

Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal

An American Rose Society Publication



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Maureen Reed Detweiler, Editor

Spring 2005

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

As president of the American Rose Society, it is my great pleasure to introduce **Maureen Detweiler**, a member of the ARS Old Garden Rose and Shrub Committee, and now, more importantly, she has accepted appointment as editor of the *Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal*.

Maureen is a native of New Orleans, one of three founders of the highly successful New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society, an outstanding writer and speaker on the subject of old garden roses. She is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of OGRs and old rose gardens of New Orleans. She is also one of the founders of the Tennessee Williams/ New Orleans Literary Festival, and serves on the board.

Conservation comes naturally to Maureen as she recently retired after seven years as chief conservator at the New Orleans Notarial Archives Research Center. Among her recent projects was an effort to preserve the old rose plantings threatened with destruction at Armstrong Park. She served as chairman of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Exhibit at the New Orleans Botanical Garden.

Maureen is multi-talented. According to her best friend, Charlotte Haring, she is an artist. She paints, she sews wedding dresses and christening gowns for her family, she upholsters her own furniture, she is the "best cook in the state," often cooking for crowds, and her best gifts are her famous fig preserves and Louisiana navel orange bread!

Upon her appointment, Maureen said, "I will be pleased and honored to serve as editor of the *Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal*. . . . Thank you for giving me the opportunity to bring my work (and play) with my beloved old roses, which has brought me so much joy and so many wonderful friends, to the national level. I look forward to this with great anticipation. . . . it is exactly the kind of volunteer work that I have always hoped to be able to do in my retirement . . . a dream come true."

It is also a dream come true for ARS and OGR enthusiasts that Maureen will be carrying the OGR banner for ARS through our quarterly publication. It speaks well of our mission and our work that we are able to gain the support of rosarians like Maureen. The ARS Old Garden Rose and Shrub Committee is fully engaged in ambitious and meaningful projects under the leadership of Chairman Claude Graves. We are enjoying relationships with other OGR groups, who bring considerable expertise and knowledge to the efforts we are making.

To all: please support the *OGR & S Journal* with your ideas, articles, important calendar dates, subscriptions, and tell your friends about it. To Maureen: welcome aboard and good luck. We look forward to receiving your first issue and many more to follow.

Marilyn Wellan, President
American Rose Society



Photo by Charlotte Haring

Maureen Reed Detweiler

THE GULF DISTRICT DAVID AUSTIN RESEARCH GARDEN

by Charlotte Haring

The Gulf District David Austin Research Garden was planted at the American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA, in early 2003. The garden is devoted to the display and study of David Austin Roses. In order to determine the suitability of the Austin roses for the hot, humid climate of the Gulf South, their performance is closely monitored and documented by members of the research committee. Charlotte Haring serves as the committee chairman.

The Gulf District Austin Garden is near the new Klima Education and Visitor Center. It is oval-shaped and measures 75 feet by 80 feet. It contains nine beds planted with 167 rose plants of 36 varieties in multiples of three to five. All roses were donated by David Austin Roses Limited. An asphalt path winds gracefully around the curved beds. Gentle sounds can be heard from the fountain in the 5-foot cast iron sugar kettle which was donated by the Oktibeha Rose Society, Dr. Harold and Ida Hayden and Pete and Charlotte Haring. Behind the garden stand three 8-foot tall, white cypress pillars planted with climbers that were donated by the Baton Rouge Rose Society. Master Gardeners and other volunteers spent many hours restoring and refinishing the pillars. Other amenities include three iron pergolas and a 5-foot metal "egg," which were designed, built and donated by a South Louisiana "Friend of the Garden."

During the first year, the roses grew rapidly and produced a heavy, healthy bloom count. The second year's growth and bloom left little doubt they were achieving full maturity quickly. Problems recorded in the first two years were mostly from deer and voles who found the Austin plants irresistible. Moderate mildew and black-spot were noted at times on some plants, but were not debilitating. Some pine trees have subsequently been removed to allow more sunshine on the roses.

