



ROSE LETTER

Rosa Gallica Pontiana.

Rosier du D.

P. J. Redouté pinx.

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May 2022 Vol. 46, No. 2

ROSE LETTER

The Heritage Roses Group



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101 Benson Ave., Vallejo, CA 94590

Publishers: Jeri & Clay Jennings

Vol. 46, No.2

www.theheritagerosesgroup.org

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CENTENNIALS: ROSES OF 1922

Darrell g.h.Schramm

This is a small birthday party. A mere six surviving roses are gathered here to celebrate their centennial. In alphabetical order, 'Arrillaga' is from the USA, 'Emmanuella de Mouchy' is from France, 'Francesca' and 'Kathleen' both from England, 'Scorcher' from Australia, and 'Westfield Star', England. The fragrant climber 'Golden Vision' could not come. Available from only one nursery in Victoria, Australia, she wished to remain unobstrusive and reclusive. And I confess I might have invited 'Mrs Herbert Stevens' who climbs enthusiastically, even joyfully, in my garden, but because she is a proxy for the 1910 shrub, I did not.

First, then, 'Arrillaga', a Hybrid Perpetual, the beautiful offspring of an unnamed Centifolia and the Hybrid Perpetual 'Mrs John Laing' pollinated by 'Frau Karl Druschki', also a Hybrid Perpetual. Its large, light pink flowers, as though of glazed cotton, transmit a lovely

scent. They decorate a tall, narrow plant seven to nine feet high. The stems are sheathed in slate-green, the older canes in burnt amber. Prickles are large but somewhat widely spaced.

The date usually given for this rose is 1929, the year Bobbink & Atkins put it on the market. But Father Schoener, the hybridizer, offered it in his own catalogue in 1922. John C. Wister, secretary of the American Rose Society at the time, mentions both the catalogue and the rose when he visited Schoener that year.

The rose is named for Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga who served as Lt. Governor, then acting Governor, of Las Californias from 1784 to 1794. He was reappointed Governor from 1800-1804, when the two Californias were separated, then became the first Spanish governor of Alta California. He died in 1814 and is buried in the Mission Soledad cemetery.

‘Emmanuella de Mouchy’, child of *Rosa gigantea* and ‘Lady Waterlow’ and thus a climber, produces very full, round and ruffled blossoms of a delicate, translucent rose-pink with significantly darker shading in the center. The Noisette ‘Marie Robert’, with whom it has been confused, also has a darker center. But ‘Irene Bonnet’, for whom it has also been



mistaken, lacks the darker center. I mention the latter two roses as an alert should you wish to buy ‘Emmanuella de Mouchy’. Borne on long stems, either solitary or in small clusters, the Mouchy flowers disclose a distinct fragrance. The plant can soar, I’m told, to 25 feet.

Emmanuella de Mouchy, born in 1910, was the daughter of Count Charles de Marande de Mouchy. The parents frequented the Cote d’ Azure where, no doubt, they met Paul Nabonnand who bred

and named the rose. They may also have lived just north of Cannes in the town of Mandelieu-la-Napoule. Under the male *nom de plume* of Emmanuelle de Marande, Emmanuella wrote several books, including one on tales and stories of the region and one on the history of Mandelieu and its environs, some of which were illustrated by her painter husband, Michel Philippe Leroy. Emmanuella died in 1997. A park in Mandelieu is named in her honor.



‘Francesca,’ a Hybrid Musk by Joseph Pemberton, opens to a semi-double, wide and ostentatious flower of golden apricot, scented with a blend of musk and fruit. A spreading, upright shrub, it grows six to ten feet high.

Given that so many of Pemberton’s roses were named for mythic or legendary women—Callisto, Ceres, Clytemnestra, Danaë, Daphne, Galatea, Penelope,

etc.—‘Francesca’ may refer to the Francesca of Dante, whirling with her lover in the second circle of hell. Both lovers had been married but were murdered by her husband, the brother of her lover Paolo. Rodin created a sculpture of the couple and a half dozen painters have portrayed them on canvas.

‘Kathleen’, also a Pemberton Hybrid Musk, opens its buds into single, clustered flowers of white or blush pink, holding their petals slightly apart. (The word for this trait of separated but attached petals is choripetalous.) Scorning prickles, it reaches fifteen feet high and blooms profusely. Shade tolerant, the roses waft a strong musky scent. It should



KATHLEEN

not be mistaken for William Paul's rambler of the same name.

And who was Kathleen? A mythical figure of Irish nationalism bears that name, but given the English stance against the Irish in the 1920s, I doubt that would be the namesake. Perhaps it was the name of a relative, acquaintance, or friend.

'Scorcher', an Australian Alister Clark climber, makes a good, short pillar rose. Large-flowered with large loose petals in scarlet or dark cherry red with white at the base and long petaloids in the center, create a cheerful, rose, light of fragrance. Dark green and glossy leaves accompany the semi-double blossoms. Beyond Australia, the rose is found mostly in several California gardens and in a few of northwestern Europe.

