertain to the 'Sombreuil' I grow. The quilled petals form a thick cushion quite refined and elegant. As a founding, this rose was re-introduced in the 1940s to the U.S. and in the 1950s to

England. The shrub form still grows in France, and as 'La Biche' was grown at the Huntington, near Pasadena. To distinguish the two, the shrub retains the name 'Mlle de Sombreuil' and the climber simply 'Sombreuil'. Mutation, however, does not explain the many differences between the two forms of the rose.

Regardless of provenance, I continue my love affair with the climbing 'Sombreuil'. After all, it was the first heritage rose I fell in love with and in quick succession it led me to the others. It bears a close resemblance to another favorite, 'Mme Legras de St. Germain', though the 'Sombreuil's' scent is stronger and more exquisite. The story behind the rose, true or not, tells us that during the French Revolution, when her father the Marquis de Sombreuil was sentenced to be guillotined, Mademoiselle de Sombreuil pleaded with the court to reconsider, urgently declaring he was not on the side of the aristocrats. "If that is true," was the response, "then drink a chalice of aristocrat blood." The officials proffered her, supposedly, a cup of blood. The young woman drank it to the dregs. Her father was released. Happy ending? Most often the story ends with the reprieve. But a year later the father was again sentenced—and executed by the guillotine.

Like those of 1851, only a few roses remain in commerce from 1852. In that year Commodore Perry left Virginia to open trade relations with Japan, and Napoleon III became Emperor in France. Gold had been discovered in August 1851 in Victoria, Australia, the news of which reached Britain in 1852, initiating a gold rush and, with it, a huge influx of new settlers. Clipper ships had become ever faster, stimulating a "shipping frenzy" to Australia and California that year. At the same time the numbers of emigrants heading west on the Oregon Trail and its offshoots increased phenomenally. And all along the way, capitalizing on the surge of travelers, grog shops, blacksmith shops, brothels, gambling dens, and trading stations opened to cater to the overlanders.

The roses 'Comice de Tarn-et-Garonne' and 'Sir Joseph Paxton (whose story deserves its own telescopic focus) arrived that year, as did 'Comte de Nanteuil'. The Bishop of Beauvais who died in 1283 was a Count Nanteuil, as was Henri de Schomberg, another Count of Nanteuil, appointed a marshal of France in 1625, and about whom little is known. The rose seems to commemorate Count Robert Nanteuil, a famous portrait engraver under King Louis XIV. Though he studied philosophy, he turned to engraving and in 1647 moved to Paris to further his interest. Crayon drawings and prints soon earned him a reputation that made him the most popular engraver of his time. In fact, Louis XIV appointed him the Royal Engraver. His clientele included the King, of whom he made nineteen portraits, the Duchesse de Nemours, Queen Christina of Sweden, Cardinal Richelieu, and several princes of Europe. Although most of his



'Comte de Nanteuil'
Quétier 1852 ~ © Étienne Bouret

sketches have disappeared, his 243 engraved plates, several life-sized, are still extant. Comte de Nanteuil also wrote poetry. He died in 1678.

'Comte de Nanteuil' should not be confused with 'Boule/Boula de Nanteuil', a Gallica, though there seems to have been an earlier 'Comte Boula de Nanteuil' as well. "Boule," according to Francois Joyaux, is an error. Boula was a family of magistrates in the region of Crécy where Roeser's Nursery was situated. (Roeser produced 'Boula de Nanteuil' in 1834, naming it apparently for Antoine Francois Alexandre Boula de Nanteuil'.)

The Nanteuil peerage seems to have died out, but in the town of Nanteuil-la-Forêt, Marne Department, one can visit today the Jardin Botanique de la Presle where, among plants from the Middle East, the Balkans and the Sierra Nevada, 500 varieties of historic roses grow.

'Comte de Nanteuil' is a vivid pink Hybrid Perpetual with darker edges, globular and plump, bred by a horticulturist named Quétier. The renowned Dean Reynolds Hole declared in 1860 it was one of 24 most beautiful roses. Today it is sold only by Roses Loubert in France.

The famous dark red Hybrid Perpetual 'Général Jacqueminot' came out in 1853. In that year the first railway opened in Bombay, Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Japan, and anticipation of the Crimean War had England requisition steamships and clipper ships, thus halting trade and migrant settlement in Australia. Exports of wheat from the U.S. to England, however, continued to thrive. By that time, Général Jacqueminot the man had become a Viscount.



'Général Jacqueminot'
Roussel 1853 ~ © Bill Grant

He had been born Jean-Francois Jacqueminot in 1787. Having studied at the Ecole Militaire, he entered the army under Napoleon in 1803. Fighting at Austerlitz, Essling, and other battles, he was wounded seven times. During the horrific retreat of the 1812 Russian campaign, he survived the ordeal and remained loyal to Napoleon. After the Emperor's defeat, he refused a position in the Bourbon army, in defiance breaking his sword over his knee. He was jailed for a month. Once in civil society, he opened a silk factory employing 6,000 workers, many of them army veterans.

During the July Revolution of 1830, he sided against King Charles X. A man of the people, he argued against the death penalty. On General Lafayette's retirement in 1842, he became Commander of the National Guards of the Seine and later, a *député* of parliament. He died in 1865.

