

The Old Texas Rose

Vol. 1 No. 1

Sep 1982

OLD GARDEN ROSES IN TEXAS

We all have a unique common interest in old roses. Most of us eagerly read anything that we can find on the topic but still feel that there is so very much to learn. A major problem is the lack of information specifically for Texas on the subject.

The tremendous variability in Texas soils, temperature, and moisture conditions provides special challenges for rose growers; this, of course, complicates the process of learning about the best varieties and their cultural requirements.

Probably the best source of information concerning old roses in Texas is through the accumulated knowledge of Texas old rose growers. If we can find better ways to facilitate communications among ourselves, we can all learn a great deal and duplicate our efforts less.

This newsletter is meant to be a vehicle for old rose growers to share their knowledge. Many of us enjoy "The Rose Letter" published by the Heritage Rose Group. This Texas newsletter is meant to further promote interest in old roses, and to explore their potential as landscape plants for our state. We plan to do this through articles, plant sharing, and collecting trips. We hope that you will not only join the organization, but lend your active support to its objectives.

Rather than assessing dues, we ask that each interested person send a small contribution to our Secretary, Pamela Furyear. This will be targeted towards mailing and duplication costs for the two or three newsletters a year. We plan to ask for contributions with the membership year beginning September 1st.

Doree Welton

ABOUT OUR NAME

Now we are not a
for a Courtney & West
What else could you
better (which cl
learned s as
Symposium and the Dallas Sympos-
ium???

Now about those names.... As
best I recall, it was James W.
"Buddy" Harrison who suggested
Welch's Night Raiders. Sara Jean
Darby proposed the Ragged, Ragged
Robin (None of us looked too hot
on that collecting trip!) Your
secretary, however, insisted that
as we were a collection of giant
intellects ourselves, that we
should reflect the scholarly (as
opposed to the larcenous) aspect
of our organization in our title.
I get the feeling that everyone
will end up calling us the Texas
Rose Rustlers, anyway!

Sketched (rather poorly!) on
our title page are the two major
candidates for "the Yellow Rose
of Texas," Vice-President Mar-
garet Sharpe (who is) favors
Rosa Banksia lutea (on the left).
She says, "This is the rose most
Texas rosarians think to be the
"Yellow Rose of Texas" rather than
"Harison's Yellow" (on the right)
so often acclaimed. R. Banksiae
lutea roots so readily and grows
so vigorously that we feel the
wagon trains spread more of these
cuttings on homesteads in Texas
than the Harison's Yellow, that
does not like the heat, is hardier
and does not compare in vigor to
R. Banksiae lutea. Harison's
Yellow is a Foetida"



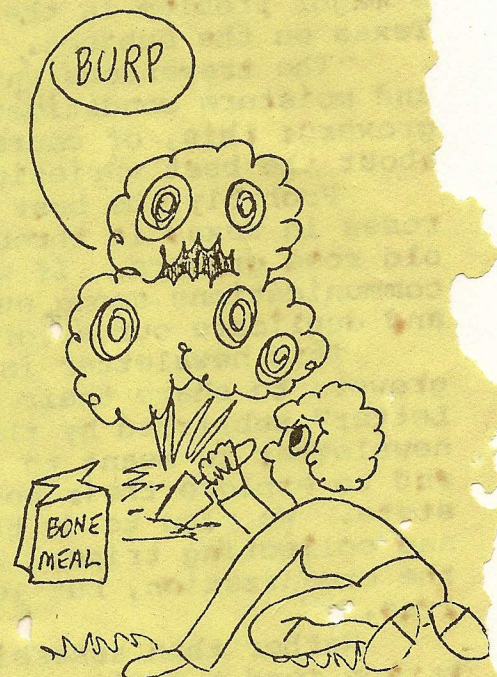
BLANKITY-BLANK-BLANK!

Attached to our first news-
letter are two sets of blanks --

projecte
lus a
the old rose
would sure!
ould take the
The result could be
ted here, and it would giv
all a better idea of what gro
here, and how sucessfull".

The second set are forms f
unknowns. I got the idea from
Ethelyn Koays' famed notebooks.
You will note the emphasis on
the green parts; after a one
must wait a year sometime
the flower, but the sepal
are always with us. I pr
to draw the bloom types fo
class on separate sheets.
fully this should clarify
collected unknowns. The
for all classes will be av
from me at cost at some fu
date; this should be about
each. Drop me a note at 704
Holland St, Navasota 77868
you would like some.