'Scorcher' has been claimed as an offspring of the Hybrid Tea 'Mme Abel Chatenay' [see p. 27] wed to *R. gigantea* or *R. wichurana* or, as I am inclined to believe, *R. moyesii*. Clark did not leave a record of this rose. But he had been experimenting with *R. moyesii* in the several years before 'Scorcher'

was placed on the market; furthermore, a down-under Sydney rosarian on HelpMeFind makes a strong, probable case for *R. moyesii* in its immediate ancestry.



SCORCHER



Our sixth celebrant ‘Westfield Star’, a rare Hybrid Tea, thrives in my garden. A sport of ‘Ophelia’ [see pp. 9-10], she is gowned usually in silky white with the palest yellow-green or light lemon yellow at the center. In cooler weather the rose tends toward soft yellow with the reverse side of the petals more yellow still.

The name of the rose comes from Westfield Nursery, the early title of Henry Morse’s business establishment where he discovered the sport. Later, as the firm grew and added two other nursery sites in Norwich, it would call itself Henry Morse Rose Growers. The “Star” in the rose’s name obviously recalls its yellow hue.

The year 1922 gave us the first use of insulin for diabetes, the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, the publication of James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, the discovery and opening of the Tomb of Tutankhamen, and the founding of the BBC, among other agreeable and felicitous occasions and events that have become a part of our culture. It also gave us just as pertinently a fair number of roses, fewer than a dozen of which have survived all these, lo!, one hundred years. They too have become a part of our culture. May we not neglect, forget, or lose them.

THE FINER POINTS OF PINK: LADY MARY FITZWILLIAM'S EXTENDED FAMILY

Elaine Sedlack

[For a thorough summary of this rose's namesake - the actual person, Lady Mary Fitzwilliam herself - see the article by Darrell Schramm in the May 2015 issue of the Rose Letter.]



Pink is, of course, ubiquitous among roses, thus the name. I have always been drawn to the paler shades of pink. I find them beguiling, and love setting them off with blue and purple perennials, and pinks of a deeper hue. I am especially fond of the Tea roses 'Catherine Mermet' and 'Mme. Charles'.

When I purchased 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' during Vintage Gardens' heyday, I didn't question her identity. However, as Darrell

noted, early descriptions of this rose's color are of a "pale delicate flesh" [JR6/69], and a "light flesh white" [JR4/84] (*Whose flesh color??* he astutely asks.) However, the rose offered by Vintage and currently found in commerce is of a clear, light pink. Somewhere along the way an interloper seems to have complicated matters. The rose I grew was emphatically pink, not blush. The true 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' has the ivory Tea rose 'Devoniensis' listed as the female parent, and the deep magenta-pink HP, 'Victor Verdier' [see p. 20] listed as the male parent. 'Victor Verdier' was considered to be very close to the HT's, with abundant bloom and upright growth. 'Victor Verdier' also has 'Safrano' as the male parent. Both 'Devoniensis' and 'Safrano' would have contributed to a paler coloring. And, all these ancestors exhibit rolled back petal edges.

Daphne Filiberti in her "Rose Gathering" blog, references Jack Harkness when writing of 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam': "... a gorgeous rose

with light pink, intensely fragrant blooms. Jack Harkness stated that the rose should be classed as a '*stud Hybrid Tea*' because it was the pollen-parent of no less than 1300 [!] Hybrid Teas. He also noted that the plant had perfect flowers, and he forgave it for being feeble in growth. ...The rose was developed by Henry Bennett in 1882. ... It is the parent of such beauties as 'Antoine Rivoire', 'Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria', 'Mme Caroline Testout' and 'Souvenir du President Carnot'."

As I read this, I did a double take, since I happened to be growing almost all of the progeny listed, plus a couple of others. Additionally, all over Oregon one finds plants of 'Mme. Caroline Testout', as well as frequently encountered plants of 'Queen Elizabeth' (a sixth generation descendent of 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam'). The others she lists all reside in my garden.

One rose bred from 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' that I have been admiring recently at our Owen Rose Garden is 'Mme. Jules Bouché', HT 1911. Her flowers are satiny porcelain with just a hint of blush from pink buds. She is exquisite, a stately presence in the garden. This older Hybrid Tea from 1910 is thought to be a seedling of 'Mrs. W.J. Grant', HT, 1895. Mrs. W.J. Grant's parentage is cited as ('Lady



Mme Jules Bouche

Mary Fitzwilliam' x 'La France') x unknown. "Unknown" is an indication of an open-pollinated seedling from this rose hip. Aside from this mystery, if one considers the lineage of 'La France', 'Safrano' appears to figure twice in the ancestry of 'Mme. Jules Bouché'. She has "good genes" as they say. Are her pretty rolled back petal edges a trait inherited from her grandmother, 'Devoniensis'? Or, from her paternal grandfather? Oh, the tangled web of old rose ancestry! 'Mme. Jules

Bouché' is a six feet tall upright grower, with constantly produced, slightly nodding flowers.

'Eva de Grossouvre', HT, 1908, is another seedling of 'Mrs. W.J. Grant', so could be considered Lady Mary's niece. Her highly fragrant flowers are a rich clear pink, forming a wide bowl of large, creased petals, not recurved. I don't know if this rose is still extant in the Vintage collection, but they used to sell it. It proves a very showy plant in the garden, and I very much regret abandoning her to the parking strip when I moved to Oregon. This no doubt constitutes Plant Abuse! How can I ever atone?