The rose in his honor emits a strong, pleasant fragrance. While the blooms of this Hybrid Perpetual are not quite full—about 25 petals—they are balanced on long, strong stems. The bush grows three and a half to seven feet high and as much as six feet wide. Shy of hot sun, in late summer it can be prone to mildew and rust. Plant it where it can relax in some afternoon shade. Many modern red roses claim ‘Général Jacqueminot’ in their ancestry.

In the year 1854 the first telegraph line opened in Australia; Britain and France declared war on Russia, thus beginning the Crimean War; and the Kansas-Nebraska Act left the issue of slavery up to popular vote in that territory, creating violence among its populace, apprehension among international cotton traders who foresaw the handwriting on the wall, and outrage in the North, which then became strongly anti-slavery. The Crimean War demonstrated just how linked and global the world was becoming. Ten thousand Colt revolvers were sent to the war front; about forty doctors from the States worked as medics in the Tsar’s army, and 500 Americans served with the Russians.



**‘Souvenir d’Elisa Vardon’
Marest 1854 ~ © Bill Grant**

Of the roses from that year which remain in commerce, one is ‘Omar Pacha’, whose namesake fought in the Crimean War and who, like Sir Joseph Paxton, deserves an article of its own. The other is ‘Souvenir d’Elisa Vardon’, a Tea rose.

Rose specialist Francis E. Lester wrote in 1944 that the old Tea roses “ask for less and give more than any other class of rose.” That statement is generally true, but, truth to tell, the lovely ‘Souvenir d’Elisa Vardon’ does not flower as freely as most other Teas, longer spaces of time between flushes being its idiosyncratic trait.

Of a cream color with pale yellow center—sometimes pale rose—the blossom ages to white. The flower, very large, very double, shuns mildew, dislikes rain, but blooms contentedly among thick, copper-green foliage. The long, strong peduncle (stem) on the three-foot bush grows minute brown hairs all along its length, as does the receptacle, both defining traits of the rose. These characteristics are significant, for the rose sold today as the ‘Vardon Tea’ is most often really ‘Mlle Franziska Kruger’ of 1879. Forty years after its introduction by Marest, one authority claimed, “Nothing has been raised to surpass or even equal it.” And according to Arthur Wyatt in mid-20th century, “It took the world by storm.” One would think that such a rose would extol its namesake. But no, we know nothing of the woman. Yes, there lived a contemporary Elizabeth Painter Vardon (1816-1883) in England. Could this namesake have been she, Elisa being a pet name? I doubt we’ll ever know.

Four roses of 1855 remain on the market, all Hybrid Perpetuals, the popular rose class of the time. One of these is 'Arthur de Sansal'.



'Arthur de Sansal'
Cochet, P. 1855 ~ © D. Schramm

Of Sansal we have a fair amount of information. A horticulturist interested in conifers and gourds, he was the son-in-law of Monsieur Desprez who bred 'Jaune Desprez', 'Marquise Boccella', 'Baronne Prevost' and 'Caroline de Sansal', named for the woman Arthur married. His special plant interest, however, was roses; consequently, he maintained a large collection. He was known to sow many rose seeds and to grow rose varieties others did not, but apparently he did not introduce them into commerce.

This dark maroon rose of four feet emerged as a seedling of 'Géant de Batailles', upright, compact, richly scented. The full flowers reach a medium size, the petals rather imbricated and tightly arranged. The best way to overlook its preference for powdery mildew is to clip the lovely flowers and float them in a bowl.

In that year, 1855, the Panama Railroad opened, making it easier to reach California by ship; the Crimean War effectively ended with the fall of Sebastopol; and Tokyo was devastated by its third earthquake within a year. Meanwhile, France's oldest nursery Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. continued to supply California's first rose-selling nursery in San Francisco with the latest of those flowers while Charles Hovey in Boston and the Ellwanger & Barry firm of Rochester, New York, supplied most other nurseries with their roses.

The year 1856 left much to be fancied or hoped for. The Great Exhibition had seemed the physical expression of optimism, a "Festival of Peace," but all too quickly the drumbeats of aggression and war negated the optimism of global interconnection. The British East India Company claimed the Oudh princely state of India, British troops in Canton faced the Taiping rebellion, the Anglo-Persian War began, and in the United States the Potawatomi Indians were defeated.

As for roses, one that has survived from that inglorious year is named 'Général Tartas', a strongly scented Tea. In springtime it wears a



'Général Tartas'
Bernéde 1856 - © Cass Berstein

deep carmine pink, darker with a copper tinge in the center, the petals with a delicate veining. In the heat of a California summer, however, the full flower exhibits fewer petals, reflexing to display its stamens. The bush, vigorous and lush, grows from five to seven feet tall. Most rose authorities believe the rose that has generally been sold as 'Mme Tartas' is really 'General Tartas'.

The man himself was born in 1791. He served as a bodyguard for Louis XVIII and became a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1840, fought in Algeria for five years, and was promoted to Major-General in 1846. In 1848 he served as a member of the Legislature. Eventually a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor, he died in 1860.

The year 1857 saw the mutinies and Indian Rebellion against the British in India. Given the telegraph and a recent proliferation of newspapers, international news ever more quickly informed citizens of such wars and massacres but also of trade and finance. With the collapse of the Ohio Life Insurance & Trust Co., the Panic of 1857 ensued. Railroad companies had been too lax with credit—some went under as well—farmers were over-extended, mortgages in the West were foreclosed, banks locked their doors. The situation left the mercantile class of London and New York fearfully anxious. But in France the business of breeding roses went on as usual.