--Pamela Puryear



COPING ON THE GULF COAST

--Conrad Tips, V-P

My father was devoted to Peace and its sports, and I was happy to grow them for him. After his death, however, I felt the need of a change, and, remembering the English gardens I had visited, decided to attempt the old roses. I did the usual research and then assembled a collection of the best of the four major groups of summer-blooming types. It was a disaster, of course, and I had been warned -- pig-headed stubbornness did not carry the day. Some died without setting a bud, others bloomed lavishly for a season or two and then dwindled away, but was I downhearted? Well My next bright idea was to reclaim the plants I had known as a boy, roses included, which in this part of the country meant, in those days, in my family, the Teas and Chinas. What follows are notes on choice and cultivation for the Gulf Coast, and all from experience.

The Yellow Lady Banks rose is almost a weed here; it flourishes exceedingly and tends to swamp anything within its reach. The white form is seldom seen now -- I can't think why. No less beautiful, it is somewhat less rampant and therefore less trying to accomodate, and for me it Blooms about ten days after the yellow form begins, thus extending the season. Both these roses seem to like our terrible clay and will endure even the westerling sun. In fact, they like all the sun they can get. Cold, heat, flood, drought -- all these are as nothing to them, once they hit their stride.

Another fine climber for Houston is Marechal Neil, a sumptuous beauty and the finest of its type. It too likes our distressing soil but wants lots of water, which I give it in the form of manure tea. The blooms should receive some protection from the brilliance of the sun -- they fade but they rarely ball and winter protection may be necessary.

Climbing Cécile Brunner is a choice rose for this area. It too is fearfully vigorous -- my plant has nearly obliterated a burly great bush of Don Juan, and is now competing with a redbud tree, a wisteria, and a pyracantha on their own terms. Think, Gentle Reader, before you plant, and remember it blooms in the Spring and seldom thereafter. If you can, train it into a small, open sort of tree (a silk tree is just right), but if you choose to let it build up into a shrub, you must provide some support. Cécile Brunner -- always called Mignon in my young day -- is another classic rose of the South, and well worth having if you can find a good form. What passes under the name hereabouts is a scruffy little affair and no great ornament. On the other hand the Spray form is lovely, an airy improbability of some botanist's fantasy -- and there is Perle d'Or, both as an untidy little shrub, which left to its own devices will make a mare's nest of itself, and as a climber, which I have never seen.

Amongst the Chinas, my favorite and the only one I have at present is Old Blush, the most undemanding and generous of roses. It has no kind of fault or flaw but it is big and may be (cont)

better suited as a landscape subject. Another such is Mutabilis, a strapping belle whose habit and foliage are as pretty as its flowers. Grow against a wall if possible and protect it during the winter if necessary -- it isn't as hardy as some -- and if you are very lucky it will throw a climbing branch from time to time. This I have seen in Italy and a fine sight it is. And if your luck holds, you may find the exquisite Cherokee Rose (*R laevigata*). The white form is the best I think, but it is all a matter of taste -- and the warmer white McCartney Rose (*R bracteata*). Sophistication never looked so simple. For those with a hankering after the preverse, horticulturally speaking, there is *R chinensis viridiflora*, and if you like that sort of thing, then that's the sort of thing you like. It has two points in its favor: it is blatantly healthy, and the buds are of a curious blue-green color which is attractive and useful for arrangements, where they will puzzle all beholders and make you feel very smug indeed! All right, three points. Louis Philippe, or what passes for it here -- there is some controversy -- makes a rounded, mounding shrub to ten or so feet, healthy, hardy, never complaining, usually spangled with a pleasant show of double red blooms. It is a dullish sort of red, paling toward the center, and this rose is not the most thrilling of its race, but Louis Philippe is a willing subject, happy anywhere, and there is much to be said for anything so graciously inclined. I could say much the same about Seven Sisters, with a caution that some people may dislike its cerise-magenta-mauve color scheme -- me, for one -- but it is utterly robust and thrives in any situation.

