

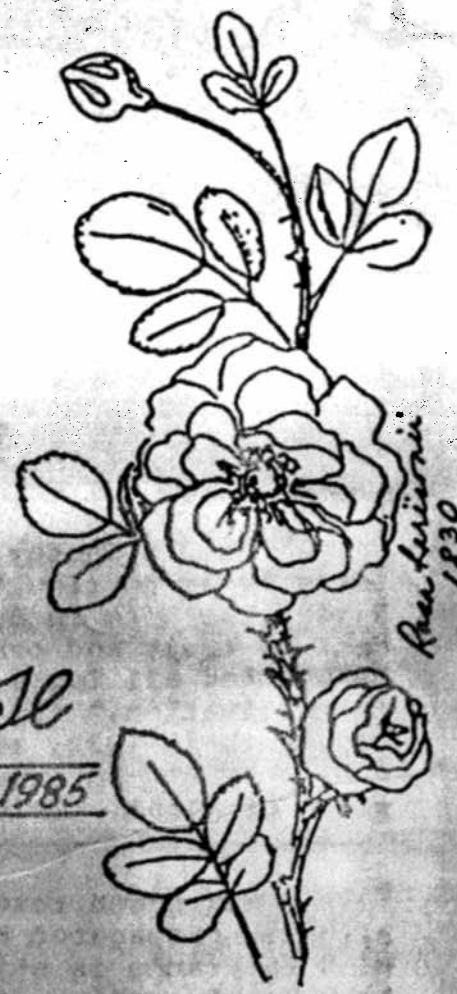


Rose Australia letter
1824

The Old Texas Rose

Vol 4 No. 2

May 1985



Rose Australia letter
1830

The Masked Avenger Strikes Again

It was a dark and stormy dawn in a wild and almost forgotten place. A pick-up slid silently into the parking lot. A stealthy figure dressed in a dark rain coat lifted a strange bundle and a shovel from the back of the truck.

Moving swiftly, with actions that spoke of long experience, a hole was dug...a generous hole, not one of those 4-bit ones.

A mound of earth was carefully formed in the center of the hole and the contents of the strange bundle was placed on the mound in just a certain way. The dirt was shoveled back, and the rain that had been threatening began to stream down, settling the soil around the contents in the hole. The Masked Avenger nodded in satisfaction, everything was going just as planned.

Two years ago the Park Department, with the aid of the Highway Department had contrived to build a parking lot so that tourists could better see the 'vista point'. Choosing the site of a former old homestead, they covered all vegetation including some lovely old roses with 6 feet of land fill. The Masked Avenger, deploring this lack of sensitivity to history and beauty, had made a silent vow to correct these injustices whenever possible.



THE RAMSEYS OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Mr J M Ramsey of Austin was the son and grandson of two great early Texas horticulturists: Frank Taylor Ramsey and A M Ramsey. F T Ramsey was born in Burnet County in 1861, and gave his life to the development of fruit and ornamental plant varieties. "By horseback and buckboard he scouted all Texas for native flora and introduced many choice wildings to cultivation." In 1875 he founded his nursery in Austin, running it until his death in 1932, after which his sons continued the business. One son, J M, answered an inquiry by Dr Samuel Asbury of A&M in 1934, as to the old roses of Texas. Below are excerpts from this reply. -ED.

Malmaison roses, both pink and white, were good roses, but are only slightly propagated now. They were called cabbage roses. The fragrant pink La France is still (1934) liked. Etoile de Lyon and Pearl of Garden, both yellow roses, were about the only yellow bush roses known, but neither one is now propagated.

There were several other varieties, some of which were given different local names, and I doubt that anybody would know what they really were.

A large use was made of the almost wild, single white, with yellow center rose called the Cherokee, a rampant climber and hedge rose. Also, the Seven Sisters, which I believe is Madame Grenville, a strong climber, pink, blooming in clusters. Among the better climbers were the LaMarque, white, and a little later, the Marechal Neil, yellow.

Since writing the above, I happened to think of referring to old catalogues, and in the catalogue of 1879, my grandfather and father, A M Ramsey & Son, I find the names of many roses I never heard of before, and will mention a few of the number, most of which I was familiar with:

Gem of the Prairie, crimson cluster
Pink Daily, profuse bloomer (Glad to see Old Blush called this! ED.)
Bella, pure white
Safrano, bright apricot changing to fawn
Beauty of Waltham, bright rosy crimson
John Hopper, deep rose with crimson center
Luxembourg, salmon buff and coppery hue, peculiar and very large

(I am surprised to find this fine rose in existence then. It is still the best of its kind in 1934).