One remaining rose of that year is 'Comtesse de Labarthe', a Tea with a second name: 'Duchesse de Brabant'. This rose is a survivor. It has been discovered growing through drought and neglect in pioneer cemeteries, abandoned homesteads, and Gold Rush towns in California time and again. It should be no surprise that it has earned the Earth Kind certification for roses of stalwart endurance and health. Its cupped blooms look shrimp pink, silvery pink, or soft rosy pink, with concave petals, quite fragrant. The bush grows to five or six feet high and about as wide, densely branching and twiggy in habit.



'Duchesse de Brabant'
Bernéde 1857 ~ © D. Schramm

'Comtesse de Labarthe' seems to have been its original name, for according to my research the synonym 'Duchesse de Brabant' was first used in 1872, and even then Peter Henderson's catalogue describes both separately though similarly. The same is true in the E.Y. Teas Cascade Nursery Co. catalogue two years later, but in 1875 Henderson devotes significantly more detail in his description of 'Duchesse de Brabant' than his three-word description of 'Labarthe'. That same year a Columbus, Ohio, nursery describes the difference between the two as 'Comtesse de Labarthe' having amber shading. Thereafter, with one or two exceptions, the two roses are equated and synonymous in the literature. So were they two different but very similar roses, or were they one and the same, with a few catalogue writers straining to differentiate them?

The Labarthe name harkens back to the 14th century, a place name fairly common in the four valleys of the Pyrenees, especially in the Aure Valley. Who was the countess? She was not the unhappy Duchesse of Brabant who had married the notorious future King Leopold II of Belgium. She may have lived in the Aure Valley. On the other hand, a village of fewer than 175 people named Labarthe sits in the Gers department of southern France, another of almost 400 citizens in Tarn-et-Garonne, and a town named Labarthe-sur-Léze of under 5,000 people is situated in Haute-Garonne department. Perhaps she was a citizen in one of those communes. And she may have been linked to the French photographer André François Blanc de Labarthe (1849-1922) who had studios in Paris and Cannes and was known to photograph royalty from England, Brazil, and other countries.

England's imperialism in the 1850s was the result of seeing itself as the world's agent of change, and in 1858 its self-confidence, complacency and power reached its height. Along with France it controlled Canton, thus opening China to the world when China had wanted no part of the West; it had acquired more territory in India; it had successfully—if only for three months—laid the first Atlantic telegraph cable (the final success would occur in 1866), and it had reduced the crossing from England to Newfoundland to a week. Technologies seemed triumphant; nothing was impossible. That year in the U.S. gold was discovered in Colorado.

At least seven roses from that heady year have survived. Three of those are Hybrid Perpetuals, three are Tea roses and one is a Noisette—'Céline Forestier'—the most popular being the Hybrid Perpetual 'Empereur du Maroc'. It is still sold globally by nineteen rose nurseries, only one of which is in the USA. A stunning rose, it is one of the darkest crimson-maroon roses, verging on black, ever raised (until 'Nigrette' of 1934), aging to purple. The foliage, however, leaves something to be desired, for it is sparse and given to black spot. But it remains popular for the beauty of its incredible color, form, and scent.



'Empereur du Maroc'
Guinoisseau 1858 ~ © Bill Grant

But why call the rose 'Emperor of Morocco'? Shouldn't it have been sultan rather than emperor? And who was this reputed emperor esteemed by a rose?

Indeed, the title "Emperor of Morocco" was a European affectation for the leader of Morocco, known simply as Mulai (spelled variously Moulai, Moulay, etc.) or Sultan. However, as early as 1789, John Adams of the thirteen colonies spoke to the young Senate of "The Emperor of Morocco," no doubt influenced by the French, friends of the colonists against the British. Along the shores of Tripoli

from the 1780s into the mid-1800s pirates “had interfered” with American merchant ships, so the U.S. did send for the first time a consul to Morocco. In fact, in 1803 Barbary pirates captured two or three American ships along with about 300 U.S. sailors and their officers, precipitating President Jefferson’s first crisis in office. Obviously the consul’s counsel was not persuasive.

But why “empire”? The Sultan did have a somewhat loose jurisdiction over the Maghreb (the northern reaches of Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco), though the borders were ill defined and many areas were effectively ruled by tribal families. Nonetheless, Western colonizers chose to see the area as a clearly consolidated empire.

The emperor in question is Mulai Abd al-Rahman, who ruled for 37 years from 1822-1859. He spent his first years as sultan putting down insurrections by other claimants for the throne. Once under control, he added territory to Morocco, levied taxes on caravans traveling through his country, revived taxes on leather and cattle. In 1831 he quelled a ten-month rebellion. The artist Delacroix visited Morocco in 1832 and painted the Sultan at least twice, once while leaving his palace on horseback and once fording a river with elegantly equipped horses, both rather romantic works of art. In 1844, both sides being faithless to an earlier treaty of 1834, the French invaded Morocco, defeating combined Moroccan and Algerian forces in ten days; however, the French and the rest of Europe initially agreed to “maintain the *status quo* in the empire.” Mulai Abd al-Rahman was more or less compliant and tried to placate both sides. As European influence increased, many Moroccans turned against the Sultan. At the same time, the British government pressured him to defy the French. But the French increased their consulships and acquired various mining and shipping rights, thus giving the French people back home the impression of a generous and friendly “empereur.”

