

# The OGR & Shrub Journal

*A publication of the American Rose Society*

The World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) Triennial Convention, held last June in Vancouver, British Columbia, featured a number of excellent speakers and presenters from around the world, to include ARS President Steve Jones. The *Old Garden Rose & Shrub Journal* is pleased to be able to print two of these addresses, “Roses and Gardens of New Zealand” by hybridizer and rosarian Doug Grant, and “Roses on the Move” by WFRS Past President and Gold Medal recipient Helga Brichet.

Jocelyn Janon



**Doug Grant**



**Helga Brichet**



# ROSES AND GARDENS OF NEW ZEALAND

by Doug Grant

(New Zealand Rose Society [www.nzroses.org.nz](http://www.nzroses.org.nz))

## Summary

The development of the rose in New Zealand started with the first introductions in 1814 by the early missionaries. The first varieties included 'Crimson China' (*Rosa chinensis semperflorens*), the 'Sweet Brier Rose', *R. eglanteria* (*R. rubiginosa*), the 'Dog Rose', (*R. canina*), the 'Chestnut Rose' (*R. roxburghii*) and cabbage roses (*R. x centifolia*). Between the years 1850s to 1870s came the French roses such as *R. sempervirens* 'Felicite et Perpetue' and the Gallica 'Anais Segalas'. Towards the end of the 19th century and through the early part of the 20th century William Lippiatt played a major part in extending this development of the rose as a nurseryman, breeder, exhibitor, importer and propagator of roses. In more recent times, rose breeders in New Zealand have played an important part in the development of new types and varieties. Well known breeder Sam McGredy was also instrumental in the introduction of Plant Variety Rights for new varieties. It is now one hundred years since the establishment of the first public rose garden in New Zealand. This opened at Hagley Park in Christchurch in 1910. Other cities and towns throughout the country soon followed this by developing their own rose gardens. Roses have also been featured in the gardens of many homes all over the country.

## Early Rose Introductions

The first rose to be introduced into New Zealand was by the Christian missionaries from England in 1814. This rose, 'Crimson China' *Rosa chinensis semperflorens*, became popularly known as 'Slater's Crimson China'.

In spite of its fragile appearance the rose proved very hardy. 'Crimson China' has crimson to red coloured semi-doubled flowers with the centre petals sometimes slightly streaked with white. It was discovered in

China and released in Britain in 1792. Plants of 'Slater's Crimson China' can still be seen growing today at the historic Kemp homestead built in Kerikeri in 1822, where a border of this small rose was planted along the front of the house.

The 'Sweet Brier Rose', *R. eglanteria* (*R. rubiginosa*) had been recorded as being planted in the Bay of Islands sometime between 1815 and 1820. The 'Sweet Brier Rose' is pink flowered with a sweet fresh apple like fragrance. It was never really a garden rose but it was useful as a hedge and it flourished under New Zealand's conditions and often spread to places it was not welcome, in particular the South Island hill country. The Sweet Brier became listed as an outlawed plant in the Noxious Weeds Act of 1900. It is now common in the Central Otago region of the South Island where it still grows wild. Its hips were introduced as a source of vitamin C for the prospectors during the gold rush of the 1860's to combat the dangers of scurvy.

The 'Dog Rose', *R. canina*, was grown in New Zealand in the early 1820's. It was more common around the Auckland area than further north. However, it is still found growing wild in parts of the South Island. It was also used as a source of vitamin C for the gold prospectors. The 'Chestnut Rose' *R. roxburghii* was common in the Bay of Islands. This is a medium to tall shrub with single clear shell pink flowers and with leaves with up to 15 small leaflets. The first centifolia or cabbage roses were recorded as being introduced in 1828.

In New Zealand's period of settlement between the years 1850's to 1870's there was the French rose influence. This saw the arrival of new forms and colours. During this period many old roses common in the North



**New Zealand International Trial Grounds (Hayden Foulds)**

such as *R. sempervirens* 'Felicite et Perpetue' and the Gallica 'Anais Segalas' were introduced into New Zealand. Also in this period there was the establishment of the urban section with fruit trees and vegetable plots and the establishment of local nurseries.

By the 1870s Edward Lippiatt established himself as the leading rose nurseryman in Auckland. His son William opened his own nursery in 1883 and expanded the family rose operation. By 1900 William was sending roses around the country. He became the leading rose grower supplying roses to gardeners and other nurseries. He was an exhibitor at the Auckland Horticultural Society rose shows, produced cut roses, and took an active part in the newly formed New Zealand Association of Nurserymen. He was an importer and propagator of the latest and best roses from Europe's leading breeders.

William Lippiatt was New Zealand's first rose breeder of note. His first rose introduction was 'Sir Robert Stout', a bright red Hybrid Perpetual named after a Liberal politician. He also bred another red Hybrid Perpetual named for Liberal leader and Prime Minister Dick Seddon in 1907. Other creations included 'Mrs Lippiatt' (red HP), 'Otahuhu hybrid' (HT), and 'Enterprise' (HT). It is not known if these roses still exist. As a tribute to this breeder, Dicksons of

Northern Ireland named a rose, 'W.E. Lippiatt', in his honour.

**Development Of New Zealand Rose Gardens**  
At the turn of the 20th century, roses had increased in popularity owing to a number of reasons. This included the ease at which they could be grown, they grew almost anywhere in the country, they commanded a high status in colonial gardens, they were not only beautiful but also fashionable. Gardens had become part of homes and there was an increase in private gardening activity.

In the 1890's large areas of land were set aside for public gardens and domains in Dunedin, Oamaru, Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Palmerston North and Auckland.

The first formal style public rose garden was opened in Hagley Park in Christchurch in 1910. Other centres had established gardens by 1900 but had not paid much attention to roses. Wellington completed a rosary by 1917, later replaced by a much larger and slightly less formal design, the lady Norwood Rose Garden, This was completed in 1953. In Nelson, the Queens Park Garden was completed in 1923 while in Oamaru a garden was designed in 1924. In Auckland, the Parnell Rose Garden was opened in 1934 from land donated by the City Council and from 3000 plants donated by nurseries.