Cabbage Mentioned above
Madame Plantier, pure white
Baltimore Belle, white with blush center. Climber.
Cherokee. Mentioned above.

The above descriptions are from the old catalogue.

There are several other kinds mentioned, which I have not listed here, as I am inclined to think that some of them were local names. Maybe not. From the names in this list, no doubt there would be found about all the kinds that were so well-liked about forty to fifty years ago, and like much further back.

During the last forty years, the following roses have had their days of vogue in a large way: (I am not sure of their correct order)

Etoile de Lyon, yellow

American Beauty, red

Dorothy Perkins, pink climber

Helen Gould, pink

Pink Radiance, followed by Red Radiance also. The Pink supplanted the Helen Gould

Talisman → Pres. Hoover

And then there is a large number of new roses of the last year or two, some of which will undoubtedly prove to be A-1 in all particulars, but it takes several years to prove out a rose variety, and rather a small percent of the seemingly good new varieties ever "hold up" or "pan out."

I have not attempted to give a list of the really good permanent varieties that we have had for many years which came into notice and favor gradually.

I hope this information may be worth something to you....



from NZ
newsletter cover

My grandmother always talked of roses, crimson rambler roses, in Virginia, and she tried all the years of her life to make a crimson rambler rose grow in her ranch yard (in West Texas). Bluebonnets grew in the pasture, and phlox, and yellow flowers, but nothing ever quite met the need that the crimson rambler rose would have filled in her life. She never complained, and, to me, the ranch was a completely beautiful spot. But when I saw mile after mile of real climbing roses on fence rows in Virginia, I realized for the first time in my whole life how the ranch must have really looked to her.

from Suzanne Yabsley, Texas
Quilts, Texas Women.



J Conrad Tips, Houston

Recreating the Period Garden. Edited and with a Foreword and a Chapter on Topiary by G.S. Thomas, and with contributions by Paul Edwards, Dr. Brent Elliott, Lady O'Neill, Anthony du Gard Pasley, Kay Sanecki, and Fred Whitsey. London: Wm. Collins, 1984.

Rosemary Verey, Classic Garden Design: How to Adapt and Recreate Garden Features of the Past. New York: Congdon & Weed, Inc., 1984.

I seem to recall an article by Vita Sackville-West which began "If you have a moat" or words to that effect. Well, of course, you may have a moat (and then again you may not) or you may have a house which requires a garden in a particular style or you may have the desire to create one "in the manner of" whether you have a house to match or not. Whatever the circumstance, these volumes will be of the greatest help. Both have many fine plates, sketches, and diagrams, both illustrate the great gardens of our time, and both, inevitably, cover much the same territory. We are told all we might reasonably want to know about hedges, grass seeds, ornaments, plants, parterres, water features, and that's for starters. I now long for a pagoda, however modest, and feel that an orangery would do wonders for my morale. Alas, there is very little about coping with moats — a blow! — but, on the brighter side, there is quite a lot about roses and rose gardens. Of particular interest to our readers is Mr. Edwards' design for a rosary of 1864 for Warwick Castle and a truly spectacular lay-out, dated 1816, by Repton. Believe me, those were the days. I really think I must have a few well-trained serfs along with my pagoda and orangery. And for those with a taste for controversy, there is Miss Sanecki's declaration that the traditional herb garden as we think of it today is in reality one of Miss Jekyll's innovations and dates only from the first decade of the twentieth century. This may be going too far, though it is perfectly true that Miss Jekyll was the first of our modern gardeners to look upon herbs as subjects of aesthetic value deserving of their own places set apart and that consequentially she set a fashion which is with us yet. An interesting question for the historian, at any rate, and Miss Sanecki reproduces a plan made by Miss Jekyll for Lady Emily Lutyens in 1907 to be planted at Knobworth, her brother's house. A very pretty, not too complicated design, it is well within the means of most gardeners to achieve.

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American gardeners will find Mrs. Verey's book the more useful of the two, I expect, because she is not so interested as are Mr. Thomas and his colleagues in the painstakingly authentic restoration of a particular garden or the exact recreation of a period. Instead, she extracts certain effects from bygone styles which may be employed today to convey a certain quality or atmosphere. It seems a sensible approach for those of us who do not have the National Trust looking over our shoulders and has much to recommend it. After all, one must look grim Practicality in the eye at least occasionally and one may as well do so in good company.