The Teas present certain difficulties -- they ball something chronic. Maman Cochet and White Cochet, friends of my earliest childhood, I have never induced to open a single bloom, and Devonensis much the same, but the blank pink Catherine Mermet, the richer pink Duchess de Brabant, and the glorious apricot-gold Lady Hillingdon will do very well. All these are good, but the last is a treasure, so fine is its habit and foliage, not to mention its large, cupped blooms, that I think it ought to be used as a specimen plant. Comtesse du Cayla does well here I recall, a semi-double blossom of the most flaunting red-orange handsomely set off by its dusky foliage, but I lost it years ago and have never been able to find a replacement. Does anyone know where I might locate a plant? Rosette Delizy makes a tall, branching shrub in time -- no good at all as a bedder -- it may even achieve an interesting gnarled effect, but it can be hurt by cold and the blooms will ball until the plant has made a certain degree of growth. Then the flowers will be large enough to open properly, and the color is superb. Teas are generally thought to be pale and retiring in tint, but Rosette Delizy is gorgeous, no modest maiden, she.

Two last thoughts: first, Gentle Reader, please notice that all the roses discussed here have reasonably strong constitutions. This, of course, is necessary in a difficult climate, but more than that, I no longer spray. I am sure that the poisons I used were harmful in various ways, such headaches I had, and I don't believe they did much good. Any rose disposed to spot will spot, those healthy enough to shrug and get on with it, will, and I do not choose to set up an infirmary for picky plants. Here they must be healthy and hearty, willing to please and be pleased. And now a truly last thought: a friend in Northeast Texas writes that she cannot keep her old roses when budded onto a stock more than three seasons, which has been my experience also. Comments?

Upon being inspired by the graciousness of ^{again} Paris Pick in ~~her~~ their
present situations.

The Metaphysics of the Rose

("And is there any moral shut/Within the bosom of
the Rose." Alfred, Lord Tennyson)

You lift your heavy head sunward bearing aloft your beauty and
fragrance as a present
To the unheeding who now live in the house and fix cars and pour oil
beside you in the front yard.
The French critic called you the rose of the century and titled ladies
in straw bonnets cut you with silver shears to grace
Sterling epergnes on polished tables, so that their silken-gowned
friends might exclaim over your color and richness.
Now, unknown, you suffer garbage cans for company every Tuesday and
Friday.

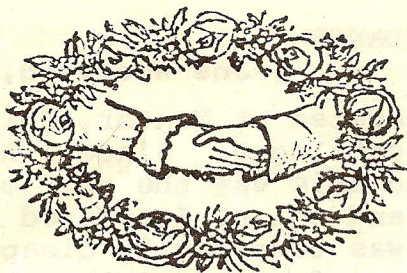
This, though, has nothing to do with you.

Your concerns are the deep soils where your roots quest for their
summer moisture:

The bursting green spring impulses; the winds and frosts which prompt
you into sleep; the calmer, slower days of fall
when you more carefully make your rounded blooms of color to fling aloft
Proclaiming your pedigree.
Your business is all with God's Will and God's Seasons.
Roses, you full we'll know, never fell into sin in that first Garden,
long ago.

A Couplet to a Legend

Everyone asks after you, saying, "And how about Marshall Neal, so
unexcelled?"
And so you remain: forever loved, forever misspelled.



THE STATE OF THE STATE

-Pam Puryear, ED and SEC

We were pleased to hear that our particular friend, Mr James W "Buddy" Harrison is now an accredited Apprentice Judge! We already knew he was a dedicated old rose collector.

Welcome to our two new member nurserymen: Mr Tom Marek from Magnolia, and Mr William Barber from Tomball. Tom has taken some cuttings to root under mist, for sale in his nursery. It would certainly be a public service to us all if he does! Then he would have to deal with identification -- the bummer bear of poor Mrs Wiley and Mr *Schrauer* of Pickering. Tom may be in a position to prove the old saw, "A rose by any other name still smells as sweet."

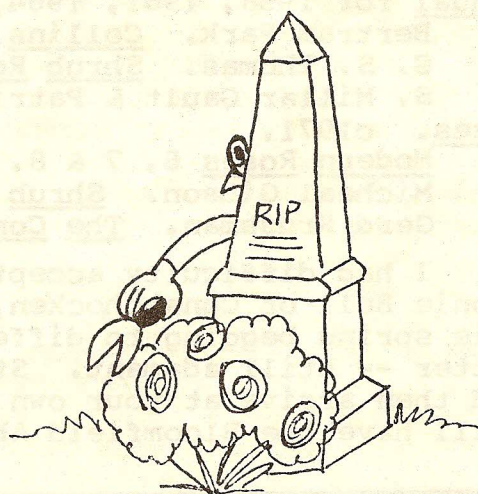
The famed Fourth Annual Rose Rustle will be held as usual the latter part of November. I'll get cards to you-all. We had planned a westwardly migration this year -- Brenham, La Grange, etc. All cuttings brought to the gathering point will be appreciated by all. The more the merrier, so invite anyone wishing to attend. Have a family friend stationed near a phone to bail us out when we are apprehended by the authorities!!!