The National Rose Society of New Zealand (later to be called the New Zealand Rose Society) was formed in 1931. The objective was and still is today to “Implant Roses in the Hearts and Gardens of the People”. This Society’s influence was widened in 1933 with the establishment of the Parnell Rose Garden in Auckland. Following on from the establishment of Parnell, rose gardens have been established in many towns and cities throughout the country (see table1).

The introduction of the floribunda rose in the 1930’s gave a rose with frequent and abundance of flower over the Hybrid tea types. The easy care nature of the floribunda gave support for a new generation of gardener who had land but not necessarily expertise. This assisted the popularity of the rose at that time. The rose ‘Iceberg’ released in 1958 helped the trend for floribundas and it is still widely grown today.



**‘Little Opal’** (De Boer Roses)

During the 1950s and 60s there was an increase in nurseries specialising in roses. In the mid 70’s the mail order trade gave way to the garden centres. The garden centres were a product of urban growth. There was change in marketing as garden centre customers wanted container grown roses that looked good. At that time there was also an increase in the efficiency of nursery production with budding on to rootstocks. The changing demands of customers with container

production also saw the appeal for miniature type roses.

The National Rose Society Trial Grounds opened at Palmerston North in 1969 in part of the Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden. This was the first trial ground to be established in the Southern Hemisphere. It was a trial ground for un-named seedling roses and it was supported by all international rose breeders. Here new releases from overseas and local hybridisers are trialled.

### **New Zealand Rose Breeders**

Sam McGredy IV came to New Zealand from Ireland in 1972 to breed roses and he was instrumental in the introduction of Plant Variety Rights (PVR). Sam McGredy’s rose ‘Matangi’ (MACman) was the first variety of any species to obtain plant variety protection in New Zealand. Sam was also involved in the setting up of RINZ (Rose Introducers of New Zealand). This group which ensures breeders are paid royalties, promotes and trials rose varieties. Varieties bred by Sam worthy to note included ‘Sexy Remy’ (MACrexy), ‘Dublin Bay’ (MACdub), ‘Auckland Metro’ (MACbucpal), ‘Paddy Stephens’ (MACclack), ‘Olympiad’ (MACauck) and ‘Aotearoa New Zealand’ (MACgenev).

Frank Schuurman with interests in cut flower varieties, set up in Henderson in the 1970s using his Dutch experience. His aim was to breed spray roses for the cut flower industry and also miniature, patio and ground cover types. Frank’s first international success was with the cut variety ‘Darling’ (SUNcredel), also known as ‘Cream Delight’, a sport of ‘Sonia’. Other successes included ‘Tinkerbelle’ (SUNTink) a soft pink spray and ‘Little Opal’ (SUNpat) the 1992 RINZ award winner.

Novel types and colours have been bred by Nola Simpson with ‘Hot Chocolate’ (SIMcho) and ‘Chocolate Prince’ (SIMchoka) and Rob Sommerfield with ‘Blackberry Nip’ (SOMnip), ‘Sky Tower’ (SOMskywer) and ‘Kaimai Sunset’ (SOMtabco). The breeding

of miniature-type roses has been the specialty of Dawn and the late Barry Eagle. Their



**'Chocolate Prince'** (De Boer Roses)

introductions include 'Black Magic' (SOCred), 'Calumet' (SOCapan) and 'Moonlight Lady' (SOCalp) while Richard and Betty Walters introduced 'Bett's White Delight'. Breeders developing roses for exhibitors include Brian Attfield with 'Delightful Lady', 'Apricot Delight' (ATTlight), Nola Simpson with 'Silky Mist' (SIMsilco) and 'Reflections' (SIMrefs) and Doug Grant with 'Millennium' (GRAllove), also known as 'Everlasting Love', 'Cherry Kisses' (GRAchloe), and 'All My Love' (GRAkita). Breeders of garden roses include Bob Matthews with 'Anniversary' (MATTlace) and 'Lest we Forget' (MATTzac), David Benny with 'Dear One' (CAMalpha) and 'Gold Dust' (CAMgen) and George Sherwood with 'Kate Sheppard' and 'Nancy Steen'.



**'Apricot Delight'** (De Boer Roses)

## **The Present Day**

After the 1980s in New Zealand there has been an increase in population growth, this has resulted in smaller housing sections and smaller gardens. The advent of seven day a week shopping has increased the number of people employed in shift work and also increased the competition for leisure time. The present economic climate has seen a change in households needing two incomes rather than one. This has equated to more working mothers, again less leisure time and consequently less time available for gardening activities. Increased competition for leisure time has lead to landscaped gardens designed for easy care and low maintenance. Rose plants have not been part of this. They are perceived as needing higher maintenance. However an exception to this has been the introduction of the "carpet" type roses. They have been used extensively in both domestic and public landscape plantings. Other changes have been a reduction in the number of nurseries and mail order catalogues, a decline in rose plant sales and a drop in membership to rose societies and other gardening groups.



**'Everlasting Love'** (De Boer Roses)

In the year 2009 New Zealand has seen the start of the international recession which has resulted in further changes. However home garden production of vegetables and fruits has become fashionable as a method to cut household expenses. Will this resurgence of gardening activity for food production follow to include roses and other amenity plants in the near future?



**Rogers Rose Garden (Jan Barnett)**



**Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden (Hayden Foulds)**

# New Zealand Rose Gardens

## **Whangarei City Rose Garden**

Cafler Park, Water Street, Whangarei

Rose garden the central city area, opened in 1939 and contains 700 plants.

## **Takapuna Rose Garden**

Anzac Street, Takapuna, Auckland

Garden established in 1956 and has 630 plants.

## **Belmont Rose Garden**

Cnr Lake Road & School Road, Belmont, Takapuna, Auckland

Garden established in 1957 and has 600 plants.

## **Parnell Rose Garden**

Dove Meyer-Robinson Park, Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland

Opened in 1934, this garden of 6 hectares has some 4,500 roses in 400 different varieties, including a good selection of recently-introduced Hybrid Teas and floribundas and a small selection of old roses.