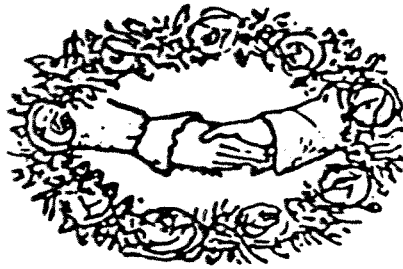
Mrs. Verey's publications are noted in the review of The American Woman's Garden. As for Mr. Thomas, what a busy little bee he is these days. Apart from Recreating the Period Garden, he has edited a series of Miss Jekyll's books for the Ayer Company and corrected botanical nomenclature for the Amaryllis Press edition of William Robinson's English Flower Garden and has written Trees in the Landscape and Three Gardens. The spectacle of so much devoted labor is exhausting.

Rosemary Verey and Ellen Richards Samuels, The American Woman's Garden. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1984.

I've often thought that we depend too much on what we know — or think we know — about English gardens and I've often observed that we try too hard to reproduce them here. Love's Labour's Lost, rather often; after all, we don't have the British climate, not by and large, and anyway are our American gardens all that shabby? I've seen some dandies through the years and now, it seems, Mrs. Verey has too. Of course she mentions glorious Filoli, a few miles south of San Francisco, and Longue Vue, near New Orleans, and Mrs. Farrand's garden in Bar Harbor, now perished, and her work at Dumbarton Oaks, so beautifully preserved for us all; but her attention focuses on gardens in private hands — smallish properties mostly — and she illustrates a remarkable variety. There are several tumbled cottage plots — none of them more attractive than Mrs. Worl's in Palo, by the way — and tidy Tudoresque pleasaunces, all clipped box and spring flowers, and a drop-dead Spanish palace in California, and some nostalgic Southern gardens in the plantation style, and wild gardens in the Pacific North-West, and urban gardens, and kitchen gardens, and Mrs. Perenyi's Peaceable Kingdom in miniature, and for those of us who live on the Gulf Coast, Mrs. Hull's Dogwoods. Bayou Bend, which it adjoins, is on a grander scale but Dogwoods, I think, excels it in detail and polish. Houston's climate is trying but our spring gardens — azaleas, camellias, wisterias, Banks' roses, and any number of flowering trees, shrubs, and bulbs, all rioting away in the happiest association — are reasonably stunning by any standards.

A nice book and handsomely produced; thank you, ladies, very much. I do wish that you had managed to find something suited to your purpose in Hawaii and maybe a desert garden in the South-West?

Mrs. Verey, whose garden at Baronsley House is amongst the most famous in England, is the author of The Scented Garden and Classic Garden Design. With Mrs. James Lees-Milne, she co-authored The Englishwoman's Garden and The Englishman's Garden. Mrs. Samuels writes, lectures, and designs for clients both public and private. She recently completed the gardens at the Cloisters in Fort Tryon Park for the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



STATE OF THE STATE

Thanks to Conrad, as always, for his book reviews, and the quotation on page 3. Eugenie Moss of Mount Pleasant, Michigan, writes, "I enjoyed your latest "Old Texas Rose" very much. Mr Tips certainly has the right name for it -- (the) Cecille Brunner perplex!"

Our Buddy Mike Shoup Jr has pretty well gone and done it, if you ask me. The Antique Rose Emporium has purchased an 8A tract in Independence with a lovely old stone kitchen on it, circa 1872. They have got the land cleared, but let me tell you, getting that place to be a retail garden center is going to keep them all out of the pool hall for the next year or so!

I got an awfully nice note from Elinor McBride of Whistler, AL, who writes, "I've enjoyed reading the Old Texas Rose. Each issue adds so much to the fever I've developed, 'the love of Old Roses'. (I) hope some day to start a group of old rose enthusiasts here in the Mobile area. Keep up the good work." As Buddy Harrison observed, one does NOT need an analyst, just understanding loved ones!!! In honor of Mrs McB and other newly-infected sufferers, I reprint Buddy's two articles from The Yellow Rose. Of all the afflicted with the malady, I believe he and Joe Woodard are the worst: after all, they drove to Kansas for some cuttings!!!!!!

Better Homes & Gardens Country Homes for August has a nice article on antique roses with several color illustrations and features Professor Griffith Buck's hardy roses.