David Austin's goal was to produce roses with the charm, fragrance and good health of old

roses, and the color range and useful bedding qualities of modern roses. These qualities are evident in the garden. In the committee's progress report of July 2004, the following varieties were judged to be outstanding with regard to disease resistance, growth, bloom and fragrance:

1. 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' - 80 to 100 blooms, excellent bright crimson coloring
2. 'Benjamin Britten' - 30 blooms, unusual orange-red color, excellent growth
3. 'Jude the Obscure' - 15 blooms, overwhelmingly the most fragrant, ranked excellent by research committee members, a popular sell-out at the American Rose Center spring and fall festivals
4. 'Heritage' - 70 blooms, overall excellent grower, healthy

In the Fall 2004, report, these were added to the list of outstanding performers:

1. 'Corvedale' - a fall favorite of the chairman, rose pink, cup-shaped blooms, musk fragrance
2. 'Molineux' - one of the best yellows
3. 'Fair Bianca' - pure white blooms in clusters, easily recognized from a distance
4. 'Glamis Castle' - white with a hint of buff, very floriferous
5. 'Sharifa Asma' - blush pink blooms, the favorite of more than one researcher
6. 'The Dark Lady' - rich, dark crimson, very large ruffly blooms, related to a rugosa

The American Rose Society is grateful for this outstanding addition to the American Rose Center. Future plans include the addition of two perennial gardens to be planted beside the existing rose beds as well as the ongoing addition of other varieties of David Austin Roses. Thus, the dream of many to create this research garden to document this information and to display these beautiful, fragrant shrubs will be realized.

RESOLVING THE CLASS WAR

by Claude Graves

In 1999 an event occurred at an American Rose Society national board meeting that would eventually set off a wave of protest from members of the old garden rose community as they gradually became aware of it. That event was the vote to change the longstanding traditional classification of many popular old garden roses. The ARS says the changes were made in response to a request from the World Federation of Rose Societies, although it appears now that perhaps the changes were not wanted by the majority of recognized international heritage rose experts.

In the past a rose was usually classified according to how the hybridizer classified it or by how it was classed in historical documents. The new changes appear to be the result of the desire of a few in the scientific community for a more botanically correct nomenclature as opposed to the traditional, perhaps "commercial" designations. There has been a longstanding debate as to whether to determine the class of a rose by growth habit versus parentage and genetics. This whole subject is a very sticky wicket, and good arguments can be made for both sides. But, in general, the OGR growers of the world appreciate the established and well known historical classification in spite of its sometimes horticulturally incorrect application.

Of the changes made, the one which seemed to get the most rapid reaction by the OGR community was the decision to drop the classification "rambler" and replace it, in most cases, with hybrid wichurana or hybrid multiflora. This did create quite a stir among many old rose enthusiasts.

The classification of rambler had a lengthy history and was a term used in thousands of rose books, both modern and historical. The loss of this appropriate (from a growth habit standpoint) and romantic traditional description was not easily accepted by the lovers of old roses. There did develop a loud and long outcry that still reverberates today to go back to rambler as a class.

Nearly lost in all the gnashing of teeth over the rambler issue was another and equally unsettling change which, until recently, was overshadowed by the dominance of the rambler issue. With the publication of *Modern Roses XI*, it began to creep into the awareness of casual, or perhaps not so dedicated, old rose enthusiasts that the classification of many of their favorite old roses had changed. The most glaring change was the shifting of many china roses

to hybrid china. Suddenly, many rosarians discovered that their favorite chinas, including 'Cramoisi Superieur,' 'Archduke Charles' and 'Hermosa,' were now hybrid chinas (HCh), while some chinas, such as 'Ducher,' 'Old Blush' and 'Louis Philippe,' remained as chinas. To confuse the issue further, recent issues of the *ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses* list these latter three as HCh. There didn't seem to be any logic to this re-organization, and confusion exists about what the revised classification means and to which roses it applies.

The traditional term hybrid china referred to the once-blooming first generation offspring resulting from the cross of a china rose (an everblooming rose from China or its everblooming descendants) and a once-blooming European rose (gallica, damask, alba). The term hybrid china clearly defined these new roses. Gardeners knew that a rose classed as a hybrid china would be a once-blooming, cold hardy shrub with a unique, vigorous growth habit which would be ideal for all climates. Now, with the "hybrid" attached to almost *all* china roses, the term has no descriptive value or logical meaning. Instead, it creates more confusion. As Dr. Malcolm Manners so aptly puts it, "With this reasoning, the hybrid teas should now be called hybrid-hybrid teas!"