## **Nancy Steen Rose Garden**

Dove Meyer-Robinson Park, Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland

The Nancy Steen Garden was established along side the Parnell Rose Gardens for old and species roses. It was named after Nancy Steen, an enthusiast Heritage Rosarian who was involved in growing, seeking out, identifying and rescuing odd roses.

## **Auckland Botanic Gardens**

Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland

This garden was redeveloped in 2001 and transformed from a monoculture of predominately modern varieties to a varied garden displaying many types of roses. The original rose garden was planted in 1981, and then shifted to another site in 1988 be a display/ trial garden as part of the rose festival for “Auckland Rose of the Year”. The garden comprises five different themes: roses and New Zealand Natives, historical garden, reflective garden, pergola garden and a trial garden selecting varieties for Auckland conditions.



**Auckland Botanic Garden** (Jack Hobbs)

### **Rogers Rose Garden**

Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Drive, Hamilton

The Rogers Rose Garden occupies an attractive 1.5 hectare site on the east bank of the Waikato River. It is part of the 58 hectare Hamilton Gardens. The garden containing 3500 roses was established in 1969 for the World Rose Convention, held in New Zealand in 1971. The garden is the location for the annual Pacific Rose Bowl festival and the RINZ rose of the year trial. This garden was awarded the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) Garden Plaque of Merit award in 2006.

### **Hamilton Lake Rose Gardens**

Pembroke Street, Hamilton

Established in 1955 in an attractive setting beside Hamilton Lake. It contains 1800 roses of older varieties released between 1919 to 1960,

### **Te Awamutu Rose Garden**

Arawata Street, Te Awamutu

Garden established in 1969 as a Jaycee project in conjunction with numerous community groups. It was opened in 1971 and featured as part of the inaugural World Rose Convention in 1971. Contains more than 2500 plants of over 50 varieties.



**Te Awamutu Rose Garden** (Hayden Foulds)

### **Tauranga City Rose Garden**

Robbins Park, Cliff Road, Tauranga

Rose garden is located in the Botanic Gardens, established in 1963, contains 600 roses, mainly modern types.

**Te Puke Rose Garden**

Jocelyn Street, Te Puke

Garden replanted 1998 for the 1998 National Rose Show and Convention, has 400 plants of modern varieties.

**Whakatane Botanical Garden**

McGarvey Road, Whakatane

The rose garden is part of the Whakatane Botanical garden and is located on the Whakatane River bank, established in 1964 and contains over 600 rose plants including 66 standards.

**Murray Linton Rose Garden**

Fenton Park, Trigg Avenue, Rotorua

Established in 1970 and contains over 1500 bushes.

**Klamath Falls Rose Gardens**

Government Gardens, Hinemaru Street, Rotorua

The Government Gardens were developed in the 1890s to beautify scrub covered ground surrounding a sanatorium hospital and thermal baths. The rose garden was established in 1960 and has 1600 plants.



**Klamath Falls Rose Garden, Rotorua** (Hayden Foulds)

**Taupo Rose Garden (Joan Williamson Rose Garden)**

South Tongairo Domain, Storey Place, Taupo

Established in 1974 and contains 400 plants.

**Glenlogie Rose Garden**

Cnr Anzac Parade/Marshall Ave, Wanganui

Garden has a display of over 600 roses.

### **Gisborne City Rose Garden (James Parker Memorial Garden)**

Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne

Established in 1960 and contains 300 plants.

### **Kennedy Park Rose Garden**

Kennedy Park

Storkey Street, Napier

Rose garden planted and opened in 1951. Many more roses were planted over the following years. Now contains over 5000 plants comprising over 500 named varieties. Prominent feature is a 90 metre long display of climbing roses.

### **Frimley Rose Garden**

Frimley Park, Frimley Avenue, Hastings

1.4 ha of rose gardens in 19 ha Frimley Park, an old English style park that includes many beautiful and rare trees. The park was given to the people of Hastings by the Williams family in 1951 and was formerly the grounds of the family homestead. The rose garden was established in 1964 and contains 4000 plants.



**Frimley Rose Garden** (Doug Grant)

### **Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden**

Victoria Esplanade, Palmerston North

The rose garden is part of the Victoria Esplanade which was developed in 1897 and covers 19 hectares of native bush, exotic plantings, other gardens and recreational areas adjacent to the Manawatu River. The rose garden, which was opened in 1968, contains over 5000 rose plants in beds set out in a formal design to display over 100 varieties of roses. The garden was awarded the World Federation of Rose Societies Garden Plaque of Merit award in 2003. The garden also contains the plant patent variety collection and trial grounds.

### **N.Z. International Trial Grounds**

Dugald MacKenzie Rose Garden, Victoria Esplanade, Palmerston North

The National Rose Trial Grounds which opened in 1969, were the first to be established in the Southern Hemisphere. Though under the auspices of the New Zealand Rose Society, the gardens are looked after by

the city Parks Department. This is a trial ground for un-named seedling roses and most the international rose breeders support it.

**Queen Elizabeth II Park**

Park Avenue, Masterton

Established in 1925 and contains 390 plants. Original garden has since been replanted with modern roses.

**Memorial Park**

Elizabeth Street, Waikanae

Established in 1992 and contains 600 plants.

**Aotea Lagoon Rose Garden**

Papakowhai Road, Papakowhai, Porirua

Established in 1970 and contains 500 plants of modern varieties.

**Civic and Riddiford Gardens**

Laings Road, Lower Hutt

Extensive gardens contain roses, an aviary, conservatory and orchid house. The rose garden has 500 modern and carpet roses, with fragrant varieties featured.

**Lady Cole Rose Garden**

Mitchell Park, Mitchell Street, Lower Hutt

Redeveloped, new plantings made in 2001, contains 2700 roses including modern, old fashioned, ground covers and climbers.

**Pauatahanui Burial Ground**

St Alban's Anglican Church, Paekakariki Hill Road, Pauatahanui, Porirua

Burial ground containing many Heritage rose varieties. First interment took place in 1860 and many members of pioneer families of the district are buried there. The roses are maintained by local volunteers.