'Antoine Rivoire', HT, also received a double dose of 'Safrano' ['Dr. Grill' x 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam']. The best plant of this I saw in Barbara Worl's garden in Menlo Park, growing on the edge of her driveway. It got the reflected heat from the pavement, and was a very free-flowering plant of about four feet. The palest pink to ivory flowers seemed to float above the plant in the sunlight, opening with broadly spreading outer petals, reduced in size towards the center. This pale coloring reinforces the belief that the true 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam' was a lighter pink, that is, if Antoine takes after his father.

The HT 'Ophelia' is a seedling of 'Antoine Rivoire'. She is not quite as floriferous as that rose, but repeats



Lady Ursula

regularly with classically formed, high centered buds, a favorite florist's rose. She varies from pale pink early in the season, but by high summer there are detectable peach tones with amber stamens.

Another of my favorite clear pink roses, 'Lady Ursula', is from Alexander Dickson, bred in 1908. Her parentage

is unknown, owing to a disastrous fire which destroyed the firm's breeding records in 1921. Regardless, she is a very tough old Hybrid Tea with somewhat nodding flowers, in this respect reminiscent of the Teas, and also in her spreading habit, capable of building to six feet.. Her flowers are particularly beautiful in the bud stage. In full sun she is a very pronounced clear pink, whereas in shade the flowers are lighter. I know this because I keep moving her around the garden to find her the best spot. I think I will leave her alone now, after relocating her four times: she is likely on the edge of a nervous breakdown.

'Souvenir du President Carnot', HT, 1894 is from an unknown seedling x 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam'. He is quite thorny and stiffly upright, these traits maybe harkening back to 'Victor Verdier'? Along the way he has picked up many more



Souvenir du President Carnot

petals than the others, with such packed flowers that the bees find it difficult to navigate. Pernet-Ducher dedicated this rose to the memory of the French President Marie François Sadi Carnot. President Carnot was assassinated in Lyons, France, on 24 June 1894, stabbed by an Italian anarchist. This dramatic history lends poignancy to what otherwise would be seen as yet-another-pink Hybrid Tea rose, because, as Old Rose aficionados appreciate, these old roses evoke another time for us. This rose provided the pollen for a famous Rambler, 'New Dawn', or rather, its sport parent, 'Dr. W. Van Fleet'.

'Alida Lovett' is another second-generation descendant, also a Wichurana Rambler - in clear pink, and her sister, 'Mary Lovett', referred to as "white 'New Dawn'". Another is 'Columbia'. Those of 'Lady Mary Fitzwilliam's' descendants that are derived from 'Mme. Caroline Testout' are roses with extra vigor, and marked rosy tones. But a characteristic which most of them seem to maintain, even in third or fourth generations, is the full, almost globular flower form, and the charmingly rolled back petal edges. Both of these ramblers show this, and for all of the roses mentioned it is no doubt a strong genetic link to their matriarch. There are many subtle differences to be found among the different pink shades. However, to be honest, after all I have attempted to describe up to this point, I must confess that my favorite color is, in fact, yellow!





WHO IS STANWELL PERPETUAL?

Justin Fortanascio

Part I: In the Books

In *The Heritage of the Rose*, David Austin says ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ is the first Old Garden Rose to captivate him. I remember reading that and thinking, like the Biblical burning bush that ushered Moses down to the

chosen people, ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ is the proverbial burning bush that led David Austin to English Roses. I think it may guide me to something extraordinary, too. It also might bring plagues. Regardless of the outcome, I think writing about a rose is a way of preservation, a mode that coaxes the planting of a cultivar by suggesting it for hundreds of years. ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ is one of those roses. The Who’s Who of the gardening world have been writing about this 3 ½ inch button-eyed bloom for almost two hundred years. It might even be ancient—not its name, but its genetics. It excites me to find 157,000 Google Search results for ‘Stanwell Perpetual’, though the results lose relevance to Stanwell the rose by page 14. Like for many old roses, a couple of different stories exist about its origin. It all depends on whom you read.

Starting in the late 1830s and the early 1840s, the first books for rose amateurs in the U.S., U.K. and Europe name ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ with references in Buist, Ellwanger, Gore, Hibberd, Parkman, Parsons, Paul, Prince, Rivers, Robinson, Saxton and others. In 1844, Robert Buist is the first author in the United States to write about ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ in a book, recommending it, like many will after him, for its profuse blooming and exquisite fragrance. [Ed. note: Actually Buist mentions ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ earlier in his 1841 edition of *American Flower Garden Directory*.] A few years later, two New York nursery owners, William R. Prince and Samuel Parsons agree with Buist. Parsons writes, “Its peculiar, delightful fragrance renders it very

desirable,” and Prince remarks, it “is in habit like the Scotch Perpetual, but it blooms more constantly and more profusely; in short, it is a much better rose of the same family, and one of the prettiest and sweetest of autumnal roses.” By the late nineteenth century, though, Stanwell lost favor to seemingly more exciting hybrids.

