



THE *Vintage rose*  
July–August 2016, Issue 13



THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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**NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES**

*July–August 2016, Issue 13*

**IN THIS ISSUE:**



*Featured Rose*

In the early 19th century, philhellenic sympathies aroused Western Europe in favor of the Greek cause. Among those so aroused was a Frenchman, General Fabvier, the namesake of an old but strong China rose. . . . *see page 3*



*Curator's Report*

To get at the heart of why old roses are so important and their preservation so necessary, I posed three questions: Why are the old roses the roses of the wild? Why are the most ancient roses of China the old roses of Europe? Why are the most modern roses of Europe the old roses of China? . . . *see page 6*



*Pernetianas in Our Collection*

The Friends of Vintage Roses is justly proud of its collection of these now mostly rare roses. What follows is an abecedarian—ABC narrative—on a selection of the Pernetianas with the hope of seducing and then inducing the reader to acquire at least one of them. . . . *see page 9*

*On the cover: 'Tu Wei' (photo by Wang G.)*

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**DIRT DAYS 2016**

Below is the schedule of our volunteer days in the garden in Sebastopol. We call these ‘Dirt Days’ and they run the gamut from weeding to potting and mulching. Dirt Days begin at 10 am, we work until about 1 pm then break for lunch. All are welcome. Smell the fresh country air, enjoy the beauty of the roses! —Gregg Lowery, Curator

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| JUNE 18, SATURDAY  | SEPTEMBER 10, SATURDAY |
| JULY 2, SATURDAY   | SEPTEMBER 25, SUNDAY   |
| JULY 17, SUNDAY    | OCTOBER 9, SUNDAY      |
| AUGUST 6, SATURDAY | OCTOBER 22, SATURDAY   |
| AUGUST 21, SUNDAY  | NOVEMBER 5, SATURDAY   |



*Fabvier (photo by xxx)*

**Featured Rose: ‘Fabvier’, An Undaunted Rose**

*Darrell g.h. Schramm*

A rose in my garden is closely linked to Greece’s struggle for independence early in the 19th century. Philhellenic sympathies aroused Western Europe in favor of the Greek cause. Among those so aroused was a Frenchman, General Fabvier, the namesake of an old but strong China rose. Here’s the story behind the rose:

*A few years after General Fabvier had been expelled from the French army for being too liberal in matters of regulation and discipline, he left France to fight against the Turks in Greece’s war for independence. He had previously fought under Napoleon and then served as ambassador in Isfahan. (Incidentally, a rose, variously spelled ‘Isfahan’ or ‘Isphahan’ or*

*'Ispahan' was brought back from Isfahan, Persia, in 1932 by the English gardener Norah Lindsay—an exquisite Damask that I grow.)*

According to the memoirs of the great writer Victor Hugo, Fabvier was not just a hero during this war in Greece but a god to the men serving under him, a man with a kind of "Homeric ferocity." He had instituted new routines of discipline. And even though stranded at one point in the battle of the Acropolis (1826-27), he was able to extricate himself and his men. In the end, though the Acropolis fell to the enemy, that fall prompted European states to become more involved, after which the Turks were routed and the nation of Greece was born in 1832.

By then General Fabvier had already taken a noteworthy part in France's July Revolution of 1830. Shortly thereafter, in 1832, the breeder Laffay introduced this China rose in his honor. (Obviously 1832 was an important year.)

Later, under King Louis Philippe, he became a lieutenant General and, in 1846, a member of Parliament. As a distinguished member of the House of Peers, he was unafraid to confront those members of Parliament who had granted special favors and/or succumbed to extortions of public powers and elites (echoes of our own Congress today). After serving as ambassador to Constantinople and Denmark, he retired from public life in 1851. He died four years later.

The rose by his name is as prolific and active as he was. Peter Beales called 'Fabvier' a "showy flower." It has crimson flowers with a blush-eyed center, many petals generally exhibiting a streak of white. Its dark leaves usually have a purple tint. Ethelyn Emery Keys in 1935 described it as "not quite double, showing a golden ring of stamens when it is fully open, brilliant, striking.... The plant is rather small and quite wiry." It flowers even in the rain. In fact, Pemberton claimed the rose is "always gay, no matter how wet the weather." I find that true. Rain or not, even in late December each

year it continues to send out buds and blossoms. Deadhead the rose, and it will bloom continuously.