Three years before the end of the Sultan’s reign, Consul-General Sir John Drummond Hay successfully rescued a number of English prisoners, an act that led to an agreement putting an end to piracy—another reason to appreciate the Sultan. Mulai Abd al-Rahman died in 1859, a year after the rose was named in his romanticized honor.

1859. The Great Geometric Storm of that year ensured that millions of people around the world saw the magnificent *aurora borealis* and *aurora australis*, even as it created chaos with the globe’s telegraphic systems. Despite its pride in new technologies, the human world was still vulnerable to natural forces beyond its control. That year Charles Darwin published “On the Origin of Species”, John Stuart Mill “On Liberty”, and Charles Dickens “A Tale of Two Cities”. Napoleon III was striving to add Vietnam to his empire; England and the U.S. edged toward war over the boundary between British Columbia and Oregon Territory; the British and the French sacked the Imperial Palace of Beijing, looting, smashing, and burning, destroying priceless ancient manuscripts and art; and the French navy launched the world’s first ironclad warship. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was a time of transformation, of peace and more war.

The end of that decade saw the release of four roses that have survived into our times: 'Comte de Chambord', 'Mme de Tartas', 'Victor Verdier', and 'Mme Boll'. Because it is the one least discussed in the literature, I will focus on 'Mme Boll'. Like so many heritage roses, it is far more popular abroad than in the U.S.



'Mme Boll'
Boll 1859 ~ © D. Schramm

The rose was named for a rosarian wife of the breeder. The couple hailed from Switzerland and settled in New York City. There Daniel Boll, a horticulturist, set up shop—Midtown Nursery—in 1837 where he sold the latest roses from France as well as his own creations. He bred a number of roses: 'Belle Américaine', 'Mme Trudeau' (both Hybrid Perpetuals), and the Spinosissima hybrid 'Souvenir de Henry Clay', among others. "Gardeners' Monthly" of 1880 maintained that several of his roses, when sent to France, were sold by various unethical nurserymen there "who sent them out as their own." 'Comte de Chambord' is apparently one of those, bred originally as 'Mme Boll', a rechristening which suggests the famous French breeder Monsieur Robert-Moreau may not have been entirely scrupulous. One source claims that 'Mme Boll' was bred by Boll's French rose supplier

Joseph Boyau of Angers, who did, after all, breed a rose in 1866 named 'Souvenir de Monsieur Boll', not to mention the still surviving Tea-Noisette 'Solfatare'. Daniel Boll lies in Trinity Cemetery in Harlem, New York, where a broken headstone marks his grave.

This ends a survey of nine roses selected as emblems, one for each year of the decade that opened with The Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851, revealing the dawn of the Global Age. With serfdom abolished in Russia and American slaves freed, the Paris Observatory publishing the first weather maps, the initial section of London's subway opening, and the successful laying—at last—of the transatlantic cable, the 1860s shifted the Far West and the Far East into the high gear of modernity. As for roses, the 1860s would see an exceptional proliferation of new varieties. But that is another tale, one of a glorious chaos encompassing the Hybrid Perpetual rose.

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How Roses Reached India from the East and the West:

A Saga of Courage and Enterprise

By Girija and Viru Viraraghavan

Roses which came into India in earliest times must have been as intrepid as their carriers—be they pilgrims, adventurers, travellers, or invaders. This is because the two entry points into India were through the towering Himalayan mountains to the north of India, and the oceans around the coast—the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea on the west. All these were difficult, even hazardous points for the entry of humans, let alone roses and other plants and merchandise.

The Indian subcontinent has a climate greatly influenced by the Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, which effectively prevents cold air from Central Asia reaching the country, and two different rainy seasons--the South West Monsoon (June to September) when rains fall over a large part of the country, and the North East Monsoon (October to December) which covers the southern part of peninsular India.

The entry points in the north are by land through passes in the Himalayas, the biggest being the Khyber Pass and the Bolan Pass, both of which cross the border between Afghanistan and present day Pakistan. To the south, the long coastal line of the peninsula, on both the eastern and the western shores, would have had ports, big and small, for the entry of outsiders into the country.

Our researches have shown that roses must have entered by these trade routes much earlier than earlier surmised. The land entry routes would have been linked to the Silk Road, that great and romantic (but hardly easy or comfortable) route, which had many diversions off the main Road, from China in the east to central Asia and beyond in the west. The seas in those bygone days (BCE: pre-Christian era) were hardly of easier access as the monsoon winds and frequent cyclones made sea voyages very hazardous for the small sailing ships. The Silk Route had a sea route too, through the Indus River valley to the Arabia Sea.