Can anyone guess the Masked Avenger in our feature article? I wonder what the Parks Dept. would say to someone who put something back? Blessings on you, M.A.!!!! (It seems to me many of our members operate only at night! Is that right, George R.???)

Mother and I went to Canyon Lake to visit a friend of hers, so I made two horticultural calls. Mr & Mrs Walter Kessel have a wonderful cottage garden at their home at Paige, on the Austin road. He grows mallows that are simply unbelievable! And I dropped in on Mr & Mrs Otto Locke in New Braunfels. Mr L's gf began the nursery in 1856, the oldest in Texas. They certainly listed some great roses in their 1903 catalogue! She had Souvenir de la Malmaison blooming in her back border. For once that area seems to have had enough rain.

Ginny Hopper and Joyce Demits have their catalogue out for 1985-86 now, and I can tell how they have been working at identification, as they have most of their unknowns with probable names. Only collectors like Texas Symposium members can appreciate how many books that means they have read!!! Send \$1 to Heritage Rose Gardens, 40350 Wilderness Road, Branscomb CA 95417 if you are not on their mailing list.

UNKNOWN MALADY

J. Harrison

This malady has been said to resemble the fever that struck the people of the U.S. when gold was discovered in California, or oil was found in Texas. The fever removes all ability to reason rationally and causes people who have been known to be very conservative to throw caution to the winds. If you had asked the stricken persons (before the disease struck), to arise at 4:00 A.M and drive three hundred miles to gather some sticks, they would have been very impolite in refusing your invitation. If their spouses had suggested that they get in the car and spend seven hours traveling to satisfy a rumor, they would have just laughed and continued to watch television or read a good book. The symptoms of the disease are not evident at all times, but seem to be triggered by statements like: "George talked to a salesman and he knows where hundreds of these can be found !" or "My Aunt Betty told me that she used to see them in a graveyard near her home town! ". These statements immediately cause the disease to flare-up, and the person affected calls all of the other affected friends to set-up the time to start on another gathering trip. Some people have been known to ignore relatives' weddings or birthdays when stricken .

In recent years there has been a noticed rise in groups of these stricken people roaming the fields, cities, and graveyards of Texas and Louisiana. They are equipped with shovels, red-handled pruning shears, and either baggies or one gallon milk bottles that have the tops cutoff. They can be seen running around with no apparent plan but just responding to the cries of "HERE IS ONE." They all gather around and take small sticks from the bush in question, label the sticks and either place them in the milk bottles or baggies and then separate to look for more bushes. After the last bush has been found in that location they all return to their cars and trucks to go to the next location where there is a rumored bush or bushes. Once the sticks are gathered they are taken home to be put in the refrigerator until the appropriate time to put them in the ground. When the owner has decided to put them in the soil he has to be sure that he has seven-up or coke 2 liter bottles to cover them with and must have willow water to soak them in over night. Once the sticks have been put in the ground

that has been specially prepared and covered with the bottles, the disease again goes into remission until the cries are repeated.

If you haven't guessed what group I have been talking about then you have not been involved in the Rose Rustles that have ben conducted in the last three or four years in the Dallas and Navasota areas. Although we have gathered redbugs, ticks, sunburn, and gotten very wet from rain, we have also met some wonderful people (not ghosts) in the towns and graveyards that we have visited. Since the disease (once contracted) cannot be cured the next issue of the Yellow Rose will have instructions on the equipment necessary to make the period of affliction more acceptable.

In the last issue of the Yellow Rose U.M. was discussed, and the symptoms were disclosed so that each one who is affected would not be wasting money going to the shrinks. For the small sum of a subscription to the Yellow Rose you will discover that it is an illness to be enjoyed instead of dreaded.

But first let's attend to a poor soul who has written to the Yellow Rose with the question "Am I inflicted?". We of the staff of the Yellow Rose happily answer "Yes" and welcome to the group Ollie Mae.

The affliction is much better endured if the day-to-day demands on the individual are limited, and the people and animals who depend on them for affection and sustenance are very understanding. The ideal situation for enjoyment of the malady is to be unmarried, wealthy (so that you can respond to the urges on a moments notice), and have no animals or homesites that require care.

Now that the ideal situation has been covered we can go into the necessary implements that each one must have to enjoy this common affliction.