**Lady Norwood Rose Garden, Wellington Botanic Gardens**

### **Lady Norwood Rose Garden**

Botanic Gardens, Glenmore Street, Thorndon, Wellington

The Lady Norwood Rose Garden is part of the Wellington Botanic Garden. The Botanic Garden was established in 1868 and today covers an area of 25 hectares. The present rose garden was opened in 1953 and contains over 3,000 Hybrid Teas and floribundas. The garden has a trial ground where newer varieties are assessed for Wellington's conditions.



**Lady Norwood Rose Garden, Wellington Botanic Gardens**

### **Bolton Street Memorial Park**

Cemetery, Kinross Street, Wellington

Contains the city's original burial grounds (known as Bolton Street Cemetery) and commemorates many early pioneers and historical figures from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The park contains a nationally important collection of Heritage roses some dating back to the colonial era.

### **Centennial Rose Garden**

Pollard Park, Parker Street, Blenheim

Garden contains 1500 roses.

### **Pethybridge Garden**

Main Highway, Motueka

Garden features a massed display of a wide range of roses in a traditional garden layout.

### **Queens Garden**

Bridge Street, Nelson

Park established in 1891 in commemoration of Queen Victoria. Rose garden established in 1980 and contains 500 plants.



**'Lavender Dream' in the Parnell Rose Garden (Hayden Foulds)**

### **Samuels Rose Garden**

Broadgreen House, Nayland Road, Stoke, Nelson

Rose garden in the grounds of Broadgreen House. Established in 1968 and contains 3000 plants of over 600 varieties. It includes old and modern roses displayed in a formal garden. At the rear of the house grows the 'Slater's Crimson China' rose. Broadgreen house was a typical gentleman's residence built in 1855. It has been faithfully restored and furnished and is now a museum.

### **Tasman Bay Rose Garden**

Tasman Bay Roses, Chamberlain Street, Motueka

This garden originally started out as a private collection of Heritage roses. It contains one of the largest collections of rose varieties in the country. It now holds over 1000 varieties, both old and new and is maintained by the Pratt family of Tasman Bay Roses.

### **Christchurch Rose Garden**

Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch

The first rose garden was established in 1909; the present garden was redesigned in 1935 and now contains 1300 plants. The garden is a formal design and contains modern, bush, climber, standards and minis. There is a continual replanting programme for newer varieties. Pergola archways were added to each entrance way during 1995. A heritage rose garden has been part of the Botanic Gardens since 1950, this was remodelled in 1999.

### **Mona Vale**

Fendalton Road, Christchurch

The Mona Vale homestead was built in 1899 to 1900 and is one of Christchurch's more significant historic homes. It is sited within 5.5 ha of gardens and landscaped lawns gently rolling down to the Avon River. It features roses, irises, rhododendrons, camellias, conifers, maples and a lily pond. The rose garden was established in 1970 and contains over 500 plants. It was redesigned in 1993 just prior to the World Rose Convention in Christchurch in 1994. The garden is maintained by members of the Rose Society.

**Geraldine Domain Rose Garden**

Domain, Cox /Hislop Streets, Geraldine

Garden with a formal layout, seating, picnic tables and shade trees. The rose garden was established in 1998 and contains 150 plants.

**Temuka Domain**

Domain Avenue, Temuka

Garden has a formal layout, established in 1900 and contains 422 plants.

**Timaru Botanic Gardens**

Queen Street, Timaru

The Botanic Gardens has the Anderson Rose Garden containing modern roses and a separate collection of species roses. Over 75 different rose species including rare ones and a number of hybrids are to be found in this garden. Plants are being added to this collection from a contribution from Heritage Roses NZ.

**Trevor Griffiths Rose Gardens**

The Bay Hill, Caroline Bay, Timaru

Garden opened in 2001 and contains 1200 plants. This garden is a tribute to South Canterbury Rosarian and author Trevor Griffiths. The garden has evolved from Trevor Griffiths' rose collection and 600 roses from English breeder David Austin.

**Victoria Park**

Queens Street, Waimate

Council Domain garden established in 1930 and contains 250 plants.

**Oamaru Public Gardens**

Severn Street, Oamaru

The 13 ha Public garden which opened in 1876 contains a rose garden, bedding plants, New Zealand natives, mature trees, shrubs, a native fernery and display house for exotic plants. The rose garden was established in 1925 and contains 700 plants.

**Garden of Memories**

Severn Street, Oamaru

Established in 1953 and contains 180 plants of Julischka roses planted in the form of a cross.

**Old Gaol Stables**

Main Street, behind the Library, Oamaru

Garden of old fashioned roses to complement building of local limestone. Established in 1995 and contains 36 plants which are maintained by the local rose society.

**Dunedin Botanic Garden Rose Garden**

King Street, Dunedin

The Botanic Garden was established in 1863 and was New Zealand's first Botanic gardens. The rose garden was redesigned and replanted in 1988/89 with the help of the Otago Rose Society. It contains over 2000 plants and features modern, old fashioned and species roses.

**Dunedin Northern Cemetery**

Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin.

This cemetery was established in 1872 to have 5 acres devoted to gardens around 15 acres of graves. It contains a significant collection heritage roses which are maintained by Heritage Roses Otago (HRO). In 2001 HRO started a conservation and planting project and now there are over 1000 roses growing in the cemetery.



**Dunedin Botanic Garden** (Dylan Norfield)

**Anderson Park**

Waenga Drive, Cromwell

Established in 1987 and contains 472 plants.

**Queenstown Rose Garden**

Park Street, Queenstown

Established in 1967 and contains 850 plants.

**Gore Public Gardens**

Fairfield Street, Gore

Gardens feature rose garden, bedding displays, glasshouse, plant collections, formal and informal gardens.

**Henry Edginton Rose Garden**

Queens Park, Gala Street, Invercargill

Queens Park is one of the largest municipal parks (80 ha) in New Zealand. It was originally set aside as a native bush reserve in 1857. It was developed into a public park and gardens in 1911. The rose garden was established in 1917 and contains 2000 plants of modern varieties.