Joe Woodward wrote that Joe Kern, Box 33, Mentor, Ohio 44060 is commencing on his last year in the rose business. Old-timers will recall him well; I

bought my first old roses from him in 1967! They were Cardinal de Richelieu, and I have them every one yet. Write for his price list. Two of interest are General Jack and Seven Sisters.

Does anyone have a copy of the classic Everblooming Roses by Mrs Drennan? Conrad Tips has searched in vain for it for years.

Conrad also sent a list of nurseries who carry old-fashioned type plants. Teas 4400 Bellaire Blvd, Houston 77401 has a few of Mrs Wiley's potted up each year. Saxton Gardens, 1 First St, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, has rare & species daylilies, though not everything is in the catalogue. Houston Daylily Gardens (the old Russell Farms of my youth) P O Box 7008, The Woodlands, 77380, has a few species and older forms, plus the common old red amaryllis. Owen Davis Nursery, 611 E 11th St, Houston 77009 is offering, in Mch, 1983, good forms of Cecile Brunner & Seven Sisters. Conrad says Mrs Farris of that firm also has a fine plum for the Gulf Coast.



A low profile

BLOOMFIELD ABUNDANCE

-- Joe Woodward, Ex Comm

In 1968, Wayside Gardens, then located at Mentor, Ohio, listed Bloomfield Abundance in their catalogue. Since I had grown Cécile Brunner for some time and this was the only other variety similiar to it in bloom form and color, I ordered a plant. When the shipment arrived, I was temporarily disappointed because the invoice had a note informing me that they were sold out of Bloomfield Abundance and were substituting Cécile Brunner. The listing for Bloomfield Abundance appeared in their catalogue only that one year.

Shortly after planting the rose, I was surprised to see the rose start taking off toward the sky. By the end of the year, it had reached over five five feet in height and almost that wide. Cécile had never reached over 24"; my present plants of Cécile are in a raised bed with good soil supplements, and are 20" tall. Bloomfield Abundance is still thriving over six feet tall and still spreading. The last two seasons, it has thrown one or two much longer, strong canes.

You are perhaps familiar with the controversy surrounding these two roses. Here are a few of the related references:

Captain C A. E. Stanfield. "Cécile Brunner and Bloomfield Abundance." The Rose Annual of the Royal National Rose Society, 1972.

Partick Harrison. "Will the Real Cécile Brunner Please Stand Up?" in Bits 'O Bulletin, The American Rose Magazine, Jan. 1981.

Léonie Bell. "The Real Cécile Brunner Stands Up." The Newsletter of the Heritage Rose Group, May 1981. Mrs Bell claims that Bloomfield Abundance is a phantom, in reality being spray Cécile Brunner.

Léonie Bell. "The Real Cécile Brunner." The Rose Annual of the Royal N.R.S., 1982.

Other references to Bloomfield Abundance in rose literature are:

----- "Roses- A Selected List of Varieties." RNRS Annual for 1958, 1961, 1964, 1967, and 1971.

Bertram Park. Collins Guide to Roses. c1956.

G. S. Thomas. Shrub Roses of Today. c1962.

S. Millar Gault & Patrick M. Synge. The Dictionary of Roses. c1971.

Modern Roses 6, 7 & 8.

Micheal Gibson. Shrub Roses, Climbers, & Ramblers. c1981.

Gerd Krussman. The Complete Book of Roses. c 1980.

I had difficulty accepting the theory expounded by Léonie Bell of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, so I wrote her this spring begging to differ. Recently she responded to my letter -- still adamant. Study the references and the roses and then arrive at your own conclusion. For my part, I still have the Bloomfield Abundance label on my plant.