In 1866, New York’s Francis Parkman writes, “The Perpetual Scotch...None of them are of much value except Stanwell.” In 1882 Ellwanger, yet another New Yorker, downright rejects the Scotch roses, “the names of which are quite forgotten, most of them deservedly so....The two varieties which perhaps are most grown are hybrids, Stanwell’s Perpetual and Souvenir of Henry Clay (raised in America).” Ellwanger offers it in his nursery’s sales catalogue in 1890.

Farther afield, in England, the authoritative Gertrude Jekyll in 1902 gives ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ her approval. She says that “it fully deserves its name, as it flowers throughout the summer. Its weak point is a somewhat straggly habit. To correct this, it is well to place three plants in one group close together--that is to say about one foot apart—when they will close up and form a well shaped bush.” Jekyll is the first and only one to give practical planting advice for this rose. She is not the first to recommend it in England though. Thomas Rivers in 1837 and Mrs. Gore in 1838 endorse its planting too.

Over one-hundred-fifty years later, Peter Beales is the only one to describe, in his revised *Classic Roses*, that ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ sometimes develops leaves that appear “mottled purple as though diseased. Though unsightly, this discoloration is not serious, nor as far I know, contagious, and it should not put you off to this superb old cultivar. The long flowering season, rare in this group, amply compensates for a few discoloured leaves.”



‘Stanwell Perpetual’ persists, making its mark on famous twentieth century gardeners including, Beales, Bailey, Bunyard, Coates, Drennan, Griffiths, Jekyll, Keays, Kingsley, Kincaid, G.S. Thomas, Willmott, and many more. In 1912, Georgia Drennan published *Everblooming Roses*, and writes, ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ is “hardy and long lived in the coldest sections and yet defies the heat of summer in the Panhandle of Texas, where Indian corn sometimes succumbs to heat and drought.”

Echoing Drennan’s remarks thirty years later, Ethelyn Emery Keays, author of *Old Roses*, makes a point to recommend ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ in the June 1941 issue of *Home & Garden*, as “quite at home in our cranky climate.” Her home is Creek Side, Maryland. In 1961 ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ appeared on the cover of *The Book of Old*



Roses by Dorothy Stemler of the California nursery, Roses of Yesterday and Today. Francis E. Lester built the nursery in the 1930s, and it continues to offer Old Garden Roses because of a succession of passionate owners, including Will Tillotson, Stemler, and today the Wiley family. Books about scent in the garden also feature ‘Stanwell Perpetual’. Louise Beebe Wilder writes in her 1932 book, *The Fragrant Path*, it “is one of my favorite roses,” it “exhales a delicate and slightly spicy fragrance.” She also recommends it in her 1916 book, *My Garden* as the “free-flowering” companion to irises, foxgloves, campanulas, lupines, lilacs and daylilies. In her 1931 *The Scented Garden*, Eleanor Sinclair Rohde writes, “This bright pink rose has a fine rich scent. It opens cupped, and has no resemblance to the Scotch rose; the petals

have an occasional stripe of carmine like a carnation or ‘York and Lancaster’. The centre is rather flesh colour, the outer petals are paler. It blooms later than the Scotch Roses.” She also says, “It is noteworthy that Redoute figures no Scotch Roses,” which is important when trying to date the origin of the rose or to know if the French thought it acceptable. The answer is No. The French thought Stanwell unfashionable.

Also ponder the color: “pale pink,” “light pink,” “pink and flesh pink,” “white with a light blush,” “rosy blush,” “blush,” “soft blush pink,” “pale blush,” and “clearest blush pink,” as described by Vibert, Drennan, Le Bon Jardinier, Cochet, Laffay, Paul, Ellwanger, Beales, the *UK Rose Annual*, and Austin.

In the 1936 *Old Garden Roses*, Bunyard writes, it “should be in every garden,” and recommends that someone should produce a “race of Stanwells” in a variety of colors. The Frühlings series of roses from Kordes of Germany introduced repeat blooming *Rosa pimpinellifolia* hybrids in the late 1930s. The first was in 1937, one year after the publication of Bunyard’s suggestion. Kordes released the roses through the mid-1950s and gave them fabulous Frühling-names: for example, ‘Frühlingsmorgen’ and the once-blooming ‘Frühlingsgold’.

I think Graham Stuart Thomas’ description in the 1985 *Shrub Roses of Today* is the catalogue *raisonné* of ‘Stanwell Perpetual’s’ particular garden characteristics and history. Refining his description from 1955, Thomas maintains, ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ is

a most treasured possession, and is likely to remain in cultivation as long as roses are grown, for it’s perpetual-flowering and has a very sweet scent. It was a chance seedling in a garden at Stanwell, Middlesex, and was put on the market by the nurseryman Lee, of Hammersmith, in 1838. That is all that is known about it; but presumably it owes its perpetual habit and floral style to one of the Gallica group, probably an Autumn Damask. In good soil it makes a lax, thorny, twiggy bush up to 5 feet or so, with greyish small leaves resembling those of *Rosa pimpinellifolia*, which is no doubt its other parent. The flowers are of pale blush-pink, opening flat, with quilled and quartered petals. The main display is at midsummer, but it is never without

flowers. It was favoured by Miss Jekyll.