While the plant is small for a China—perhaps two and a half feet high—it is lovely in frontage beds or in pots. Ignore Graham Stuart Thomas's assertion that, because of its color, the rose is difficult to fit into a garden, except with quite modern roses. Not true.

In fact, that early American rose expert Pemberton considered 'Fabvier' "one of the very best crimson chinas" and suggested grouping several of its plants together in rows about a foot apart for a massed bed. It's little, it's lovely, it's rarely out of bloom. It lifts its face unabashed to sun and mist and rain. It offers clusters of blooms for Christmas. In my garden it hides the naked legs of a tall, upright, old hybrid tea. 'Fabvier' is undaunted and full of cheer. ■

### Help Us To Preserve Historic Roses

Will only a fading picture from an old book remain one day as a tangible record of 'Heinrich Wendland', the rose? As with all roses, a living plant can continue indefinitely into the future as living history—if it is



*Rosen (by Kordes 1932)*

cherished, propagated, and given a place to grow. The Friends of Vintage Roses work every day to prevent these roses from going extinct. Our collection of historic Hybrid Teas has been one of the outstanding lights of this collection of old roses. In fact, our collection has helped to bring to light the value of these early modern roses around the world.



*Beijing Botanic Gardens (photo by G. Lowery)*

## Curator's Report: Lessons from China

In May of this year I had the honor of addressing the International Heritage Rose Conference in Beijing. As the leading speaker in the group of 16 very knowledgeable rosarians from around the world, I took the opportunity to ask the world rose community to revisit and revise long held ideas about the history of roses. I posed three questions that get to the heart of why old roses are so important and their preservation so necessary. These questions are riddles or conundrums—puzzles of a sort that can be answered only hypothetically. I pose these to you, and in the course of sharing with you my journeys to China and Japan, will I offer my own hypothetical answers.

### WHY ARE THE OLD ROSES THE ROSES OF THE WILD?

The Beijing conference was also the Asian regional conference for the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS). Speakers came from India, Japan, China, Australia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. The history of roses and the origins of roses in gardens in ancient China were of particular importance. A pervading subject for many speakers was the wild roses of the world: how they are faring in the face of global climate change and how their natural habitats are being destroyed. Several Chinese scholars shed light on breeding with rose species that have until now not been used for the development of garden roses. This came as good news to me, since many of these species are threatened in the wild, and any light that can be shone on them may help to preserve them.

Dr. Wang Guoliang, China's leading authority on the wild and old roses of China, inaugurated his most recent garden of old Chinese roses, and officially opened his museum of rose history in China. These gems, located in Daxing, a south-central district of Beijing, offer a unique glimpse of the wild roses that were brought into gardens in China 3000 years ago and more! The garden, divided into three sections—wild roses, rugosa roses, and China roses—follows the ancient division of roses that was well established in tradition in China long before the Song Dynasty (AD 960–1279), the era when the rose was the most treasured flower in China.

Guoliang's remarkable work as a scientist has gained his well-deserved reputation. He combines botany, the study of ancient





Rose Park Gateway (photo by G. Lowery)

Chinese language and culture, and the history of art, both Asian and European, as tools in his multi-disciplined research. His recently published book (available now only in Chinese) is titled simply *Old Roses in China*. Central to this book is the understanding that wild roses have played a significant role in Chinese culture, and, despite the great passage of time and political attempts to eradicate that importance, remain a part of Chinese culture today.

The focus on wild roses is a reminder that the first garden roses were wild roses. Their colors, scent and usefulness brought them to the attention of human beings who sought out particularly fine forms with larger flowers or unusual colors, or, as in the case of *Rosa roxburghii*, extra petals that transform the appearance of the blooms. We tend to think of old roses—garden roses—as hybrids of some sort, but in fact the oldest were simply brought from the wild into gardens.