- O Pruning Shears.
- O Marking Pen.
- O Plastic Labeling (Can be made from plastic bottles).
- O Plastic baggies or gallon milk jugs with the top cut down.
- O Sunburn oil.
- O Chigger repelent or for the folowing days itch salve.
- O Shovel (Sometimes whole bushes must be removed.).
- O Counterfit identification cards (Some bush owners may be unfriendly).
- O Maps that show cemetaryies.
- O Books with pictures of old roses.
- O Memorized list of the types of old roses (to be used in discussions of the type bush that is being discussed). The person who can throw in the most types of bushes usually wins the arguments.
- O Willow water.

HOW TO RAISE ROSES FROM SEED

Pamela Puryear, Ed & Corr Sec

This spring the bees must have been busy, for I discovered that two of my old roses were pregnant!! These were Tom Adam's 'Blackjack Bramble' (prob Tuscany Superb) and Mme Isaac P.

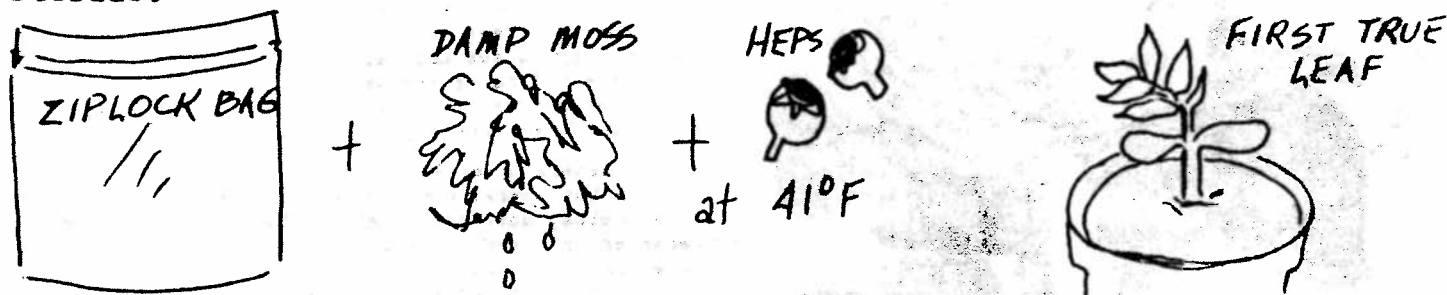


A rose hep with seeds looks like this. If the seeds are ripened by a complicated process to overcome their natural double dormancy, and the seeds are planted, the lil Dickenses will grow up a real rose bush!

First of all, make sure you have a desirable cross. The best way, of course, is not to leave it to the bees, but do it yourself by putting the pollen of one rose on the center of another bloom, and covering with the toe cut out of some old ruined panty hose. This will keep bees and bugs out and insure the cross you made.

Two everbloomers will have everblooming babies, but a spring-bloomer and an everbloomer will not -- in the first generation. About 25%, with a nod to Mendel, will be everbloomers in the second generation. This is why China Hybrids are only spring bloomers unless crossed again. With this in mind, I will forego raising Tuscany's children, even though 'Maggie' was probably the pollen parent. I will plant Mme Isaac's seeds because Cramoisie was probably the pollen parent there, so chances are I'll get mostly ever-blooming seedlings. Some roses make better seed parents than others: it seems to me that Hybrid Perpetuals and Bourbons are good potential seed bearers.

To ripen your heps once they have formed, store them in the pod for about three months in the vegetable crisper in a ziplock bag with damp (but not wet) peat or sphagnum moss. Then remove to 70° temps for six weeks, and then put them back into the crisper. In late February -- if you can wait that long! -- remove the seeds from the pods. They will vary in size, but the test is to put them in water; those that float are sterile.



Sow the ones that sank about one inch apart in a seed box or in the garden and cover with 1/2 inch sterile soil. Our very early spring temperatures should be about right for them.

Very few will germinate and those do will be very erratic at it. But what a thrill to see true rose leaves on the tiny seedlings!

When your seedlings are larger and have four or more true leaves, the tiny roses will BLOOM. Perhaps you have seen rose cuttings do this? The blooms will be single or semidouble even when the adult rose is very double. But the color will be true. Go through your seedlings, the experts say, and discard all muddy, pale, or dull colors. Well, this is fine for experts and breeders, but none of us are going to throw away any of our own children! Grow on in the nursery bed and plant out when dormant the following winter.

Now you have a rose of your very own and the probability is that that it'sy bush is the only rose just like that, ever, in the whole universe! It is your baby and you get to name it. Tell your loved ones that if they are good, they might get a rose named after them like "Grace of Monaco," "Queen Elizabeth", etc.

