



Old Garden Rose and Shrub Journal



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Maureen Reed Detweiler, Editor

Spring 2006

GUARANTEED ROSES

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Here in New Orleans, I used to grow modern roses and a few old garden roses that were budded onto 'R. multiflora' or 'Dr. Huey' rootstock. I also grew old garden roses on their own roots. I could never understand why the budded roses did not thrive as those on their own roots did.

Even though I amended the soil, sprayed, fed, and watered as the experts advised, the budded plants steadily declined. I researched the rose manuals and society journals. But rosarians in other places did not seem to have this problem with budded roses.

Then one day, about 20 years ago, a dear rose friend, Charlotte Haring, gave me a copy of a fine monograph which was published by a New Orleans rosarian in 1954. The work is entitled *Roses Guaranteed* and was written by Lt. Col. Frank Russell Worthington, U.S. Marine Corps.

The work is an 8.5 x11, typed, 37-page booklet, illustrated with 14 charming pen and ink drawings by the author. It details the writer's 25 year quest to determine why budded roses do not thrive in New Orleans as they do in other places. But also includes a brief history of the rose in New Orleans, the rose in commerce, and rose cultivation.

In the preface of *Roses Guaranteed*, Col. Worthington states, "After 25 years' work filled with many disappointments, we have met with a measure of success, because of a determined will to find the key to successful rose growing in our city."

For years Col. Worthington had meticulously employed the cultivation techniques of recognized rose authorities whose specimens were awarded top honors in rose shows in other climates. His efforts were not rewarded; the plants failed to thrive. However, the roses of his neighbors, which were of great age and growing on their own roots, produced an abundance of beautiful blooms with practically no care and were never dormant.

He was determined to solve this mystery. He investigated and found that the neighbors' old roses were varieties which had as their original habitats places of high humidity, heavy rainfall, and rich soil. These were conditions which closely paralleled those of our own New Orleans climate.

He decided to investigate the possibility of growing
(continued page 5)



Frank Russell Worthington

HYBRID WICHURANA ROSES

PART III - ONCE-BLOOMING LARGE-FLOWERED CLIMBERS

by Robert Berrien

All the roses included in Part III bloom only in the spring and are called small-flowered because their open blossoms have a diameter of less than two inches. In past years once-blooming, small-flowered climbers were frequently referred to as "ramblers," a title which the American Rose Society has now discontinued. Even so, I sometimes use that term here because it is still so popular.

In making only selections which I thought worth talking about, I got two unexpected results. The first is that my selections numbered less than half the total number of large-flowered climbers which appear in Parts I and II. The second is that I found only four yellow climbers worth talking about whereas in Parts I and II it was the red roses which were in short supply. I have no explanation for these incongruities unless they are purely a matter of coincidence. All of my selections in Part III are classified as hybrid wichuranas in *Modern Roses XI* with one exception noted below.

'Universal Favorite' (1898), by Michael Horvath, is a pink hybrid wichurana which is no longer available, but is discussed here to show how 'Dorothy Perkins' (1901), (see below), dominated the market and swept 'Universal Favorite' into oblivion. Nevertheless, it apparently was a pioneer of the small-flowered hybrid wichuranas. 'Universal Favorite' was a cross between '*R. wichurana*' and a polyantha rose called 'Paqueretta' (1875).

'Francois Foucard' (1900) is a lovely yellow, French climber which was slow being introduced into the United States, and once it was, had a hard time competing with 'Dorothy Perkins' (1901), (see below). The bush I saw at the Roseria de l'Hay in Paris was only moderately fragrant, but made an impressive climber growing to about nine feet. Its pollen parent was the noisette called 'L'Ideal'

(1887). It is fortunate that this attractive climber by Rene Barbier is still available from one North American nursery. (See Schneider, *Combined Rose List 2005*, 95)

'Mme. Constans' (1900), by Jules Graverdaux, is a light pink hybrid wichurana which I also saw years ago at the Roserie de l'Hay in Paris. There they have a marvelous collection of hybrid wichuranas, of which this one was unusually fragrant. If you like light pink roses in clusters, you would love this climber. But it is currently available only at one European nursery. (See Schneider, *Combined Rose List 2005*, 20)

'Dorothy Perkins' (1901) became very successful in the United States almost from the day of its introduction because of its great masses of very pink flowers. The plant was very easy to train, unlike all the multiflora ramblers of former years. Its pollen parent was a hybrid perpetual called 'Mme. Gabriel Luizet' (1877). The great financial success of the Jackson and Perkins Company nursery was due largely to the popularity of this rose.