**WHY ARE THE MOST ANCIENT ROSES OF CHINA THE OLD ROSES OF EUROPE?**

Dr. Wang has gathered more than 200 old Chinese rose cultivars. His research into ancient manuscripts and paintings, along with his study of the popular names of these roses today clearly demonstrate that these are not roses from Europe but are the very old roses of China, like the China and Tea roses brought from China to Europe in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Thanks to his work we now know that one thousand years ago the Chinese grew re-blooming

roses, derived from native species. Roses such as ‘Zi Yan Fe Wu’, a rose that appears to be identical to the mystery rose known in America as “Maggie”, in Bermuda as “Pacific”, in India as “Kakinada Red”, in Germany as Rudolf Geschwind’s ‘Mme. Eugene E. Marlitt’, came originally from China and the great era of the Song rose-makers, or perhaps even earlier.

In my presentation I drew attention to a few very old roses of Europe, roses that have been pivotal in the later development of roses in Europe in the 19th century. The Damask roses, both once-flowering and remontant, remain a mysterious group, grown in the Mediterranean in ancient times. Genetic research in Japan less than a decade ago revealed that the Damask roses are the result of crosses between two wild roses, *R. gallica*, once wide-spread in Europe, and *R. fedtschenkoana*, native to central Asia from Kirgistan to Western China.

A third parent of the Damasks is the ancient mystery rose *R. moschata*, or the ‘Musk Rose’.



“Maggie” (photographer unknown)



*R. fedtschenkoana* (photo by B. Loubert)



*R. Gallica* (photo by B. Loubert)



*R. moschata* (photo by B. Loubert)



*Autumn Damask* (photo by G. Lowery)

No definitive study has proven this to be a wild species of the genus *Rosa*, and much about it suggests that it may have been a hybrid of two or more species roses. The Musk Rose is claimed to be native to Persia or elsewhere along the Silk Route from China to Europe, and its value as a source of essential fragrance oils dates back thousands of years.

The earliest Bourbon roses appear to be crosses between the remontant Damask roses and the re-blooming China rose cultivars. While Europeans believed the Bourbons to have been accidental crosses on the island of Reunion, in the hedgerows of French settlers, tradition in India has it that these are

ancient roses long grown on the subcontinent.

I argued that, for lack of written records of the origin of Damask, Musk and Bourbon, we could just as easily speculate that these roses originated in China where the largest concentration of wild rose species in the world is centered. In a visit to the Friends' rose

collection in mid-June of this year, Dr. Wang saw for the first time the mystery rose, "Rose de Rescht", a foundling named by Nancy Lindsay, in the Persian city of Rescht, perhaps named in reference to Ellen Willmott's mention of a lost old cultivar, 'Gul e Reshti'. Wang was intrigued by the similarity between it and an ancient Chinese rose, 'Tu Wei', a fragrant rose whose petals are traditionally used to make a strong wine. He took cuttings to return to China and compare the two roses.

Researching the genetics of these ancient roses has only recently begun. It will take time and much more work on the part of scholars like Wang Guoliang, and the proof of what originated where may never be fully revealed for lack of historical records. But in answer to my second riddle, *I would posit that these very old roses, which we have long held to be the old roses of Europe, may in fact be the most ancient roses of China, dating some thousands of years back, before the recorded roses created in the Song Dynasty.*



"Rose de Rescht" (photo by B. Loubert)



"Tu Wei" (photo by Wang G.)

## WHY ARE THE MOST MODERN ROSES OF EUROPE THE OLD ROSES OF CHINA?

The story of the hybrid development of roses in the 19th century, largely in the hands of French nurserymen, has led us in Europe and America to believe in a story that may indeed be false. Greatly simplified, it suggests that crosses between the China and Tea roses and “old European roses” (most notably the Gallicas) led to the creation of the Hybrid Perpetuals, the first “European” roses to repeat their bloom. We know that the first generation was notoriously sterile, the Hybrid Chinas, but it is suggested that three of these hybrids yielded seed and from these three the Hybrid Perpetuals were developed. These, according to the story, were crossed with Tea roses to produce the first, and ultimately all Hybrid Tea roses.