Thomas is correct; in 2019, Pascal Heitzler confirmed for the first time that the Damask rose ‘Four Seasons’ is indeed the direct parent of ‘Stanwell Perpetual’, it being a cross with an unknown *R. spinosissima*.

Part II: In Real Life

One of the ‘Stanwell Perpetuals’ in my garden was in bloom for the first time. It also mysteriously died right after that, making it the second rose I killed. For the curious, the first rose I killed is the glorious ‘Rose de Rescht’. I was away for a week, and my brother watched the dogs, the house, and the garden; the Japanese Beetles chose ‘Rose de Rescht’. Though I got the beetles when I returned, and Rescht put on new growth, it died over winter. I assume death from the stress and because I never got it out of its five-gallon pot and into the ground. I am sorry, ‘Rose de Rescht’ and ‘Stanwell Perpetual’. I am looking forward to growing you again.

Dead or lost ‘Stanwell Perpetuals’ are a theme in U.S. arboretums too. The Arnold Arboretum in Boston lists its ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ source as the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh from February 24, 1923. They are unable to locate the plant, and it is most likely dead. The Botanic Garden at Smith College in Northampton, MA, lists one as well, but no information is available, and it is also most likely dead. Brooklyn Botanic Garden lists it in their Rose Garden, but no information is available to its location. I spoke with Sandy on Cape Cod who lives near the Michael Walsh Memorial Rose Garden. She says she lost her rose several years ago, and it grew no more than four feet, rebloomed on occasion and was resilient. The old roses around Woods Hole Garden are worth a visit. In West Hartford, Connecticut, the Elizabeth Park Conservancy does not grow ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ – it does grow more than 150 other roses.

The New York Botanic Garden grows two ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ roses in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden as part of the Heritage Collection; they are alive, in Section K, Bed 1. Since March 10, 2010, the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington D.C. has grown one. The last official check-up on March 27, 2019, confirms it is alive. The National Arboretum’s ABE website is worth a visit. The site features a

searchable map that shows ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ planted in a rectangular bed edged by phlox paniculata and grouped with *R. spinosissima Repens*, *R. Dupontii*, *R. woodsii*, and *R. carolina plena*.

The name ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ originates in England in the late 1830s. Graham Stuart Thomas dates it to 1838, and Brent C. Dickerson dates the commercial introduction to 1836. These two are sources to trust. Dickerson says in his 2007 *Old Roses: The Master List* the differing dates could refer to different events in a rose’s history, referring to the commercial introduction, the first hybridization, the first bloom, or the first exhibition.

Some rosarians suggest ‘Stanwell Perpetual’s’ other name is ‘Lee’s Perpetual’. The inclusion of James Lee’s reblooming Scotch rose in various 1820s nursery sales catalogs as ‘Lee’s Perpetual’ or ‘Lee’s Eternal’ is evidence that at least Lee’s rose was around in the 1820s. For example, Lee’s rose is found in *Conrad Loddiges & Sons Nursery Catalog* in 1823 and John Miller’s 1826 *Bristol Nursery Catalog*. Since it is common for roses to have multiple names, it is logical to think Stanwell and Lee are the same rose, despite no formal documentation of a name change. Lee also offers a ‘Blush Perpetual’, ‘Lee’s Crimson Perpetual’ [Ed. note: this latter is a name for 'Rose du Roi'.], and sometimes the whole lot is Eternal rather than Perpetual, to add to the confusion.



In a fascinating account in her 1910 book *The Genus Rosa*, Ellen Willmott says ‘Stanwell Perpetual’ is also depicted by Andrews in the 1820s or earlier, “but though he gives two plates in his work, either of which would do very well for ‘Stanwell Perpetual’, the drawings are not sufficiently accurate to enable us to decide. His *Rosa spinosissima incarnate*, plate No. 126 was brought by Mr.

Grace from Rouen, where it had the reputation of flowering all the year round. Andrews found it in flower in October in the Hammersmith nursery under the name of Lee's Eternal, and he mentions that it flowers much later than other Scotch Roses." Andrews created his *Roses* books between 1805 and 1828 and visited Hammersmith, the headquarters of Lee's nursery, the Vineyard, during the same period. The Vineyard is 10 miles from the city of Stanwell where Lee operated another nursery, and where 'Stanwell' or 'Lee's Perpetual' first made an appearance.

In the United States, the big East Coast nurseries of the time offered 'Stanwell Perpetual' in their sales catalogs as early as 1844. Eighty-eight years later, the NJ rose nursery Bobbink & Atkins sold it as so well-known and of general commercial availability they included it in their regular catalog and not in their special *Old Fashioned Roses* presentation. It is still available today from Old Garden Rose specialists in the U.S.

Many gardeners have found a place for 'Stanwell Perpetual' in their lives. The same adoration for the same plant, the same cares and frustrations, all throughout history; that is the story of 'Stanwell Perpetual'. I ordered three and I planted them one foot apart in the trifecta suggested by Jekyll. One is now dead, and the trifecta becomes a duo until I can start a new cutting and continue the story of this rose.