Apart from these foreign rose entrants, India has a number of wild (native, endemic) roses. The Himalayas moderate the country's climate with the result that areas on the plains have much warmer weather than most places at the same latitudes across the northern hemisphere. Consequently, wild roses are confined to the lower reaches of the Himalayas, including the mountains in the northeast on India's border with Myanmar. There are at least eight endemic roses, and, if we include their eco-types, the numbers increase to many more. In addition, there are also a number of wild roses which have somehow migrated from as far as China in the east and Iran to the west. On the plains of the Indian mainland the only

species present is the remarkable *Rosa clinophylla*. The highest area--above 1,500 meters elevation--of the Western Ghat mountains of peninsular south India are home to that largest of all musk roses *Rosa leschenaultiana*. (See their article on India's wild roses in BAON#16 September 2017—*The Editors*)

There are still many puzzling aspects to how different heritage roses and species entered India over the centuries by land and sea. The discovery of the Sintra *Prashasti*, an engraved stone tablet or stele, dating to 1287 CE (presently on display at a heritage property in Sintra, near Lisbon, Portugal) gives us our earliest written date for roses. The stele was originally erected in the temple of Somanatha, in western India, now submerged by the sea. The tablet (or rather, tablets, since there are two of them, standing as pillars in the garden), which is an edict of a king in the region, commands the gardeners' guild to supply 200 white roses and 2,000 white oleanders to the temple every day of the year in return for which the guild would be granted lands and other gifts. Such white roses which flower throughout the year could only have been Chinese roses, whose continuous flowering was the genetic gift of China to the world of roses.

Vijayanagar was the capital of the great empire of the same name which ruled south India between 1300 and 1500 CE. Two Portuguese travelers, Domingo Paes and Fernão Nuniz, wrote about the king being garlanded with white roses and his palace being decorated with white roses during a festival called *Dassehra*, which falls in October every year. Surely these must have been repeat flowering roses. Both Paes and Nuniz as also Duarte Barbosa in his "Travels" memoir (c. 1516) wrote about the bazaars being flooded with roses, used by both the aristocracy and the poor in their daily lives.



Sketch of Zhen He

While unknown if the Sintra stele's white roses arrived via the Silk Road, clearly many more roses came to India via the same route because another traveler Rashid al-Din, around 1300 CE, reported that the people of Gujarat, in the west of India, were growing more than 60 kinds of roses. From southern India on the Arabia Sea coast, we have the narrative of Ludovico Varthema, in 1503 CE, to the effect that the people of the area around Calicut grew roses in white, pink, red and yellow. How did so many roses reach this location? It could well have been through a sea route. There is ample evidence of Chinese ships calling at Calicut port, including the large fleet of that great admiral Zheng He, who is reputed to have died in Calicut (c. 1433 CE), having made voyages to India, Vietnam and the Arabian peninsula. It is said that the great Chinese galleons often carried pots of roses on board to remind sailors of their homeland, which is one possible means by which different roses reached India's west

coast. This commerce may have been two-way, in that there is also evidence that small boats like *dhow*s sailed from Indian ports to Chinese ports when the monsoon winds were favorable.

While the Sintra *Prashasti* tablet, dated to 1287 CE, is the earliest written evidence that roses may have reached India from other lands, in ancient India where history was never documented but was invariably only passed on by oral tradition, it is difficult to be precise. From earlier times there are references to roses for the treatment of various illnesses and ailments in the ancient treatises on *Ayurveda*, the Indian system of medicine, by medical practitioners like the surgeon Susruta (c. 6th century CE) and the physician Charaka (c. 4th century CE). The “Arkaprakash” text mentions the discovery of rose water by the Buddhist monk Nagarjuna. These roses could be both the indigenous species in the Himalayas and those which may have come in from other lands, since there was trade between India and adjacent countries from earliest time and pilgrims traveling from region to region.



Babur inspecting the making of a garden.

Coming to the Mughal Empire, from 1500 CE onwards, the first emperor of this dynasty Babur in his autobiography “Baburnama” wrote of introducing the musk rose from Persia (Iran) into India, along with the narcissus. Babur had his roots in central Asia, from where he invaded India, and the musk rose he refers to is *Rosa glandulifera*, now re-named *Rosa moschata* nastarana, the Persian form of the musk rose. Although there are no further written references to rose introductions during the Mughal period, all the emperors and their courts, as is obvious from many court paintings, had and loved formal gardens of roses and other plants.



***Rosa moschata* nastara**

The essence of roses and rose water have been known since earliest times, and is mentioned in Ayurveda texts. But generally, the discovery of rose oil (*attar* in Persian and Arabic) is credited to Empress Nur Jehan, wife of Emperor Jehangir. There is a story that it was her mother who found the oil floating in her hot bath made fragrant with many rose petals! Much later when roses were commercially cultivated for extraction of rose oil, in places like Ghazipur, Kanauj and other areas of north and east India, the rose used was



***R. x damascena* 'bifera'**



Picture of a Wardian Case

Rosa x damascena var. *bifera*, the Autumn Damask. Since this rose is also of Persian or Middle Eastern origin, it is reasonable to conclude that this too was brought by the Mughals. The Mughal realms included the region of Kashmir, which lies immediately adjacent to Afghanistan, and in the mountains of Kashmir we have the typical roses of Persia: the two “golden species” *Rosa foetida* and *Rosa ecae*, where they can still be found.

The end of the Mughal period in the mid-18th century marks the start of the British rule in India, first as a trading company, the East India Company, and later from the 1850s directly by the British Government. The British love of roses is well-known, and regular imports of roses and other plants commenced quite early; mostly from China, particularly through the port town of Canton (now Guangzhou). Although the roses imported from the East particularly China were destined to reach Britain, the ships would stop over in Calcutta in the state of Bengal in eastern India (then India's British capital and grandest port) for months, where the plants would be unloaded to have a “rest cure”, before continuing their journey around the Cape of Good Hope and thence to Britain. Transporting plants long distances became much easier with the invention of the Wardian Case, glass-enclosed box cases to safely protect living plants. One of the early arrivals was apparently “Slater's Crimson China”, commonly found in Bengal to this day. Many roses from China reached India. One which passed through Calcutta without ever flowering there was that incredible beauty, “Fortune's Double Yellow.”