ROSE ANATOMY

Sepals

may be:

attenuate = slender, tapering

dilate = widen at top

winged = foliaceous

HPs: The sepals horizontal
Alba & Dam. sepals
reflex when mature

Thorns

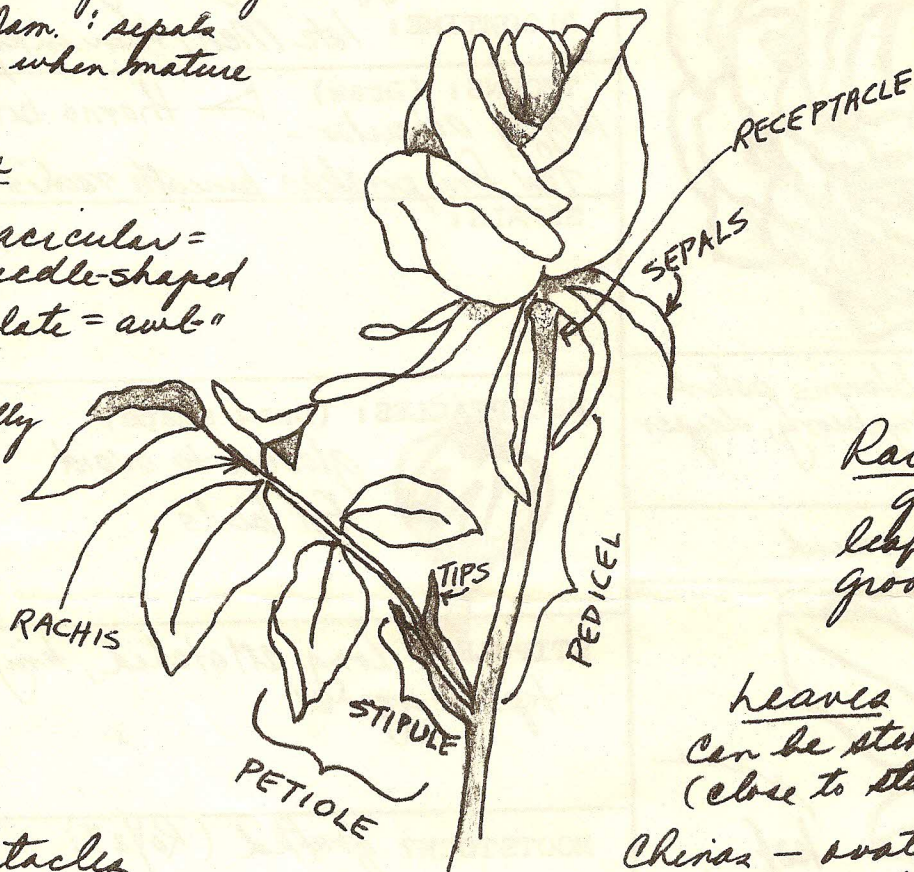


acicular =
needle-shaped



subulate = awl

Thorns at
nodes usually
indicate
species.



Bracts

Small winged green
parts where pedicels
begin - indicates species;
viz. R. bracteata.

Rachis

groove down
leaf stem; deep
grooves = Tea.

leaves "petiolate"
can be stemless, sessile
(close to stem)

Receptacles

obconical = cone shaped

turbinate =

pear

ovoid =

globose =



urceolate = urn
fusiform =
spindle

Chinensis - ovate, elliptic w/
acuminate ends (pointed)

Gallica & Damascena - woolly,
tomentose, leathery

Alba - powdered glaucous surface,
rugose (netted & lumpy)

Bourbon - sessile & leathery

Stipules

Old rose stipules usually widen
toward outer end

entire & smooth

dentate = toothed

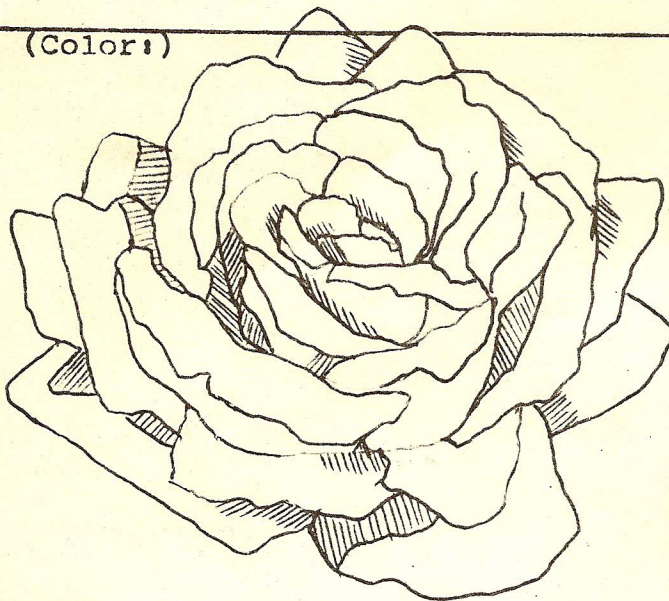
denticulate = finely "

See Leonie Bell. "Rose
Signatures". American Rose
Annual. 1970. pp 104-117.