As you can imagine, these changes caused a wave of expressed displeasure, not only with the OGR enthusiasts and gardeners in this country, but among nursery professionals and gardeners worldwide, as well. But, now the good news . . . all of the displeasure and disagreement seems now to be resolving itself in a constructive and very positive manner. Marily Young, co-chair of the ARS Classification Committee, called a special meeting in January 2005 in conjunction with the Huntington Great Rosarians Program in California. The purpose of the meeting was to revisit the entire subject of rose classification and to receive input from invited parties involved with the issue. Among those invited to attend were Marily Young, co-chair of the ARS Classification Committee; Steve Jones, ARS vice president representing the ARS; Dr. Malcolm Manners, chairman Heritage Rose Foundation; Steven Scanniello, president of HRF; Gregg Lowery, Vintage Gardens, HRF Trustee; Phillip Robinson, Vintage Gardens; Jeri Jennings, Heritage

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Roses Group; Clair Martin, curator of the rose gardens at the Huntington Botanic Garden; Mel Hulse, director of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and HRF Trustee; and Margaret and Peter Harkness of Hitchin, England, adding a strong international voice to the proceedings.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend as chair of the ARS OGR Committee. However, I have followed the meeting and its outcome closely. The results of the conference seem to be very positive although nothing specific was settled. The group did make much headway in presenting the rationale for returning to the traditional classifications. Everyone felt the issue was very important and worthy of a more thorough study and review. The conference ended with everyone on board to continue the discussions by e-mail. I am happy to report that has happened. The e-mail volume is going strong with ongoing discussions.

What will the outcome be? I don't know. Discussions are ranging from a possible dual classification system (one for the botanists and one for the rest of us) to a proposal that would essentially go back to the *Modern Roses IV* or *Modern Roses V* definitions of classes. Which (if any) of these ideas will prevail is just speculation at this time. But, I do know a number of very knowledgeable people are putting a lot of thought and time into this issue. Now we have many of the principles involved in a very constructive reevaluation of the entire classification issue. This is a great example of bringing everyone together to work out a problem which has many passionate viewpoints. It is our hope that it will result in a system that will allow us to honor the more traditional, historical description of the roses we love so much.

YESTERDAY'S ROSES OF PUERTO RICO

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Jose Marrero Torrada, a professional horticulturalist and forester, wrote a fine monograph on the old roses of Puerto Rico in 1989, when he was 78 years old. After years of research on the history of the rose in Puerto Rico, made difficult due to the scarcity of written documentation, he completed the work entitled *Yesterday's Roses*. He was very concerned about preserving old roses for the future. He stated in the foreword, "I believe it my duty as a citizen to see that the information accumulated is

not lost for want of publication. This may also serve as a guide to future collectors."

Yesterday's Roses, or *Las Rosas Del Ayer*, is a 30-page, typewritten document which includes the history of roses and of roses in Puerto Rico, his methods of collecting roses, suggestions for preserving collections for the future, and a bibliography. The paper was written in Spanish and translated into English (with the author's permission) in 1993 by Peggy Nicoll of the Bermuda Rose Society. Nicoll then sent copies of the work to several old rose luminaries in the United States.

The roses Torrada collected, studied and documented in Puerto Rico have been found, principally in Rio Piedras and its districts. He stressed that he had not collected roses in all areas of Puerto Rico. And, although he assumed the same varieties would be found in other sites, he expressed the possibility that there may have been additional varieties surviving in other sites which future collectors may be able to obtain.

Torrada tells of the effects of the Puerto Rican culture and customs on rose cultivation there. For example, cultivating roses was a popular amusement for women in the 19th and early 20th centuries, since their activities were limited to the oversight of servants and domestic matters. Only the cultivation of ornamental plants was considered proper for ladies. Therefore, ornamental plants, such as roses, were referred to as "the plants of the lady of the house." *Yesterday's Roses* is dedicated "to the Puerto Rican woman, who like all women, loved roses and cultivated them with unselfish dedication."

He states that the most important and best known roses in Puerto Rico were the tea roses, followed closely, because of their adaptability, resistance, and because they required less care, by the chinas. Noisettes, although he believes there were fewer varieties present, were also important because they were the best climbers and very prolific bloomers.