In the Himalayas there were a number of roses species not originally Indian, which have migrated and become naturalized, like *Rosa laevigata*, *Rosa bracteata*, and the two Banksiae roses, both the yellow and white varieties and their double flowering forms. These obviously traveled from China or from adjoining Burma (now Myanmar). The great British botanist William Roxburgh in his book, *Flora Indica*, mentions the roses growing in India, particularly in the Botanic Garden in Calcutta. So many were clearly of Chinese origin that he designates two roses with their Chinese names. Both in his research station in Samalkot, south of Calcutta on the Bay of Bengal coast, and in the Calcutta Botanic Garden, Roxburgh even had Chinese gardeners to look after his plants.

We now come to two heritage roses, both widely grown in India, particularly for making garlands used in worship. The first is 'Rose Edward', generally held to be the first of the Bourbons, a semi-double, extraordinarily fragrant, continuously flowering rose, which grows in the delta of the River Cauvery (aka Kaveri), which flows west to east across Tamil Nadu State (in south India) to the Bay of Bengal. This rose until recently was cultivated in several hundreds of hectares around the temple town of Tanjavur which lies on a tributary. There are various theories about the origin of 'Rose Edward', but the majority of experts believe that this variety was discovered at the Island of La Réunion which was, and continues to be, a French territory, located east of Madagascar. Sometime around 1820, the Superintendent of the botanic garden in La Réunion, M. Perichon, noticed a very fragrant repeat flowering rose. His opinion was that it was a natural cross between the China 'Old Blush' and the Autumn Damask rose, which were planted close together to form hedges for agricultural fields. He sent plants and seeds of this cross to France where it was identified as a new rose and named 'Rose Edouard'. How did this rose from La Reunion reach India, quite a distance away, so as to be so widely cultivated in the Cauvery area early on and then spreading all over the country? Some believe this to be a rose originally from the India region since it was widely cultivated.



'Rose Edward'



'Kakinada Red'

Another heritage rose is again widely used for making garlands. We have given it the study name 'Kakinada Red', Kakinada being the name of a port town on the Bay of Bengal coast between Calcutta and Madras (now Chennai). This again is a Bourbon with a very sweet fruity fragrance with hints of apple, quite different from the damask fragrance of 'Rose Edward'. DNA studies done in Canada have shown that this rose is the same as the one called 'Pacific' in Bermuda and 'Maggie' in the southern United States, and all of these have close links to a rose called 'Julius Fabianics

de Misefa', which was bred by the Hungarian rose breeder Rudolf Geschwind in the 1890s. If Kakinada Red is actually a Geschwind rose it is indeed surprising that it seems to have reached India almost immediately after being bred. Its occurrence in Bermuda and the U.S. is equally surprising. Professor and rosarian Wang Guoliang however feels this rose came from China where it is known as 'Baoping'. Another Geschwind rose 'Gruss an Teplitz' has also been grown all over north India on a large scale. Its appearance in such large numbers from the earliest times is quite surprising.



'Telengana Pink'

We come now to an even more mysterious and still unidentified rose, our study name for it being 'Telengana Pink' for the place where we first found it in the 1960s—Telengana (which has now become a state) was part of the bigger state of Andhra Pradesh in central peninsular India. This rose is very much a China, with typical habit of growth, bearing light pink flowers with beautiful Hybrid Tea form at bud stage. Our travels within India show that it grows over an extraordinary range: the courtyards in the wooden palaces of the erstwhile kings of Travancore in the extreme south to many areas further north, including a small town near the Kanha Tiger Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh State. We also found it in Thailand in the Petchaboon Hills. None of the world's rose experts has been able to identify this rose. Nor does anyone have a convincing explanation for its occurrence in south Asia.

Our favourite species rose, probably the only tropical species in the world, is *Rosa clinophylla*, once found in the most exotic locations in India and Bangladesh, particularly the "jheels" or lakes found throughout the Bengal area, as well as on the banks of forest streams of central India, on the isolated mountain of Mount Abu, in the Rajasthan desert of western India, and in southern India too. The discovery of this amazing species was made in the mid 1800s by a Mr. Rose, the aptly-named Superintendent of Post Offices whose jurisdiction was all of Bengal. His means of travel during the flood season was by boat on rivers and lakes, and once, while doing so, he found this rose rising out of the water. Specimens sent to François Crépin, the taxonomist in Belgium, were identified as *Rosa involucreata*, later renamed *Rosa clinophylla*. We must mention that, in the 1980s, when we searched for this rose to begin our hybridization program to create warm climate roses, we found only one

plant in cultivation in Bengal, a region where in earlier years it was said to flourish, growing wild and in plenty.



Rosa clinophylla

The near loss of this unique rose species emphasizes the need for urgent conservation steps around the world for the preservation of rose species. Along with other plants, roses are gravely threatened by climate change and many areas of their habitat are being developed. In this situation, *ex situ* conservation in botanical gardens of different climates becomes vitally important. It is most unfortunate that precisely when such *ex situ* conservation is urgently required that export regulations on plants in the world have become even more rigid. Even world famous research institutions are unable to get plant material for research and conservation. This problem requires the serious attention of the WFRS and botanical gardens around the world.