**Jessie Calder Rose Garden**

Queens Park, Gala Street, Invercargill

Heritage Rose garden in Queens Park which contains a comprehensive collection of old fashioned roses. It was opened in 1989 and has 900 plants from 400 different varieties.

**Anderson Park**

8 km north of Invercargill

Park which contains 24 ha flower and rose gardens, lawn, native bush, mature trees and a two-story Georgian-style residence now housing an art gallery.

# ROSES ON THE MOVE

by Helga Bricchet

What I should like to do today is to trace the journeys of some of the most important species, which form the genetic basis of the modern rose.

Plants, and roses in particular, have forever been on the move, notably with the aid of the elements, such as wind and water, but also insects, animals and birds, in order to reproduce and multiply themselves in environments to their liking, within the limits geography and climate confine their possibilities.

It is difficult to appreciate that the first recorded plant-hunting expedition took place when Athens, Rome, Paris and London were not yet extant. Mounted by Queen Hatshepsut in order to bring back to Egypt the tree (*Boswellia*), which produces the gum named Frankincense from the east coast of Africa. 31 trees were successfully established at Karnak and an official record carved on the walls.

It was from the mouths of the Tigris and the Euphrates as well as Egypt that western civilizations drew their origins and their love of plants. Early the Rose's greatest asset was seen to be its prickles, and had been used for thick fences and impenetrable boundaries

And it was inevitable that they would soon be planted within garden boundaries and their medicinal, culinary and decorative characteristics be appreciated. Rose blooms were so desirable in Roman times that they were brought from Egypt by the shipload in winter. Merchants trading in silks and spices along ancient caravan routes between Europe, the Middle East and Asia included certain plants, aromatic, fragrant, medicinal or simply decorative.

Roses also followed in the wake of military and religious operations – an example of which is the Muslim conquest of the North

African coastline and part of Spain, while in the 16th century India was conquered by the Muslim Mughal Emperors from Persia and Afghanistan, and used roses extensively in their gardens, which represented the Islamic vision of paradise. Babur, the first Mughal Emperor, is said to have brought the damask rose to India. However India and China had centuries before begun trading across their communal border, following the introduction of Buddhism to China, and roses were very much a part of the social, medical, cultural and religious fabric.

In Europe too, during the Medieval Era medicinal plants were passed from convent to convent; however it was the eternal contact between the eastern trading routes and such rich trading cities as Venice, that brought further “foreign” roses to the attention of Europe. Latin was the language of the educated and the Dutchman, Charles d’Ecluse, naming himself Clusius, obtained *R. foetida* (Austrian Briar) in Turkey and introduced it to Holland and England around 1600.

This was followed by its mutation, *R. foetida* ‘bicolor,’ (used by Sam McGredy II in 1918 to produce the ‘Queen Alexandra Rose’, a grandparent of ‘Peace’) and then *R. foetida* ‘*Persiana*.’ This is the rose that was much later to introduce the colour yellow and all its subsequent variations to the modern rose, as we know it today (Pernetiana roses, the first of which was “Soleil d’Or” by J. Pernet-Ducher). To this day *R. persica* intrigues breeders with its chestnut blotches. It was introduced to France from Iran in 1788, and soon after to England by Sir Joseph Banks in 1790. It was painted by Redouté as *R. berberifolia*. (We might indeed ask ourselves whether this is indeed a rose?)

Jack Harkness produced a number of Persica cultivars, “Tigris” and “Euphrates” among

them, some twenty years ago. More recently, Ralph Moore has produced some splendid novelties, and this year, at the rose trials in The Hague, there are some new entries with *R. persica* to be seen.



**'The Queen Alexandra Rose'**

Other wild roses from the Middle East were, for example, *R. ecae*, in 1880, named by its introducer, Dr. James Aitchison, after his wife, and *R. primula*, the Incense Rose, found by the American R.N. Meyer in 1910 near Samarkand. (Botanical names of new plants generally followed the rules of 1) indicating a characteristic of the plant; 2) indicating its place of origin, or; 3) honouring an individual in the scientific world. However, there were exceptions! For example, *Victoria rex*, the giant Amazonian water lily, which still horrifies the Brazilians !)

However it was the discovery of the ocean routes that opened the eyes of westerners to

new and unexplored and exciting worlds. New plants started arriving from northern America, and among them a number of roses, which were depicted by Redouté. The most important of these, from a future breeding point of view, was *R. setigera*, discovered by André Michaux, the only rose from that continent which shows an inclination to climb. From it we have "Baltimore Belle" (Feast, 1843), "Himmelsauge," (Geschwind, 1895) and "Long John Silver," (Horvath 1934) who named a whole series of Hybrid Setigeras after the characters in *Treasure Island*.



**'Long John Silver'**

The Portuguese at last opened the long sea route via the Cape of Storms – a fitting name if ever there was one – later the Cape of Good Hope. They arrived in southern China in 1516, and it is curious that they never produced a botanist during the whole period of their Eastern Empire. They were followed by the Dutch and then the English, who opened a trading station in Canton in 1699 and also in nearby Macao in 1710

As a rule, scientific exploration throughout the world was far removed from political or commercial influence. Frequently botanical collectors were the first pioneers in parts of the world untrodden by Europeans.

However China had resisted all efforts at penetration for centuries. This is the outstanding case where scientific research had to follow humbly in the footsteps of political and commercial treaties. The introduction of plants from China differs from that of all other parts of the globe – for here there is a

civilization far older and, in some ways, more advanced than our own. This civilization was also extremely fond of gardens and plants.

It is important to understand the difference between the slow progress of botanical exploration and collection of wild plants, of which nothing was known, as distinct from the introduction into Europe of horticultural flora, developed by the Chinese for use in their own gardens. The latter was at hand in the few treaty ports, where restrictions on foreigners, unable to move further than a few miles away or learn the Chinese language, was fierce. Thus, all plants which reached Europe for the next 150 years were, with few exceptions, of horticultural origin. This was naturally not grasped at the time in Europe; neither was the treasure trove which lay hidden in the unexplored wilds.