In fact, none of the three fertile Hybrid Chinas produced more than a handful of seedlings, and none of those parented the many generations of Hybrid Perpetuals which records tell us were parents of Hybrid Teas. One rose stands out in the 19th century as a major parent to HPs and ultimately to Hybrid Teas. That variety was ‘Gloire des Rosomanes’, supposedly raised by Parmentier in France and distributed by Pierre Vibert. ‘Gloire des Rosomanes’ has been categorized as a Bourbon rose, but in fact has far more in common with the old red China roses. According to HelpMeFind/Roses, the online encyclopedia of roses, ‘Gloire des Rosomanes’ is an ancestor to more than 12,000 roses introduced since 1825.

I would suggest that it is plausible that this amazingly important rose may not have been raised by Parmentier but simply obtained by him, and that ‘Gloire des Rosomanes’ may well have been developed in China or in India from the dwarf red chinensis hybrids dating far back in time.

One thing remains clear when one reads the parentage of modern roses: direct breeding between Gallicas and Chinas was not fruitful and did not spawn the Hybrid Perpetuals. The principal

parents of the HPs were the Damask and Bourbon roses, and the pink and red China roses. In breeding efforts, again and again the China roses were injected until ultimately a preponderance of the genetics of the roses of the Song Dynasty dominated our modern roses, the Hybrid Teas and their offspring. And, even the lesser part of modern rose genes may hail back to other roses from China, if indeed Damask, Musk and Bourbon were creations from the roses of China.



*“Gloire des Rosomanes” (photo by J. Jennings)*

## THE VALUE OF PRESERVATION

As we stand on the edge of a much deeper understanding of the history of roses, their deep and ancient connection to human culture, their origins in Asia, we face once again the importance of preserving these useful and beautiful plants. The Chinese have much to tell us. As they begin to preserve and display their rose history, they are beginning to discover that a significant part of their rose history lies beyond in the world’s roses. And that is for us to preserve and share!

—Gregg Lowery



*'Comtesse d'Oxford' and 'Baronne Prevost' (photos by G. Lowery)*

## Good Seed Bearers

If you grow or are interested in growing roses from seed, you might be interested in saving the hips of one or more of the following Old Garden Roses (all growing in my garden), which are known to be good seed bearers:

Baronne Prevost	Hybrid Perpetual
Black Prince	Hybrid Perpetual
Charles Lawson	Hybrid Bourbon
Comtesse d'Oxford	Hybrid Perpetual
Dr. Andry	Hybrid Perpetual
Fabvier	China
Gustav Grunerwald	Hybrid Tea
Kaiserin Augusta Victoria	Hybrid Tea
La Reine	Hybrid Perpetual
Louise Odier	Bourbon
Mme Berkeley	Tea
Mrs. Bosanquet	Hybrid Bourbon
Rose du Roi	Damask Perpetual
Sir Joseph Paxton	Bourbon

—*The Editor*



*'Soleil d'Or' (photo by G. Lowery)*

## Pernetianas In Our Collection: An Abecedarian

*Darrell g.h. Schramm*

### PART I

My neighbor on the hill above me grows an old yellowish rose from 1900, 'Soleil d'Or'. Forerunner of that all-but-forgotten class of roses, the Pernetianas, it was bred by Joseph Pernet-Ducher in his determination to inject the bright and lasting yellow gene into cultivated roses. Though 'Soleil d'Or' did not offer him the solid yellow he was seeking, it did contain some deep yellow, not to mention orange and pale red tints. Ten years later his 'Rayon d'Or' showed a more consistent yellow but still not a pure one. With 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet' he achieved his goal in 1920, an unsullied, intense yellow. In between those introductions, he bred other roses in his search—and afterwards as well—a class of rose that came to be known as Pernetianas.

The very early Pernetianas, a name first used by Rose Kingsley in 1910 and adopted in 1914, exhibited some of the traits of one parent *Rosa foetida persiana*: thin, straight prickles mixed with smaller pubescent prickles, short-lived foliage, and invariably some yellow



*'Angele Pernet' (photo by D. Schramm)*

shade in the color of the flower. By the time 'Ville de Paris' came along in 1925, a light golden-yellow rose aging to lemon-yellow, the plants had fewer of the small hairy prickles; and when 'Julien Potin' surfaced in 1927, its pedicel was naked and smooth. Thereafter, the Foetida prickles on Pernetianas were generally a trait of the past, the prickles now somewhat large and hooked like those of a China or Tea rose. The yellowish cast, however, remained, a telltale sign of a Pernetiana in the 1920s and 30s, when gradually they were subsumed into the Hybrid Tea category.