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Girija and Viru Viraraghavan are famed among rosarians for their extraordinary rose collection and extensive gardens at their home in Kodaikanal, a hill station in the mountains of Tamil Nadu state in southern India. They have held almost every elected position in the India rose world, are frequent speakers at international rose conferences, and write for various rose journals including ours (most recently on India's wild roses in BAON#16, September 2017). Also, see the delightful article detailing a visit to their home and gardens by Mia Gröndahl in BAON#13, December 2015. This article was redacted from an audio-visual presentation given by Viru and Girija at the WFRS Regional Convention in Nanyang, China, April 28-May 1, 2019.

REMEMBERING DAVID RUSTON

By David and Crenagh Elliott

We first met David Ruston in Pasadena, California, at an international heritage rose conference in 1996. We soon knew “of him”, including being WFRS President 1991-1994 and as one of Australia’s major rosarians. At the conference he spent an hour producing flower arrangements based on historic Dutch, Flemish and English flower paintings, a very entertaining and informative production, ably assisted by Di Durston of Australia and Odile Masquelier of France.

Because we enjoyed this conference we attended all the later ones mainly instigated by David who would finger someone to arrange the next. This continued until the Chaalis/Senlis conference in 2007 when David set up a heritage group committee which determined, among other things, that Di Durston and Fiona Hyland would produce a periodic newsletter to be called “by any other name” (BAON), with the latter (a New Zealander) as its first editor. We volunteered as secretary/treasurer (as yet, with no budget). Our principal job was to distribute the newsletter *gratis* by e-mail to interested rosarians whether members of WFRS or not, a service that we provide still. Finally, in 2009 at a meeting in Vancouver, Canada, the international heritage rose group became a committee to be chaired by David under the umbrella of the WFRS.

When we saw David at rose get-togethers it was always as a couple and often the only Canadians attending. Rather jocularly, as a compliment we hoped, he used to refer to us as “the Canadians”, even when we visited his garden and collection of Tea and China roses following the Adelaide Conference in 2008. A feature of his travels was that he had a large suitcase that held vases for demonstrations of flower arrangements as well as enough clothes to have a clean shirt every day that he was away from home. Another image: David having a very civilized agreeable discussion on plant naming (having noticed that several were mis-labeled) with the director of a garden park in Trier, the German city where Peter Lambert had his famous rose nursery.

In conclusion, we have missed his enthusiastic appearance at conferences in the last few years. Without his creation of the biennial international heritage rose group conferences we would not have been involved with the World Federation of Rose Societies nor would we have the journal BAON. He made an interest in heritage roses into the worldwide fraternity that exists today.

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Both Crenagh and David were born in England and attended British universities. Crenagh migrated to Canada in 1965 and David in 1968, and they met each other and married in 1980. Becoming involved with heritage roses after the 1996 Pasadena conference, David served as a WFRS Vice President (for North America) for six years 2012-2018. David was also Vice Chair for the WFRS Conservation and Heritage Committee. Their e-mail contact is: theelliotts@shaw.ca

NEW WFRS ROSE IDENTIFICATION PANEL

Brigid Quest-Ritson, Chairman, Conservation and Heritage Committee

During the WFRS Convention in Copenhagen in 2018, at the meeting of the Conservation and Heritage Rose Committee, we discussed how best to help members to identify 'unknown' roses. The decision was strongly in favour of setting up an international panel of knowledgeable rosarians who, using email, could help with problems of identification.

With the advice of delegates to the Committee, I have contacted a number of expert rosarians from around the world who have generously agreed to help identify roses in cases where this has previously proved hard. Their identities will not be released, mindful of the need to protect them from receiving a flood of requests. Hence, all requests and replies will at first be channelled through the WFRS.

A list of requirements for identification (see below) has been compiled as a guide to those requesting help and for panel members trying to identify a rose. Often someone who knows a rose can name it from a single photograph, but in most cases more detail is necessary. We realise that at times it will not be possible to send all this information, but please provide as much as you can.

Habit: whether the rose is a bush, shrub or a climber, the plant's size

Flower: size when open, approximate number of petals, colour

Flowering period: once only or repeat-flowering

Scent, if any: light, sweet, strong, etc.

Hips: colour, shape and size

Foliage: shade of green, colour of young leaves

Armature: prickles present or not, shape

History of plant: when planted, and any other information

Photographs (no more than six or seven) would greatly help: close-ups of the flower in bud, partially open and fully open, the entire plant in full flower, its foliage.

All requests for identification should be sent to info@worldrose.org, headed 'Rose ID panel.' Please include your contact details and note that your email address may be shared with other panel members.