Nonetheless, quick-eyed and –witted European nurserymen leaped upon these imported rose varieties and crossed them with the existent local ones, most particularly the forms and mutations of *R. gallica*. (From a pale, single flower, this variety had mutated to become double and red, and had been given various names: *R. gallica duplex*, *R. gallica officinalis*, *R. gallica conditorum*, etc. and was extensively used by breeders to create new varieties to satisfy the increasing interest in and demand for roses at the époque.) Thus, for the first time, the East and the West embraced in the world of roses.

The obstacles which had to be faced by collectors, both professional and amateurs with other primary professions, in this unequalled treasure-house of plants, were the following:

1. The brick wall of Chinese ultra conservatism,
2. The endurance of innumerable hardships in fierce climates with, very frequently, a reckless disregard for personal safety.
3. The survival of plants and seed transported overland and via long sea voyages.

The first botanical collector to reside in China for more than a few weeks was William Kerr

(died in 1814), sent by the Royal Gardens at Kew in 1803. He too had to buy his plants at one or other of the nursery gardens at Canton, the biggest of which was named Fa Té Gardens. In this way, he introduced *R. banksia banksia*, at first taken to be the wild form, into Europe (*R. banksia normalis* was only found much later).

In 1804 the British Horticultural Society was formed and soon turned its eyes to China. Enough good garden plants, especially Camellias, Chrysanthemums and Azaleas, had been introduced already to whet its appetite. John Demper Parks was sent out on their behalf, and it is to him that we owe *R. banksia lutea* and ‘Parks’ Yellow Tea-scented China’, now lost in the West, but hopefully to be re-introduced soon. A modern example in this group is ‘Purezza’ by the Italian Mansuino in 1961, a cross between ‘Tom Thumb’ and *R. banksia lutescens*.



‘Purezza’ (Susan McKesson)

The only wild roses introduced at this stage were *R. bracteata*, upon the return of the embassy staff led by Lord Macartney to Peking in 1792, (its beautiful offspring is ‘Mermaid’) and *R. multiflora carnea* in 1804 by Thomas Evans, a passionate collector of “exotics” who perhaps well remunerated one of the sea captains who had grasped the advantages of caring for plants on board their ships.

There is, interestingly enough, also a theory that *R. laevigata* was introduced into North America during the migration from northern China that commenced some 40,000 years

ago, during the last ice age. The hips of this rose have a very hard casing, lasting for years when dried, and the descendants of Peking Man – for which there is evidence that the indigenes of the Americas are progeny - could have brought them for medicinal purposes. By the first half of the nineteenth century the importation of horticultural varieties was almost over; all that was possible in the minute portion of the country open to foreigners' search had been accomplished. However it is true to say that at this time our knowledge of the earth's flora was still in its infancy. In the meanwhile a veritable passion for all things Chinese – Chinoiserie, as the French called them - had become the fashion in Europe, to include flowers: Azaleas, Chrysanthemums, Camellias and Rhododendrons, in all their colours and forms, became the rage. Peonies naturally caused a sensation!

The Treaty of Nanking in 1842, which ended the Opium War between China and England, gave Europeans access to Hong Kong and four additional ports, including Shanghai. Controls also slackened, and movement up to c. 50 miles from the trading posts became possible. The Horticultural Society immediately formed a Chinese Committee to prepare the way for a collector. The choice fell on Robert Fortune, who was to become one of the greatest of all plant collectors in the Far East. Included in his letter of instructions were a number of plants about which he was to enquire: No.4 read "The double yellow roses of which 2 sorts are said to occur in Chinese gardens, exclusive of the Banksian."

Altogether Fortune made four trips to China, also working for the East India Company with the object of the introduction of Chinese tea into India. In this he was eminently successful. It was however during his first expedition that he was particularly lucky, for he was able to find both 'Fortune's Double Yellow' and 'Fortune's Five-Coloured China' in gardens near Ninpo. The latter is today rare indeed! *R. fortuneana* honours his name.

The war of 1860 between Britain, France and the Chinese had extremely petty causes. The



'Fortune's Double Yellow' (Vintage Gardens)

results, however, were indeed far-reaching. By the peace treaty of 1860 a third set of ports were opened, including some on the Yangtze River. More important, subjects of the treaty powers were allowed to travel in the interior of China, and missionaries were allowed to work where they liked. This gave them a passport to the scientific exploration of the whole Chinese Empire. Europeans of all types and trades were drawn to the East, like moths to a candle's flame. The famous nursery of James Veitch and Sons in Chelsea sent their collectors to both China and Japan. (By coincidence, Japan too opened its doors to foreigners in 1860, for the first time since 1636!)

The Irish-born Dr. Augustine Henry was by his own admission, a very bored customs officer stationed at Ichang, the most distant open port along the Yangtze, from 1882 onward. Thanks to him, the vast field of botanical explorations remaining to be discovered in western China began to be perceived. Henry was only interested in herbarium material, and many of his finest discoveries were later introduced by E.H. Wilson. In 1885 he was also the first to discover *R. chinensis spontanea*, of which we shall speak later. The beautiful *R. henryi*, discovered by Wilson in 1907 and named in Henry's honour, is a rare treasure and deserves to be better known and used in gardens.

French missionaries were particularly successful in discovering roses and collecting herbarium material during this period. Some of them belonged to the Society of Foreign



*R. henryi* (Roses Loubert)

Missions, founded during the seventeenth century in Paris. Père Jean Marie Delavay arrived in Yunnan in 1881 and was to stay for 14 years, collecting more than 3,200 plants and shipping them to France. Among his “finds,” was the spectacular and unique four-petaled *R. omeiensis*, or sericea ‘pteracantha’, in 1884 on the famous Omeishan, one of the three most holy Buddhist mountains in China. Around 1950 this species was used by S.G.A. Doorenbos to give us the even more spectacular ‘Red Wing’.