'American Pillar' (1902) is even more popular today than when it was introduced by Wallace Van Fleet. (See Schneider, *Combined Rose List 2005*, 30) It produces large clusters of single reddish-pink blossoms which fade to a dark pink. 'American Pillar' grows to a good 15 feet tall and almost as wide. It does not make a good pillar rose. It is best used over an arch or on a large trellis. Its interesting parentage is [('*R. wichurana*' x '*R. setigera*') x a red hybrid perpetual]. I first saw this climber at Elizabeth Park Gardens in Hartford, CT, where it was trained beautifully over a broad archway and really was quite impressive.

'Debutante' (1902), by Michael Walsh, is very similar in growth and color to 'Dorothy Perkins,' but it is not as subject to mildew. I love its quilled petals on the fully open blossoms which are always borne in clusters. The bush grows to about 15 feet tall and has glossy dark green foliage. Like 'Dorothy Perkins,' it is a cross between '*R. wichurana*'

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and a hybrid perpetual ('Baroness Rothschild'), yet it is mysteriously classified as a hybrid multiflora. Since it has all the typical hybrid wichurana characteristics, I believe it should be classified as a hybrid wichurana.

'Minnehaha' (1905), by Michael Walsh, still retains a few buyers despite the fact that it has almost no fragrance. This may be because it makes such an excellent ground cover. Its double pink blossoms always come in clusters, and flower somewhat later in the season than 'Dorothy Perkins.' One parent was the hybrid perpetual called 'Paul Neyron.' It grows to about 15 feet tall.

'Mme. Alice Garnier' (1906) was introduced by the firm of Faque-Laurent in Orleans, France. It is the shortest growing of all the climbers in this series, but it still makes a good pillar rose. Its quilled and quartered flowers are bright rose with a yellow center passing to light pink, giving a creamy apricot effect. Its pollen parent was a tea rose named 'Mme. Charles' (1864). It appears that the hybridist was Jaques Vigneron.

'Caroubier' (1912) has charming single blossoms of crimson-scarlet. Gardeners like it because it blossoms so early in the season. This is another product of Auguste Nonin, and it is fortunate that one North American nursery still sells this unusual rose (See Schneider, *Combined Rose List 2005*, 56)

'Lady Godiva' (1908) is a sport of 'Dorothy Perkins,' and still has its admirers. Perhaps because, like 'Minnehaha,' it makes an excellent ground cover. Its light pink blossoms come in clusters and are quite fragrant.

'Excelsa' (1909), by Michael Walsh, is sometimes called "Red Dorothy Perkins" since the two look so much alike except for the color of the blooms. Its pollen parent was an unknown polyantha. This lovely red rose is frequently used as a ground cover, and it grows to about 15 feet tall. It is not at all fragrant, and mildews heavily. The specific parentage of this rose is not recorded, so it is interesting to speculate where its brilliant red color came from. We know that Walsh used 'Turner's Crimson Rambler' as one parent of

'Evangeline' (1903), (See Part I), and I believe it is a safe guess that he used 'Turner's Crimson Rambler' as one parent of 'Excelsa.'

'Aviateur Bleriot' (1910), introduced by Faque-Laurent, is unusual in that its lovely blossoms have the fragrance of magnolias. Its double flowers are a rather orange-yellow shade, eventually fading to buff. It is fortunate that a few North American nurseries still handle this striking rose. I love the copper burnishing on its dark green foliage. Its pollen parent was the apricot colored noisette called 'William Allen Richardson' (1878).

'Amethyste' (1911), by Auguste Nonin, is a lovely French rose which should appear in more American gardens. It is a sport of 'Non Plus Ultra', a hybrid multiflora. I love the small mauve flowers of 'Amethyste' which I have seen in several French gardens. Also, I appreciate the dark glossy leaves of 'Amethyste,' which may be the reason it is classified as a hybrid wichurana in *Modern Roses XI*. This climber which grows to at least 15 feet, is highly recommended. It is the only mauve rose in this line of small-flowered climbers.

'Huguette Despiney' (1911), is a unique, light yellow rose whose blossoms are edged with red. It really attracted me in the Roserie de l'Hay for that reason alone. Its small double flowers were borne in clusters, but as I recall, were only moderately fragrant. It is a sport of 'Marco' (1905), which was created by Pierre Guillot.

'Sander's White Rambler' (1912). All who know of this rose seem to agree that this creation of Charles Sander is one of the best white climbers in existence. Its lovely rosette blossoms are sometimes borne in clusters, sometimes singly. Growing to at least 17 feet, it is magnificent however it is displayed. I particularly liked it planted next to a red rambler. This seems to be the first English rose in this line of once-blooming, small-flowered wichuranas.