NEXT ROSE CONVENTIONS

WFRS REGIONAL ROSE CONVENTION IN KOLKATA, INDIA: JANUARY 9-12, 2020

Following on the two previous WFRS-sponsored rose conferences in India--Jaipur in 1999 and in Hyderabad in 2014—this third conference in Kolkata (once Calcutta) will be hosted and organized by the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, with the Bengal Rose Society as a partner. The three-day program will have two morning lecture series, the judging of the annual rose competition, visits to historic sites including the famed Indian Botanical Garden and Victoria Memorial Garden, plus time for social mixing. There are four 5-star hotels available and a dozen other boutique hotels, and good transport links. Also, many conferences attendees may also consider the three offered pre-convention tours: Shantiniketan or The Sunderbans (3 days, 2 nights) or Jakpur (1 day), and the special post-convention tour into the Himalayans (5 days 4 nights) including Darjeeling and Gangtok. Registration is available on line, with an Early Bird individual rate of \$400 before September 30 (\$700 for a couple); foreign credit cards are accepted. Their website (in English) is: www.wfrs2020kolkata.com

WFRS 15TH HERITAGE ROSE CONVENTION - 8-12 JUNE 2020

This will be the first WFRS event focusing on heritage roses and conservation since Beijing in 2016 and previously in Sangerhausen in Germany in 2013, and it has been long anticipated. The host will be the Royal National Belgium Rose Society, which is planning a schedule of lectures and local garden tours, as well as pre-conference garden tours to Antwerp, Bruges, and Ghent, and post-conference tours to Luxembourg, Namur and Saint Hubert. Their website is not yet available, but until it is for now we refer you to the Society's site: www.rosabelgica.com.

WFRS WORLD ROSE CONVENTION IN ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA IN 2021

And for those who like to plan their travels far in advance, start now to consider Australia in 2021, when for a week October 21-28, Springtime with their roses in full bloom, Adelaide will host the triannual world get-together of rose fanciers and rose breeders in what already promises to be to be an event-filled fantastic affair.

THE NEW WFRS WEBSITE: www.worldrose.org

We remind readers that on the new WFRS website, opening the rubric "Conservation and Heritage," you will find the current issue of BAON and all of its preceeding issues easily accessed and easy to print, as well as a complete index to back issues. Also, on the same C&H page there are links to major rose resources: the genetic reference bank (in German) of the *Europa-Rosarium* at Sangerhausen; the American rose resource "HelpMeFind"; and the database (in French) of *La Rosarie du Val-du-Marne*.

Importantly, on www.worldrose.org there is also "World Rose News," both the current and back issues (so far for the last eleven years). This is the publication about WFRS events, programs, conventions, and rose personalities.

BOOKS & THINGS

“ROSE”

By Catherine Harwood

Published in 2018 by Reaktion Books in the UK, *Rose* is one of the newest of the publisher's Botanical Series of 21 heavily-illustrated books, whose titles range from *Apple* to *Yew*. It concisely and vividly describes the historic development of all the world's roses from earliest times in China to the Greco-Roman world to Medieval Europe to the great 19th and 20th century rosarians and breeders of Europe and North America. Illuminated on almost every page with historic paintings, photographs of historic gardens or of individual roses, and concluding with a summary of the rose family and its groups, plus assorted rose recipes. “Rose” is a concise summary of the long and marvelous history of roses, one that should inform and excite the amateur rose fancier as well as professionals. Priced at £16.00; available through Amazon.

Review by BAON

“PROJECT RESCUE SAVING NEW ZEALAND’S HERITAGE ROSES”

By Murray Radka

This book is a brief overview of how the New Zealand National Register of Heritage Roses began and some of the successes and failures that occurred. It is an interesting read. As far as I know the New Zealanders are in the forefront of listing their roses using modern digital records. The Register is available for view on the society's website. Profits from this book go to the Heritage Roses NZ Inc. For information on purchasing a copy (cost plus postage/packing) contact Judy Webster at: treasurer@heritageroses.org.nz

Review by Crenagh Elliott

“ANTIQUE ROSES”

By John Baxter

This is an extensive listing of roses before 1900, many of which are believed to be extinct. There is an abbreviated list giving parentage, but the body of the book is a coded description of thousands of roses. The descriptions are variable depending on information in old and modern records, and there are no photos. The author comments: “How many roses have the title ‘Madame’ at the front of their name: 40, 50 or more? Over nine hundred, so now you know why this record is needed.” This list only touches the surface, so time will tell if it has been worthwhile, but if everyone did as much work on older roses as John has, the world of old roses would be richer for it. The book is available through Amazon, in paperback for £6.99.

Review by Crenagh Elliott

“AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE ROSE JOURNAL” NOW ON-LINE

The new editor Margaret Furness informs BAON that their most recent issue of the “Journal of Heritage Roses in Australia 41.1,” from autumn 2018, can be now be viewed on <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1285065166/view>, as will be future issues (and each can be downloaded after 6 months). Some older issues will also be gradually added. Good news for this is one of the oldest and best of heritage rose magazines. We welcome them to the Net.

OBITUARY – SAM McGREDY, 1932-2019

It is with immense regret that we announce the passing of Sam McGredy IV at his home in Auckland, New Zealand on August 25, 2019.

Sam was a leading light in the breeding of roses. He was born in 1932 at Portadown, Northern Ireland. Sam was only two years old when his father passed away, leaving him heir to the family rose nursery which was established by his great-grandfather. Sam and his family eventually moved to New Zealand in 1972, where they set up a new nursery and continued the family tradition of growing and breeding roses. At its peak, under his management, the nursery grew one million plants and employed 160 staff.

His many successful varieties include, 'Dublin Bay', 'Bantry Bay', 'Sexy Remy' and 'My Girl'. He was a master grower, with a "breeder's eye". His creations will continue to grace our planet, and act as a lasting tribute to a true gentleman of the rose world.

Derek Lawrence

Executive Director, World Federation of Rose Societies