Of the hundreds of old roses which were collected and studied by Torrada, he selected 50 of the best known and most successful in Puerto Rico to list in this work. It is not surprising that the roses he found thriving there were some of the same ones found in other warm climates. They are as follows

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(official names in single quotes and the common or local names in parentheses):

'Archduke Charles' china
'Balduin' (Red Maman Cochet) hybrid tea
'Barone Henriette de Snoy' tea
'Bridesmaid' (Rio Piedras Pink) tea
'Champion of the World' (Cien Hojas- Hundred Leaves) (Bath Rose) hybrid perpetual
'Clotilde Soupert' polyantha
'Clotilde Soupert, Climbing' polyantha
'Cramoisi Superieur' (Agripina) china - most common china rose in Puerto Rico
(Crown Hill Pink) tea - common in the Rio Piedras area where it is known by several names and is believed to be 'Maman Cochet'
'Duchesse de Brabant' (Guayaba Rose) tea
(Duquesita) (Little Duchess) noisette - similar to 'Blush Noisette'
'Elli Hartmann' hybrid tea
'Etoile de Lyon' or 'Alexander Hill Gray' unsure of variety
'Eugene E. Marlitt' bourbon
'Frau Karl Druschki' hybrid perpetual
'Green Rose' '*R. Chinensis Viridiflora*' china
'Hadley' (Rio Piedras Dark Red) hybrid tea
(Hatillo Pink) hybrid tea - similar to 'J. Otto Thilow'
'Hermosa' china
'Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria' hybrid tea
'Konigin Luise' hybrid tea
'La Marne' polyantha
'Lamarque' noisette
'Limon' possibly a china, blooms pale pink changing to white
'Louis Philippe' china
'Mme Jules Bouche' (Blanca del Pais) (Puerto Rico White) hybrid tea
'Mlle Franziska Kruger' tea
'Maman Cochet' tea
'Marechal Niel' ((Mameya) noisette
(Mercerized Rose) (Paper Rose) china - thick petals in two tones of pink
'Mignonette' (Baby Rose) polyantha
'Moonlight' or 'Prosperity' (Bride's Rose) hybrid musk - used as brides' bouquets in the past
'Mrs B.R. Cant' tea
'Mrs Dudley Cross' (Thornless Rose) tea
'Old Blush' (Cloth Rose) china
(Old Tea) tea - blooms are cream shaded with peach and pink
'Paul Neyron' (Saucer Rose) hybrid perpetual
'Perle des Jardins, Climbing' tea
'Pompon de Paris' china
(Pink Paquini)(Pink Pet) class unknown - small, dark pink blooms in clusters

'Radiance' hybrid tea
(Red China - unknown variety resembles other red chinas with some differences)
'Red Radiance' hybrid tea
'*Rosa Roxburghii*' (Chickpea Rose) (Chestnut Rose) (Burr Rose) species
'Safrano' tea
(Santa Rita Pink) tea - remarkable, bright pink blooms, darker on edges.
'Souvenir de la Malmaison' Bourbon
'Souvenir de Pierre Notting' (Lajas Peach) tea
'White Maman Cochet' tea
'William R. Smith' tea

Those interested in obtaining a copy of this monograph may write to the editor of this publication.

FROM THE EDITOR

The *Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal* is a quarterly publication of the American Rose Society. The purpose of the publication is to provide original articles and information which are of special interest to those who love old roses.

Original articles and information relating to old roses and their patrons throughout history are welcome. Please submit the articles to the editor by electronic or regular mail.

All articles submitted will be subject to editing. Care will be taken to preserve the meaning of the writing. Information published will be true and accurate at the date of publication. The American Rose Society, the author and editor, acting in good faith, will not accept any legal responsibility for error, knowing or unknowing omissions or commissions.

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IDENTIFYING "FOUND" ROSES

by Claude Graves

As most of you know by now, the new ARS judging guidelines state that the ARS must approve any "found" rose before it can be shown in ARS certificate classes at shows. This ruling stirred up a lot of controversy in the old rose community, much of which stemmed from a misunderstanding of what the ruling actually said. What the rule says is just that "found" roses cannot be shown in classes in which the winner is awarded an ARS certificate other official ARS award or ribbon. A show may have a special class for found roses and may award any kind of trophy or award other than an ARS award. A found rose may not be shown in the class for Dowager Queen or Victorian Award, etc. This makes sense, for if it is "found," it is therefore unidentified, so how can the date of introduction or other requirements for qualification be documented?

It would be travesty if these great old roses of questionable origin could not be displayed to the public. There is much educational value in showing these roses, and it is fortunate that the new judging guidelines do not eliminate the possibility of showing these roses and awarding them trophies!