Père Paul Guillaume Farges spent 54 years of his life in Sichuan and sent numerous plants to the museum in Paris. *R. fargesii* was introduced into Europe by the nursery firm of James Veitch & Sons in 1913. Père Jean Soulie was sent to eastern Tibet from whence he dispatched numerous collections to the Museum in Paris. The Belgian botanist Francois Crépín dedicated *R. souliéana* to this courageous missionary, who suffered an atrocious death in 1885.

The Lazarist Congregation also played a prominent role in China. Père Armand David was sent to China in 1862. He was at home in every branch of natural science and the first botanical collector to specialize in one district. He undertook 3 trips to China; during

the second he set up camp in a seminary at Mouping (Boaxing), where he found a very large number of first class garden plants, including the beautiful “handkerchief tree”, *Davidia involucrata* and also the species *R. davidii* in 1908, later to be named after him by Crépín. This species is an ancestor of the beautiful yellow Mini ‘Baby Love’, introduced in 1992 by the amateur breeder Len Scrivens. (Père David was reportedly the first European to see the Giant Panda).

To most collectors before 1900 collecting was only a by-product of their activities, either missionary or government service. This was the case not only in China, but also in nearby India and bordering Burma. In 1882 Sir George Watt, Surveyor General of India, discovered one of the forms of *R. gigantea* in the north eastern state of Manipur. Six years later Sir Henry Collett, an officer with the East India Company, looking through his field glasses in the Shan Hills in Burma, noticed festoons of flowers, up to 14cms., resembling magnolias, another form of Gigantea. ‘Flying Colours’, ‘Belle Portugaise’, ‘Mrs. Richard Turnbull’, ‘Amber Cloud’, ‘Belle Blanche’ – are a general view of the Gigantea hybrids – as well as the ‘Li Jiang Road Climber’.



‘Belle Portugaise’

With the arrival of Ernest Henry Wilson, we enter into the era of the professional collector of whom the masters were either botanical institutions, desiring herbarium material, or nurseries and gardeners keen on good, new plants. Wilson first worked for James Veitch

and Sons, and on his later voyages to the East for the Arnold Arboretum in the U.S. He probably introduced more first class ligneous plants than any other collector and also did much to popularise gardening by his writing. To him we owe a total of 22 roses: they include *R. helenae*, *R. murielae*, dedicated to his wife and daughter, *R. willmottiae*, *R. moyesii*, (which was to give us a number of beautiful varieties, to include ‘Geranium’, ‘Rosea’, and also Pedro Dot’s ‘Nevada’), *R. filipes* (from whence came the much prized ‘Kiftsgate’) and *R. sinowilsonii*, named to commemorate his great work, from which we have ‘Wedding Day’.. Both Wilson and his wife died tragically in the U.S. in 1930.



‘Geranium’

New methods of financing elaborate botanical expeditions became necessary in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and thus syndicates of various sizes were formed to bear the burden of an époque which craved oriental plants and glorified, in particular, the genus *Rhododendron*. Great collectors such as George Forrest and Kingdon Ward, but also Reginald Farrer appeared on the scene. Farrer, who found the Three Penny-Bit Rose (*R. farreri*) in northern China, had, in addition, the greatest influence as a garden writer.

In case you’ve ever wondered about Mrs. Herbert Stevens, the lady after whom Sam McGredy II’s white Hybrid Tea from 1910 was named, she was, I suspect, a long-suffering wife who thoroughly deserved a rose named after her. In fact, her husband

accompanied expeditions of the Roosevelt family to the Orient between the world wars. For a long time in the U.S.A. the general



‘Mrs. Herbert Stevens’ (Peter Beales Roses)

impression was that the climate of much of the country was against the culture of “exotics” and thus collecting was generally limited to expeditions on behalf of the Agriculture Department, the Arnold Arboretum, or the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Frank Meyer worked for the U.S. Agriculture Dept. in search of economic crops, but is also responsible for the introduction of *R. xanthina*, found in one of the vast, northern agricultural provinces of China. A popular hybrid is ‘Canary Bird’, and the Belgian breeder Louis Lens more recently has given us “Springtime.”

The extravagant Joseph Rock (he insisted on travelling with all his silver cutlery and crystal goblets!) also worked for the U.S. Agriculture Department, the Arnold Arboretum, and the National Geographic Society. He too mentions the sighting of the famed and elusive *R. chinensis spontanea*. Meanwhile, the political situation in China became even more unsettled and less favourable to the entrance of foreigners to the cities, less still to the wilds. The country remained to all purposes closed to Europeans from the beginning of the Second World War until 1980.

Japan, as said, also opened its doors, reluctantly, in 1860 after more than 200 years as an isolated fortress, in peace and prosperity. The Japanese had inherited their knowledge and love of gardens and plants, and indeed much else, from China. However the formal gardens in isolation had gradually become stylized and almost atrophied, amazing and enchanting Europeans, and a rage for Japonisme swept Europe, as before had Chinoiserie.

The Dutch East India Company for some years held a tenuous foothold on the island of Deshima, a small artificial island in the bay of Nagasaki, from which the Swede, C.P. Thunberg, Linnaeus' first "disciple", found the rose later named by Crépín after Dr. Max Wichura (*R. wichurana*). Modern hybrids include 'Sanders' White' and 'Alexandre Girault'. Philipp Franz Von Siebold, a German, was able, within a very limited and strictly controlled area, to also collect plants in Japan. Von Siebold had the advantage of being an eye specialist as well as a botanist, so that he received freedom and special privileges to collect, and after his first trip returned to Holland with 458 plants, a booty which undoubtedly stimulated European appetites. Nurseryman John Veitch also set off for Japan, but found himself reduced to searching through what nurseries and gardens had to offer. Robert Fortune too was restricted to private and temple gardens.



**'Alexandre Girault'**

Dr. Paul Savatiere, stationed at Yokosuka

with a group of French advisors to naval constructors, undertook a systematic exploration of Japanese flora and fauna, and between 1867 and 1871 collected more than 15,000 plants. One of these was *R. luciae*, named after his wife, Lucie. This species was to form the basis of the work of the Frenchman Barbier in Orléans in creating his exuberant rambling varieties around 1900.