CREDITS

Pages 2-4, 6, 7, 12, 21 top, 24 bot., 25 top & bot.—Darrell Schramm

Page 5 top—Margaret Spaulding

Page 5 bot. & 23 top—Margaret Furness

Pages 8-10—Elaine Sedlack

Pages 11 & 21 bot.—Les Johnson

Page 13—Courtesy of National Arboretum

Page 14—Rose G. Kingley in *Roses & Rose Growing*, 1908

Page 17—Alfred Parsons in *The Genus Rosa*, 1910

Page 20—H. Nestel in *Aus des Rosengarten*, 1867

Page 22—Helena V. Borg

Page 23 bot.—Urte Zimmermann

Page 24 top—Cliff Orent

Page 25 middle—Bill Grant

Page 27—Billy West

Front Cover: 'Pontiana' by Redouté

Quotation and Response

I. Master essayist William H. Gass asserted and asked, “‘Rose’ is a name, a noun, an action: where does that put us?” My answer is that it puts us in the garden or nursery where the Rose rose fluidly from its fluid or sap within the stem into a bud, then into flower. Further, it also rose within us as our eyes beheld it, rose into form beyond fiction, beyond words into wonderment, into color, contexture, and context, gardens and garlands, into the freshness, freedom, and fragility of beauty, into mind and memory, into the heart.

II. The great stage actor Ian McKellan once said, “ Americans are still forty-niners at heart. They like to dig for gold. They’re always mining. They are not good gardeners.” That statement may be true for Forty-niner football athletes and fans, but since the COVID pandemic, it may be less the case for American gardeners, depending on their seriousness and their sense of quality. The English, we know, are superb gardeners. We have much to learn from them. But rosarians and nurserymen are grateful for the willingness of new and amateur gardeners to try.--The Editor

ANTIQUÉ ROSE SOURCES

Alabama: Petals from the Past www.petalsfromthepast.com
California: Burlington Roses www.burlingtonroses.com
California: Greenmantle Nursery www.greenmantlenursery.com
California: Otto & Sons www.OttoandSonsnursery.com
California: Regan Nursery www.regannursery.com
Colorado: High Country Roses www.highcountryroses.com
Florida: Angel Gardens www.angelgardens.com
Florida: Rose Petals Nursery www.rosepetalsnursery.com
Mississippi: K and M Roses www.kandmroses.com
North Carolina: Long Ago Roses www.longagoroses.com
Ontario, Canada: Palatine Roses www.palatineroses.com
Oregon: Rogue Valley Roses www.roguevalleyroses.com
Oregon: Heirloom Roses www.heirloomroses.com
Texas: Antique Rose Emporium www.antiqueroseemporium.com



A VERDIER FAMILY OF ROSES

Darrell g.h. Schramm

A small number of old roses from the late 1840s to 1890s still grown and sold today were bred or raised by three members of the Verdier family in France. Philippe-Victor Verdier (1803-1878), typically French to be known by his second name Victor, was the nephew of Antoine A. Jacques, gardener to King Louis Philippe and originator of the Sempervirens line of roses such as 'Adalaide d'Orleans' and 'Félicité-Perpétue'. Supposedly Victor had a hand in raising his uncle's roses. On his own, he began raising roses from seed. In fact, in sowing the seeds of his uncle's Hybrid Bourbon 'Athelin', he authored the third Hybrid Perpetual in 1934, 'Perpétuelle de Neuilly'. A rose named for him, 'Victor Verdier' by Lacharme in 1859 is the first Hybrid Tea with a named parentage, and perhaps the first Hybrid Tea, clearly before 'La France'.

Around 1827 he had begun his own collection of roses,

reputedly 1500 varieties on two or three acres. But in 1838 when recurrently blooming roses began to supersede once-blooming roses, he

rid himself of all the non-remontant plants to build a new collection of repeat-flowering roses. By 1848 he had established a large, flourishing nursery of irises, peonies—inherited from his uncle—and remontant roses. He also served for a time as vice-president of the National Horticultural Society of France.

Of the scores of roses Victor Verdier raised and bred on his own over the years, at least three remain in circulation: ‘Frederic II de Prusse’, 1847, one of my favorite Hybrid Chinas, was named for Frederick the Great, who, in addition to being a renowned ruler, showed himself to be a great military commander, flautist,

and writer, and a friend of Voltaire. The rose, pure purple and perfumed, promotes its own profusion. The second rose, a white

Noisette of 1848, remains popular, ‘Jeanne d’Arc’, named for “the maid of Orleans” who was burned at the stake in 1431. Robert Buist of Philadelphia was selling it as recently as 1851. Verdier’s Moss rose of 1854, ‘Baron de



Wassenaer’, may have been named for a contemporary Dutch politician from a noble family, Otto Baron de Wassenaer (1823-1887). On the other hand, but less likely, it might have been named for the Dutch composer and diplomat Unico Wilhelm Count van Wassenaer (1692-1766). Strongly scented and mossed, the rose manifests mauve-pink petals, but sometimes more red with a mauvish cast, much paler on the undersides.