This ruling makes it more incumbent upon us to get these roses identified (if possible), not only so they can compete for ARS awards, but more importantly, so these "survivors" can take their rightful place in rose commerce. There is no opposition to trying to identify the found roses, the outcry is about who will be the "authority" to make the decisions. Many old rose enthusiasts have considerable sweat equity invested in finding, researching and preserving these wonderful roses, and they would like to have a say in the identification process. And rightfully so!

The authority for the final decisions about registering these roses and establishing the AEN is the Registration Committee of the American Rose Society. The American Rose Society is the official rose registrar for the world's roses. Phil Schorr and Marily Young co-chair the committee. I am a member of the committee by virtue of the fact that the chairman of the OGR Committee is automatically a member of the Registration Committee. Phil has taken on the

tremendous job of trying to identify as many of these roses as possible and is requesting help from all responsible parties who have an interest and want their voices heard in the identification / registration process. The ARS has no intent or desire to be dictatorial or arbitrary in this process.

I am making this project for registering found roses a primary agenda item for the OGR and Shrub Committee, and am inviting input from other individuals and groups with a mutual interest in found roses. I have specifically discussed this project with members of the Heritage Rose Foundation and the Heritage Roses Group, and we are currently exploring how we might form a joint group or committee to make recommendations to the ARS Registration Committee.

It is extremely important that all discussions about these found roses be done openly with access available to any and all persons who want to express their opinions. I am very enthusiastic about the initial response from the old rose community. Many good ideas are developing with regard to establishing the mechanics for such a group to operate and concepts for the rules under which the roses would be evaluated.

I am confident that the many entities interested in found roses can come together and collectively make great progress in establishing specific identifies of the found roses. Of course, many roses will never be identified, but maybe we can establish that many of the found roses existing under different study names are the same rose and get these roses reduced to one name.

If you would like to be a part of this process please e-mail me at claudes.graves@comcast.net advising of your interest. When the forum for discussion is established, I will make sure you are notified.

PREPARING FOR THE PAST

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Heritage Rose Foundation Conference May 12th through May 16th, 2005, El Cerrito, CA

The California Committee for the 2005 Conference cordially invites you to attend a gathering of lovers of the old roses that have found their way westward to the edge of the continent. It will be a meeting by San Francisco Bay where the era of old California and the forty-niners of the gold rush days lives on in the roses that still stand in old cemeteries and homestead. For more information, please visit the website: www.heritageRoseFoundation.com

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Antique Roses for the South - New Edition
by William C. Welch, Extension Landscape Specialist in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A & M.
December 2004, \$24.95, paper binding, 216 pages, 216 color photos
Taylor Trade Publishing, distributed by National Book Network

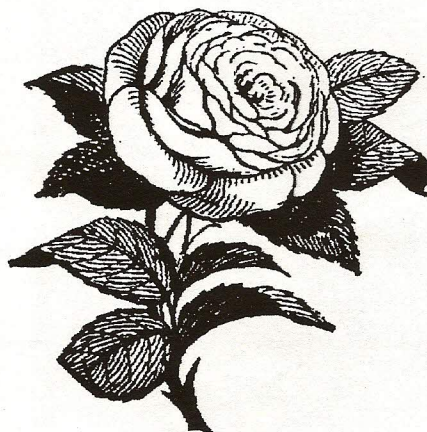
This is an updated, soft-cover edition of an old favorite. It is the same size as the cloth-bound original and contains a new foreword by Neil Sperry. There are some beautiful new photographs and the old ones look more vibrant. An interesting addition is the author's story of his personal history with old garden roses which illustrates the role he played in the rebirth of their popularity.

Roses of Yesterday 2005 - Catalog from the garden of Roses of Yesterday and Today in Watsonville, California, offering Old-Rare-Unusual and Selected Modern Roses

This rose business was established by Francis E. Lester in the 1930s, was continued by Will Tillotson from 1948 to 1957, and carried on by Dorothy Stemler until her passing in 1976. Her daughter, Patricia Stemler Wiley, and Patricia's husband, Newton Wiley, ran the business for the next 20 years until they retired. Since 1998, their sons Andy and Jack Wiley, and Jack's wife, Guinivere, continue to keep the garden open to the public and offer budded and own-root roses for sale there and by mail order. For information please visit their web site: www.rosesofyesterday.com

To order the beautiful catalog please telephone or e-mail:

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