Of particular interest is the discovery of one of the numerous forms of *R. multiflora*, common to Japan, Korea and China, *R. multiflora watsoniana*, in a garden in New York by Mr. Edward Rand. It was supposedly introduced from Japan and was sent by Mr. Rand to the Arnold Arboretum in 1878. As time went on, the influence on local Japanese enthusiasts was very great and Japan began to produce her own expert plant hunters far earlier than China; they also sent what they found to various botanical gardens in the West. Thus the flora of Japan became systematically ordered and catalogued.

Let us briefly look at the techniques of plant transportation from the Far East during two and a half centuries. Even today, it is still possible to send by airmail a plant in an airtight and rigid plastic container and – trusting that it meets with neither a customs probe or post office neglect – have a reasonable hope that it will arrive safe and sound and in time on the other side of the world. This was not always the case, when one considers that collectors generally risked their personal safety and that of their precious plants, to the point of lunacy.

Considering the long – five months or more, before steam replaced sails and oars – voyage back to Europe, with variations in climate and temperature (the equator had to be crossed twice), seeds would have seemed to be the obvious solution. This system was, however, not generally used before 1815 because practically all plants were of a horticultural nature, and so seeds would not "come true." Many outgoing ships frequently carried fruit trees for presents or barter, and expeditions of any importance included a gardener, whose responsibility it was to nurse the plants. For

example, David Nelson travelled with Capt. Cook and found the Genus *Eucalyptus* in Tasmania or Van Dieman's Land, as it was then called. (The poor man also travelled with Capt. Bligh, by whom he was abandoned!) Plants were usually encased in boxes of wooden slats, which were then stored in the poop of ships, where they were more sheltered and less exposed to salt, but nonetheless to rats. In fine weather the boxes were opened to allow light, air and water to enter. In bad weather the boxes were covered with tarpaulins to keep off the spray, and were the first to be ditched overboard in case of an emergency. Another problem was that many of the plants had been forced in China so that rich Chinamen could have their gardens in bloom throughout the year. They had also been potted – Chinese plants were always in pots – in heavy, local clay, and so often lacked the stamina needed to withstand a long sea voyage. Finally, the shipping season too had to coincide with the tea crop, which had become the English national beverage.

Occasionally ships were routed to Calcutta, where lucky plants were sometimes left in the Botanical Gardens, founded in 1787, to acclimatize. (Its first salaried Superintendent was William Roxburgh, who had one of the newly arrived Chinese horticultural varieties *R. roxburghii*, named in his honour.) On other occasions ships stopped at St. Helena and plants were mistakenly taken on land, where they started growth, only to have to face the English climate, as well as slow customs and dock workers! (Indeed another fascinating subject would be to trace the botanical gardens and the islands which have played such an important role in the worldwide wanderings of the rose.)

This system persisted for many years until Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward brought the glazed travelling case, the "Wardian Case", to the peak of perfection in 1834. It allowed the plants light, conserved the condensed water and kept out the salt. At least one side of this watertight travelling case was glass, and stood on high feet, enabling sailors to wash down the deck underneath. Robert Fortune was a great believer in the Wardian Case; he

wanted his plants to be potted in good soil two months before leaving, and insisted that the pots be snugly fixed in the boxes at least



*R. roxburghii plena* (Baldo Villegas)

10 days before departure, with the soil surface covered with moss to retain moisture. The problem of short-lived seeds was overcome by sowing them just before departure so that they germinated in the Wardian seed boxes during the voyage. In this way Fortune safely introduced over 100,000 young tea plants to India.

Parallel to these discoveries, the world was becoming colonized and, perhaps, civilized. Large parts of the southern hemisphere were being settled by immigrants, transported in ocean liners and airplanes, in search of a better life. And naturally they brought what was dearest to them from "old Europe", including roses. In various countries these established themselves so well that they "went native", becoming feral and taking over parts of the countryside, as did the *R. laevigata* in the U.S., *R. rubiginosa* in South Africa and *R. canina* in parts of South America. (In Chile "Rosa Mosqueta" is the commercial name of products made from the rose hips of various feral roses.)

Finally, we must turn our attention to a modern-day plant hunter, Dr. Mikinori Ogisu a Japanese botanist and collector who immediately returned to China after its "bamboo curtain" was opened in 1980 to allow foreign plant hunters to return. As you

know, not all wild roses have influenced the development of the modern rose. There is however, one group of roses which has influenced the history of the rose more than any other, the Indica or China group, for it brought the unique characteristic of continuous blooming – without which it is impossible to imagine modern roses! As mentioned, *R. chinensis spontanea* had been spotted as early as 1885 but it was Dr. Ogisu, at the instigation of Graham Stuart Thomas, who “re-discovered” it in 1983 in south-western China and presented it to the world.. And herewith I should like to pay homage to this extraordinary man, as well as all those which have preceded him, and their dedication to the world of botany and their love of plants.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw the establishment of specialized rose nurseries and professional rose breeders, many of which today form what could be called “dynasties,” well into their fourth and fifth generations, with branches around the world. To assist them in evaluating the possibilities of success in differing conditions, international rose trials, now well established for some 100 years, are staged throughout the five continents. There is hardly a country on earth which does not boast a happy group of rose gardeners and exhibitors – as evidenced by the constantly increasing membership of the WFRS – while public gardens of both modern and historical roses are the attractions and visiting cards of innumerable cities around the globe.

The rose producers of today find it economical to grow blooms for the cut-flower trade in such disparate countries as Columbia, Israel and Kenya, air freight them to the wholesale auction centres in Europe, such as Aalsmeer in the Netherlands, from which they are distributed to all the cities of Europe. What will be the next stage in the Rose’s travels? Well, of course, (OUT TO LAUNCH) UP, UP AND AWAY! (Rose spaceship!) In the search of extraterrestrial Roses!



*R. chinensis spontanea* (Yuki Mikanagi)

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