In 1866 Victor’s younger son Charles succeeded him in the nursery, but not before the two of them together produced the 1855 Portland rose ‘Mme Knorr’ and the

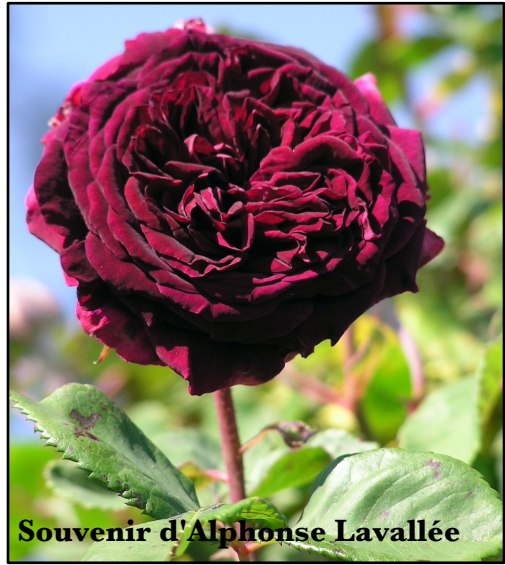


Hybrid Perpetual of 1862 ‘Henri IV’. ‘Mme Knorr’ exhales fragrance, and wears a light rose-color with darker center and white reverse petals. It complies to its class by growing to typical Damask Perpetual height of three to four feet, thick stems heartily armed with prickles. The rose sometimes is identified as ‘Comte de Chambord’; indeed, some rosarians assert that the latter really is ‘Mme Knorr’. The person herself remains a woman of mystery.

‘Henri IV’ (or ‘Henry IV’) is less mysterious. King of France from 1553-1610, he built canals and roads, opening much of his kingdom to commerce. National debt was greatly reduced, and France accordingly enjoyed unprecedented prosperity. Though he was stabbed to death by a religious fanatic—like Henry III before him—he was nicknamed “The Great.” The rose asserts itself as purple-red with a ruffled center, growing six to eight feet tall.

On his own, Charles Felix Verdier bred a few roses. Two survivors are ‘Paul Verdier’ of 1866 and ‘Souvenir d’Alphonse Lavallée’, both Hybrid Perpetuals. Not well known but still sold by four or five nurseries in the world, ‘Paul Verdier’, a pinkish-red, perfumed

rose, may have been named for Charles Verdier's son. As for 'Souvenir d'Alphonse Lavallée' of 1884, its large, imbricated flowers almost vibrate in amaranthine red. It is named for an erstwhile president of the French National Horticulture Society, an amateur dendrologist who created one of the largest arboretums in Europe during his time (1836-1884). No doubt the rose was named to commemorate his life and death.



Souvenir d'Alphonse Lavallée

The brother Eugene Verdier, who established his own nursery, is listed repeatedly as the older brother, yet dates given for both do not support that fact; his birth date is given generally as 1827, whereas Charles—supposedly the younger—is dated born 1821 or 1824. Be that discrepancy as it may, Eugene was a prolific rose breeder with at least 220 roses—mostly Hybrid Perpetuals, as was the fashion—to his credit. About a dozen of his roses still survive in nurseries other than in the United States, with two contingent exceptions.

Those exceptions are the 1861 Hybrid Perpetual 'Prince Camille



Prince Camille de Rohan

de Rohan', which is sold by Russian River Nurseries in northern California, but the small company does not ship; and the 1863 'Mme Victor Verdier' and 1865 'Fisher Holmes', both Hybrid Perpetuals which can be only custom-ordered from Freedom Gardens in Ohio. 'Prince Camille de Rohan', a

dark magenta-red rose, powerfully scented and once enormously popular, was sold in the U.S. for more than 150 years; fortunately ten or twelve nurseries still sell it abroad. Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen and Mottisfont both grow it. The rose was named for Prince Camille de Rohan, as were a rhododendron, a variegated maple, and an iris. As an amateur botanist, his interest was aroused when he heard of Leopold Blashka who made flowers out of glass. Buying a collection of 100 life-like orchids of glass and other such flowers, he hosted an exhibition of Blashka's art in 1863. The prince himself had created a famous garden at one of his palaces near the town of Aicha, Bavaria.

'Mme Victor Verdier', a nearly "thornless," cherry-red



Mme Victor Verdier



Fisher Holmes

rose with fine fragrance, was named for Eugene's mother. 'Fisher Holmes', also fragrant, a large, deep crimson flower with somewhat scalloped petals, growing from thick, sturdy canes, was named for an old nursery in England founded around 1743, which

became Fisher and Holmes in 1825, Charles and James Fisher and Edward Holmes, the owners. In 1925 the nursery was awarded a Royal Horticultural Society medal for its ornamental trees and shrubs. I once grew and loved this spectacular rose, unaware that I had planted it



Dr. Andry



James Mitchell



Duc de Bragance

above an underground stream where it died of root rot.

Incidentally, Eugene Verdier exhibited 'Viridiflora', the Green Rose, obtained from an American, at the Paris Horticultural Exhibition in 1855.

Other notable roses surviving from Eugene Verdier's enthusiasm but sold only elsewhere than in the U.S. are 'James Mitchell', a Moss of 1861; 'James Veitch', an odd mossy Hybrid Perpetual, and red 'Dr.