CLASS: *TEA*

BLOOM SHAPE:

(Color:)



NAME:

STUDY NAME:

(When photographed?)

HABIT:

BLOOMTIME:

THORNS: (Draw)

SEPALS:

BLOOM COLOR:

RECEPTACLES: (Draw shape)

LEAF SHAPE:

STIPULES:

ROOTSTOCK?

OWNER'S NAME

CUTTINGS TAKEN?

LEAF COLOR:

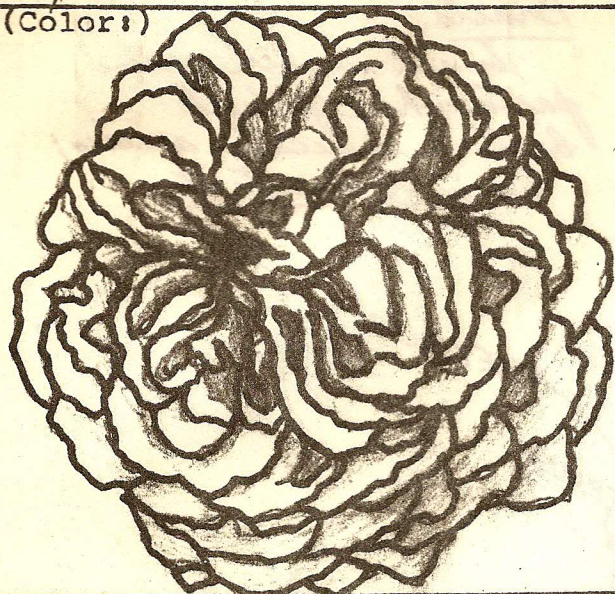
LEAF TEXTURE:

CLASSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS ROSE IN LITERATURE: (Be sure to cite author and title.)

CLASS: *Bairbon*

BLOOM SHAPE: *full, reflexed
quartered*

(Color:)



NAME: *Mme Isaac Pereire* *cs. 1880*

STUDY NAME:

(When photographed?) *Apr 1982 slides + prints*

HABIT: *rangy + low growing (4'-6')*

BLOOMTIME: *late Mch, then intermittently - good
Fall bloom*

THORNS: (Draw) *Thorns betw. nodes -
largely acicular -
few fine prickles beneath rachis + on petiole*

SEPALS:

BLOOM COLOR: *first blooms pale +
misshapen, then raspberry, deeper
in Fall.*

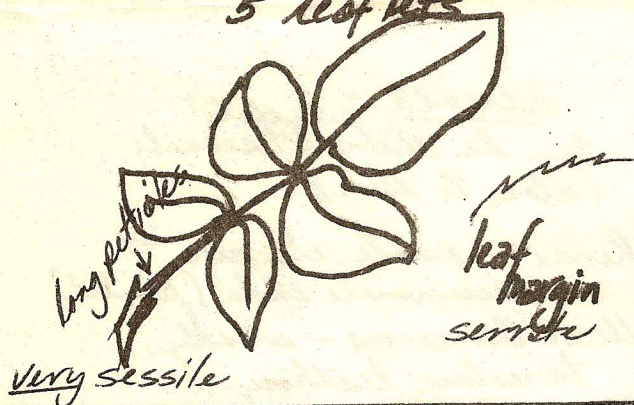
RECEPTACLES: (Draw shape)



*globose to ovoid
fat buds*

LEAF SHAPE: *ovate to round*

5 leaflets



STIPULES: *long, stretched, tiny, entire
tips merged*

ROOTSTOCK? *grafted (Ro/2T)*

OWNER'S NAME

CUTTINGS TAKEN?

LEAF COLOR: *med. gr. new growth
reddish-purple*

LEAF TEXTURE: *"leathery"*

CLASSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS ROSE IN LITERATURE: (Be sure to cite author and title.)

*Svenson. A Hundred Oldtime Roses... p28 Its scent seems to fill the
entire garden. Flowers are large, intense rose-madder + shaded
magenta. The ruffled petals open to great blooms among its big
bold foliage.*

*Wilson & Bell. The Fragrant Year... p149 The sumptuous 4 inch
flowers, deeply quartered, are a light velvety crimson. Bushes grow
to 6 feet + some canes reach higher...*