'Ethel' (1912), is a seedling of 'Dorothy Perkins' which Peter Beales finds is a much
(continued on page 4)

healthier plant than 'Dorothy Perkins.' Its mauve-pink flowers are borne in small clusters, and are very fragrant. This climber grows to a good 20 feet.

'Gruss an Freundorf' (1913), is a beautiful dark red rose created by Franz Proskac. I can well understand why this hybrid wichurana is currently sold by three European nurseries (See Schneider, *Combined Rose List 2005*, 108) Its velvety blossoms really impressed me in a public garden in Munic, Germany. The mystery is why this lovely climber is not available from any North American nursery.

'Snowdrift' (1913), by Walsh, is listed in *Modern Roses XI* as a hybrid wichurana which is extinct, but it is currently available at Peter Beales' nursery. He calls it "a useful rose which is not widely enough known." [Beales, *Classic Roses* (1997), 350] Its small pure white blossoms are produced in large clusters. This seems to be the only white rose of Walsh which has survived. It grows to about 10 feet.

'Braiswick Charm' (1914), a creation of Frank Cant, perhaps a brother of Benjamin Cant, has lovely orange-yellow blossoms and have unusually long stems, which flower arrangers love. This climber is still seen in a few English gardens. Its parentage is unknown, but it is easy to guess one parent if one will refer back to Part II of this article where there is a discussion of Cant's deep yellow rose called 'Emily Gray' (1918). It was noted that Benjamin Cant used a light yellow rose named 'Jersey Beauty' (1899) as one parent of 'Emily Gray.' I am convinced that he also used 'Jersey Beauty' as one parent of 'Braiswick Charm.'

'Fionia' (1914) shows how the fame of 'Dorothy Perkins' went far and wide, even to Denmark, where its famous hybridizer Dines Poulsen crossed it with a red polyantha named 'Mme. Norbert Levasseur' (1903). The result was this small, light pink rose borne in clusters, which grows to be a very tall climber. It has dark, glossy foliage, so of course it is properly classified. Dines Poulsen and his sons are more famous for their work

with polyantha and floribunda roses at their nursery in Kvistgard, Denmark.

'Snowflake' (1922), by Frank Cant, produces clusters of pure white flowers which are usually fragrant. In 1921 it won the Gold Medal of the National Rose Society, and two North American nurseries are still selling this climber. (See Schneider *Combined Rose List 2005*, 229)

'General Testard' (1908) was a famous French general in World War I. But even today his rose is still sold on both sides of the Atlantic. (See Schneider, *Combined Rose List 2005*, 100) This climber has semi-double red flowers borne in large clusters. I found them quite fragrant. This rose was introduced by Pajotin-Chedane, the largest nursery in France, but the name of its actual hybridizer is not indicated.

'Luciole' (1923) has bright scarlet blossoms which really caught my eye when I first saw them at the French Chateau Chenanceux in 1980. Its single flowers with white centers are quite unique for these wichurana ramblers. It is a cross between 'Hiawatha' (1904) and an unnamed seedling. A fine creation of Auguste Nonin.

'Bloomfield Courage' (1925), by George Thomas, is often confused with 'Hiawatha,' as they both have single red blossoms. 'Bloomfield Courage' has almost no thorns, and is much easier to train than 'Hiawatha.' The comments of Scanniello and Bayard about this climber are quite informative:

"This dainty rose has small, single, dark velvety red flowers with bright white centers. They bloom in graceful open clusters of up to twenty-five blossoms that cover the bush with a solid mass of red. Nevertheless, this rose has an airy look and can easily fade into the background if it is planted with other ramblers that have larger, more showy flowers. By itself, however, on a strong arch, pergola, or any structure that can accomodate its vigorous growth, 'Bloomfield Courage' is a valuable addition to a garden because it is one of the first ramblers to come into

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bloom.” [Scanniello & Bayard, *Climbing Roses* (1994), 133]

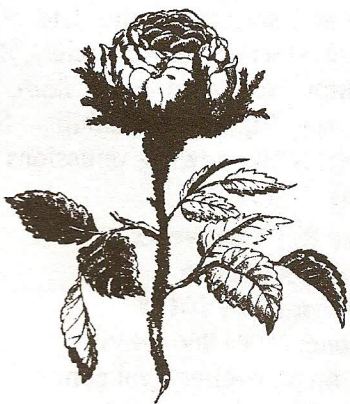
Modern Roses XI does not list its parentage, but it is classified as a hybrid wichurana.