These roses by and large require some cossetting. According to Dr. J. H. Nicolas, who knew Pernet-Ducher and ordered his roses from him, Pernetianas were "not as universally adaptable as the Hybrid Tea." Nonetheless, where the growing season is short because of hard winters, they reportedly prove hardier than the true Hybrid Teas of their time. In addition, according to Walter Easlea, they do not require much pruning at all.



*'Babe Ruth' (photo by G. Lowery)*

The Friends of Vintage Roses is justly proud of its collection of these now mostly rare roses. What follows is an abecedarian—ABC narrative—on a selection of the Pernetianas, with the hope of seducing and then inducing the reader to acquire at least one of them.

It is fitting to begin with 'Angele Pernet', a uniquely colored rose named for Pernet-Ducher's daughter. Brownish-orange with a sheen—unlike any other rose—sometimes shaded rosy apricot, the petals retain their color in this globular, semi-double rose. This exquisite and unusual flower exhales a sweet, fruity fragrance. Others and I believe she grows best in semi-shade. Though said to be given to blackspot, I have rarely found that so; of course I pamper this rose, much as Pernet-Ducher may have done with his daughter after he lost his two sons in WWI. In an old photo taken at the International Rose Conference of 1912 in London, she stands, one of two women, beside her father among several other famous rose breeders of the day. Pernet-Ducher released the rose the year he retired, in 1924.

B is for 'Babe Ruth', often called a Hybrid Tea, introduced two years after the nearly mythical baseball player died of cancer in August 1948. With a great-grandparent 'Soleil d'Or' in its genes, the pink



*'Christopher Stone' (photo by D. Schramm)*

tones of the rose also reveal some orange strains, more like the color of 'Pink Peace'. The strongly scented flowers of 25 to 40 petals open rather loosely on a medium-sized bush.

Babe Ruth himself brought wide-eyed excitement to baseball. During his first year with the New York Yankees, 1920, he hit 54 home runs and the next year 59, more than any other player, more than any entire team in the major leagues. In 1927 at age 32, he hit sixty home runs, a record for 34 years. But he was renowned for more than baseball. He was unassuming, undisciplined, generous, kind, occasionally pugilistic and extravagant. Once he lost \$26,000 on a horse race and a few days later another \$39,000. His sexual indiscretion compelled his employer to hire detectives and bodyguards to follow him. When sex was not on the menu, he ate. By 1925 he had added forty unnecessary pounds. An intense fitness regimen returned him to his former self, after which he see-sawed in his career, retiring in 1935. Fred Howard, the rose's breeder, was undoubtedly a fan.

'Christopher Stone' is a long-lasting red rose of 1935 from England where it won a Gold Medal. A great-grandparent was a seedling of



*'Duquesa de Peñaranda' (photo by D. Schramm)*

'Soleil d'Or', which explains the scarlet coloring, for scarlet is a red with some yellow tint to it. Often the rose shows a blackish crimson shading, one that does not fade, especially when not exposed to hot afternoon sun. A sturdy, compact bush, it grows to about three feet.

Its namesake was a pre-television radio celebrity, the BBC's first disc-jockey who began his broadcast at age 45 in 1927. In fact, he was the United Kingdom's first radio announcer and programmer. The BBC allowed him to play his favorite gramophone music on the air, which he organized weekly around a theme. When he accepted additional work for Radio Luxembourg (which began in 1933), the BBC thought him disloyal and dismissed him. But happily at Radio Luxembourg he was free to develop his own convivial, relaxed style, unlike the stiff formality that the BBC had required. That free and friendly style is still evident on radio today.

'Duquesa de Peñaranda' is a vivid, carrot-and-cantaloupe colored Pernetiana bred by the famous Pedro Dot of Spain, introduced to Europe in 1929. Apparently the color fades quickly in most hot



*'Eclipse' (photo by B. Grant)*

climates, though that seems not so on the Spanish Mediterranean. The double flowers grow on a short bush.