Andry', both of 1864; 'Mrs. Charles Baltet', a Bourbon of 1865' 'Velours Pourpre', a Hybrid Perpetual of 1866; 'Mme Bertha Mackart', a Hybrid Perpetual of 1883; 'Duc de Bragance', a rich red, sometimes

clustering Hybrid Perpetual of 1886 and one of my favorites (despite its fondness for fungus), named for the assassinated duke turned King of Portugal; and 'Oeillet Panachee', 1888, a fragrant, pink-striped Moss with

rather squared petal edges.

So many of his roses still surviving in the 21st century are telltale of a productive and rewarding life. Eugene Verdier's wife died in 1893. During his last several years he became blind and rarely left his house. He died in the new century at age 75.

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CHATENAY PINK: 'MADAME ABEL CHATENAY'

Darrell g.h. Schramm

In 1894 “The Wizard of Lyon”, renowned rose breeder Joseph Pernet-Ducher, released a rose he named for the wife of Abel Chatenay. This vigorous, full and fragrant Hybrid Tea—one of the early ones, to be sure—its flowers on long, erect stems, expresses its roses in a soft shade of carmine pink, the center and the reverse petals more salmon pink. It calls to my mind a slightly deeper pink of ‘Lady Mary Fitzwilliam’. The color of ‘Mme Abel Chatenay’ is such that the term “Chatenay pink” became a reference to this particular shade of color. To some noses the rose exhales a “penetrating fragrance,” to others a moderate but delicious scent.

While there exists a climbing sport, Graham Thomas believes “there is no need to grow it,” no doubt because most climbing sports of Hybrid Teas reveal themselves to be less floriferous than the original bush. Like any human being ‘Mme Abel Chatenay’ has a flaw: it is susceptible to mildew and blackspot, though not harmfully so. But it is one of the few drought tolerant Hybrid Teas.

This rose was one of 31 rose plants in 1899 that the famous Jules Gravereaux (whose research determined many of the roses that Empress Josephine had grown about ninety years earlier and who founded the renowned French public garden Roseraie de l'Hay) grew in his private garden. Clearly this was a strong, beautiful and popular rose.

In 1912 Georgia Torrey Drennan listed it as one of the best six Hybrid Teas of the time. And in 1936 and again in 1947, Horace MacFarland, calling it a prototype of the 'Ophelia' family of roses, considered it "among the best of the productions of the great French rose wizard," adding that it was "long a standard of comparison for the newer pink sorts."

The Chatenays as rose fanciers and gardeners go back at least to Louis XV when in 1762 a relative of their name designed and planted a rose garden in or near Doue-la-Fontaine. This man seems to have been the grandfather of Edme Chatenay-Crispin who was a gardener for a Lieutenant Baron Foullon under Louis XVI near Doue-la-Fontaine. (Perhaps not incidentally, this town is considered by many French to be the rose capital of France. Each July a Festival of the Rose is held there.) Another relative from a different branch of the Chatenay family was the Gardener-in-Chief at Choisy-le-Roi, about five miles south of Paris, a retreat for Louis XV. So it should be no surprise that the Chatenays were involved in horticulture.

Madame Abel Chatenay was born Augustine-Delphine Chatenay in the village of Vitry-sur-Seine near Paris in 1857. She married a close relative from the same town, one Abel Chatenay at age nineteen. Abel Chatenay was at one time secretary-general and at another the first vice-president of the National Horticulture Society of France from 1913 until his death in 1931. They had three daughters, two of whom died young, but one who lived until 1977 and whose grandson Patrice Huet was still alive in 2009. In 1894 Abel and Augustine bought a summer house in Cabourg, where Mme Abel Chatenay died in August of 1928.

PLANTING ROSE SEEDS—Walter Van Fleet

from *The Rural New Yorker*, Apr. 6, 1907

Seeds of Hybrid Perpetual and other hardy garden roses may be treated like those of apple or pear, but as germination is very irregular and the little plants more readily injured than fruit-tree seedlings, they are best sown in pots or boxes, and given the protection of a frame or other glass structure. Rose fruits or heps should, as a rule, be picked as soon as they begin to color and the seeds either secured by cutting open with knife, cracking with the hammer, or rotting in wet sand, which is soon accomplished in warm weather. The seeds may then be washed out. When secured by either the above methods, they should at once be sown or stratified in moist, not wet, sand and stored in a cool place.

Old dried seeds are very unsatisfactory, but if valuable, may be to some extent revived by packing in layers of moist sand in a perforated box—or in other words, stratifying them—and burying the box in well-drained soil 20 inches or more deep for a year before planting. This depth is so great that sprouting is not likely to occur, but the living kernels remain dormant while the hard, bony shells soften and decay. We have had a fair proportion of old rose seeds thus treated come up within two weeks after planting. If it is necessary to keep rose seeds dry any considerable time they are better preserved in the hep than if taken out.

Seeds of Tea, Hybrid Tea and many small-flowered roses of the Multiflora class occasionally germinate within 10 days if planted as soon as the heps are partially colored. Other kinds may remain in the soil under the best conditions as long as three years before sprouting.

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A 1911 poster for a German rose festival.