One word of warning: triploids (3X) are the mules of the rose kingdom, and very nearly sterile. Rose crosses should be between diploids (2X) and tetraploids (4X) which will combine. Most of our vigorous old roses are tetraploid and will have tetra babies. But roses like R. bracteata Macartney are triploid and their seeds even when fertilized will not germinate. Refer to G S Thomas's book The Old Shrub Roses to see a chart telling who is what.

For Further Reading:

James Underwood Crockett. Time-Life Book of Roses. c 1974 (?)

E B LeGrice. Rose Growing Complete. London: Faber & Faber, c 1965.
esp pp 237-240.



In my Autumn garden I was fain
To mourn among my scattered roses;
Alas for that last rosebud that uncloses
To Autumn's languid sun and rain
When all the world is on the wane!
Which has not felt the sweet constraint of June,
Nor heard the nightingale in tune.

Broad-faced asters by my garden walk,
You are but coarse compared with roses:
More choice, more dear that rosebud which uncloses,
Faint-scented, plucked, upon its stalk,
That least and last which cold winds balk;
A rose it is though least and last of all,
A rose to me though at the fall.

Christina Rossetti.

ROSE ANATOMY

Sepals

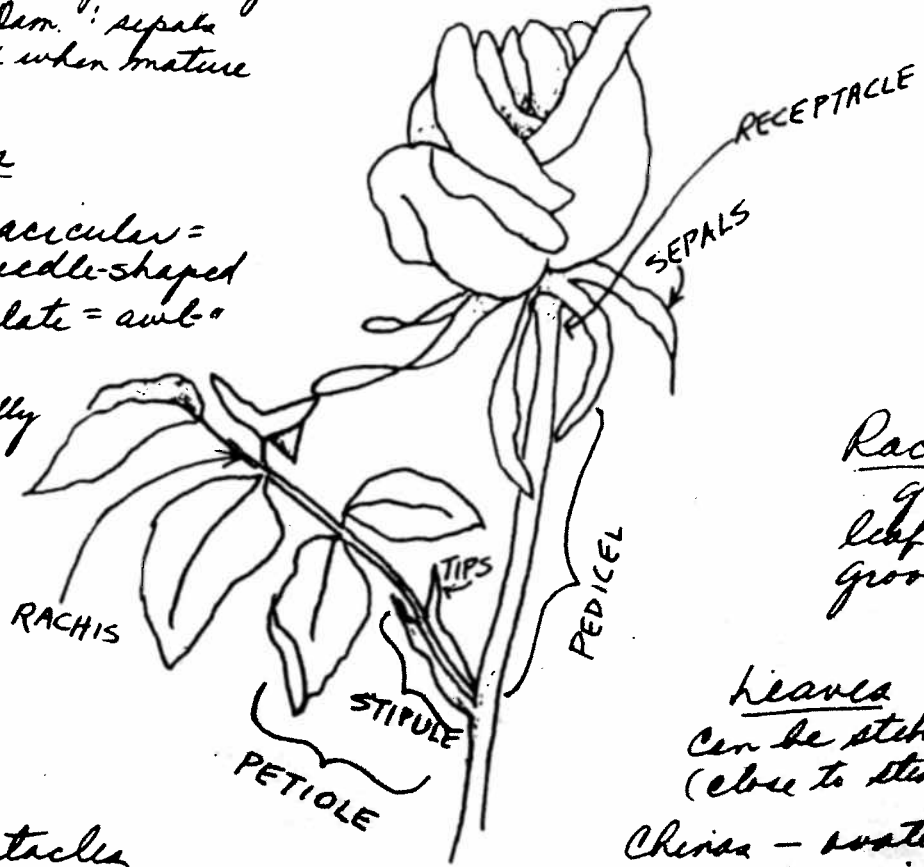
may be:
attenuate = slender, tapering
dilate = widen at top
winged = foliaceous
HPs: The sepals horizontal
Alba & Dam.: sepals
reflex when mature

Bracts

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

Thorns

acicular =
needle-shaped
subulate = awl-
Thorns at
nodes usually
indicate
species.



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

China - ovate, elliptic or
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 Lénie Bell. "Rose
Signatures" American Rose
Annual. 1970. pp 104-117.



Papa Gontier.
Catherine Mermet.

La France.
Sunset.

Perle des Jardins.

"We live enraptured—thou'rt here, O June,—All fragrant with the odor of thy roses."