‘Normandie’ (1929), by Auguste Nonin, is a favorite of mine because I like salmon-pink flowers. I first saw this rose at the Roserie de l’Hay years ago but later was unable to obtain a plant back in the United States. It was very fragrant, and grew to about 10 feet. It seems that these small-flowered ramblers were a specialty of Nonin.

‘Mlle. Marthe Carron’ (1931), by Louis Mermet, has 40 to 50 little flowers in each cluster. Its white blossoms, when open, are really quite charming because they have a pink tint with moderate fragrance. Because it is a cross between a ‘*R. wichurana*’ sport and ‘*R. wichurana*,’ it could be called a “purebred.”

‘Crimson Shower’ (1951), is a seedling of ‘Excelsa’ (See above). Unlike most ramblers, ‘Crimson Shower’ doesn’t begin flowering until mid-summer and continues well into September. This unusual blossoming habit may explain this climber’s continuing popularity, yet it cannot be called a true repeat-bloomer. It grows to about 15 feet and its pompon-like flowers make a very distinctive red Rambler.

In conclusion, it should be clear to my readers that the close interrelationship of my selections to one another shows that they are really just one big, but happy, family of very attractive climbers.

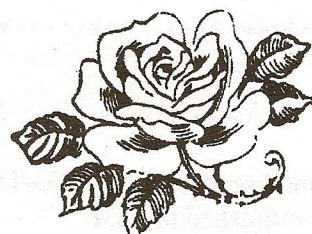


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his modern roses on rootstock of the old rose varieties which thrive in this climate. He located a grower who used ‘*R. x odorata*’ rootstock. He obtained and planted modern roses budded on this rootstock with tea ancestry, he immediately had good results. The modern roses’ life spans were extended from two years to many years, and the plants’ height increased from 2 feet to 5 feet or 6 feet.

Col. Worthington gave us these words of advice: “Before buying a potted plant, know the origin of it, and the type of rootstock on which it is budded. Keep in mind that plants grown on their own roots give better results in New Orleans than those budded on understock.” We are grateful to Col. Worthington for the documentation of his research, which we have inherited from him, and from which we will benefit greatly.

Lt. Col. Frank Russell Worthington was a longtime member of the American Rose Society, and also wrote an article on rose cultivation which was published in the 1956 Annual of the American Rose Society. It is entitled *Mission Successful - Rose Growing in the Gulf Coastal Area*. In 1955 he expressed his wishes that the ARS would one day have a membership of 25,000, and that the rose would become the national flower. Both wishes have come true.



Spring Bloom Festival 2006

Saturday, April 22, 2006

American Rose Center

For details of events, please refer to website:

www.ars.org

PREPARING FOR THE PAST

by Maureen Reed Detweiler

Roses - A Celebration

33 Eminent Gardeners on Their Favorite Rose

Cloth binding, 256 pages, \$30.00

Original paintings by Pamela Stagg

Edited by Wayne Winterrowd

2003, published by North Point Press, 19
Union Street West, N.Y., N.Y. 10003

"What is this rose," the great rosarian Graham Stuart Thomas asks, "that enslaves gardeners? ... Why, in short, does everyone love a rose, and what has it to offer that other flowers lack?"

Wayne Winterrowd posed this question to 32 eminent fellow gardeners, who join him in giving their highly original and engaging responses in this book. Winterrowd's contributors constitute a Who's Who of contemporary garden writers. Their highly personal essays are rich with reminiscence, with prejudice, with love remembered. Many offer fascinating historical information or valuable tips on culture. Some of the writers included are Peter Beales, Graham Stuart Thomas, David Austin, Thomas Christopher, and Peter Schneider.

The unique pleasures of these essays are magnificently mirrored in Pamela Stagg's vibrant watercolors. The book is a handsome gift for any gardener, and essential reading for those who love roses.

The Book of Roses or The Rose Fancier's Manual

by Catherine Frances Gore (1799-1861)

Originally published in 1838

Cloth binding, 433 pages

Reprint of the 1838 edition published by Earl M. Coleman, 875 Avenue of the Americas
N.Y., N.Y. 10001

With an appreciative foreword by Leonie Bell.

Catherine Frances Gore was a remarkable woman. She wrote and published 70 books and gave birth to ten children.

She fell in love with roses when she was in her thirties. Having moved to France in 1832, she discovered the wealth of roses that grew there. She brought all her energy, writing skill, and knowledge of French to the preparation of this classic. Her desire was to make roses accessible to every amateur rose-grower in her native England. To do so she recorded more than 1400 descriptions of roses and an index of 1590 items. With this remarkable book she opened the entire panorama of roses to her audience and did so with such accuracy and detail that it remains a classic in the field.

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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