The actual Duchess of Peñaranda, Maria del Carmen Saavedra y de Collado (I'm grateful her title was used and not her full name), in December 1920 married the 14th Duke of Peñaranda de Duero, Hernando Fitz-James Stuart, Spain's greatest polo player. Their one son Fernando Alfonso inherited his father's titles when the duke was murdered during the Spanish Civil War in the massacre of Paracuellos, November 1936.

In elite social circles the duchess was known in the 1920s and 30s as a tanned Spanish beauty and "the personification of the new woman," famed for wearing strings of pearls supposedly as large as marbles or even pigeon's eggs. English newspapers gossiped about her hairstyles, sometime pulled back tightly like "a bullfighter's," sometimes "cut short at the back like a boy's but with curls carelessly arranged in front." One wonders how this beauty weathered the Spanish Civil War. She died in 1967.



*'Forty-niner' (photo by K. King)*

E is for 'Eclipse', given to the rose world by J. H. Nicolas in 1935. It produces a clear yellow, elongated bud on a long stem. Once it was considered the perfect yellow florist rose. Supposedly Nicolas budded two eyes of a seedling onto another plant which took and grew. He dubbed his new rose 'Eclipse' for that phenomenon of the sun which had occurred August 31, 1932. Jack Harkness and others doubt this story, for no rose goes onto the market in three years, and, in addition, Nicolas got the date of the eclipse wrong, writing that it had occurred on August 22; so his breeding information may require more accuracy as well. At any rate, Gregg Lowery calls the rose "a period piece, epitomizing the streamlined Art Deco era during which it was introduced."

The rose 'Forty-niner' was released to the public by Herbert Swim unsurprisingly in 1949, California's centennial. It won an AARS award. A bi-color flower, red with golden-yellow reverse, exhibiting its ancestry, the *R. foetida's bicolor*. When the weather is conducive, the colors are strong and spectacular, but they are not stable. By 1988 Herb Swim wrote that the rose had "pretty much disappeared



*'Golden Emblem' (photo by G. Lowery)*

from commerce"; however, Gregg Lowery could barely keep it in stock at Vintage Gardens in the 1990s and early 21st century, so popular was that rose. Among the first group of roses initially planted at the former Vintage nursery, it is now a part of the collection in urgent need or preservation.

'Golden Emblem' of 1916 by Sam McGredy II displays an intensely yellow bud and a bloom of 35 petals, citron or golden yellow splashed with a bit of red—not much—and of excellent texture and shape on a branching but upright plant of glossy foliage. It was a marked advance on 'Rayon d'Or', one that according to breeder Walter Easlea seeds quite freely. Four years after its introduction, Easlea still considered it "the most beautiful rose of recent years." Fragrant and of a strong constitution, apparently it could be more floriferous than it is. One the other hand, it has been known to bloom for nine months—rather remarkable.

'Heinrich Wendland', bred and released by Wilhelm Kordes in 1930, is—like 'Angele Pernet'—an unusual but quite fragrant Pernetiana, 'Rayon d'Or' and 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet' in its



*'Heinrich Wendland' (photo by D. Schramm)*

nearby ancestry. An upright, narrow shrub with stalwart canes, it carries above its ruff of shiny dark leaves large flowers of a veinous, nasturtium red or orangey-rose color, its margins a rosy pink, the reverse petals more yellow. The huge flowers seem lit from within by a nightlight, most of them solitary on a thick stem.

This lovely rose was named for the second of three generations of Wendlands who managed and transformed for 125 years the eminent Royal Herrenhausen Gardens in what is now Hanover, Germany. Heinrich Wendland, born 1791 or 92, had worked first in Kew Gardens and in Vienna's botanical gardens before becoming a botanist and working at the Royal Herrenhausen. His father was Johann Christoph Wendland (1755-1828) who first described and drew *R. bracteata*, which Lord McCartney had brought back from China and introduced to England in 1793 or 95. Heinrich Wendland died in Teplice/Tiplitz, Bohemia, in 1869.

I is for 'Irish Fireflame'. In 1914 Hugh Dickson introduced this single rose 'Irish Fireflame', a name entirely apt, its satin-like petals emerging from buds of deep orange marked with red, the corolla

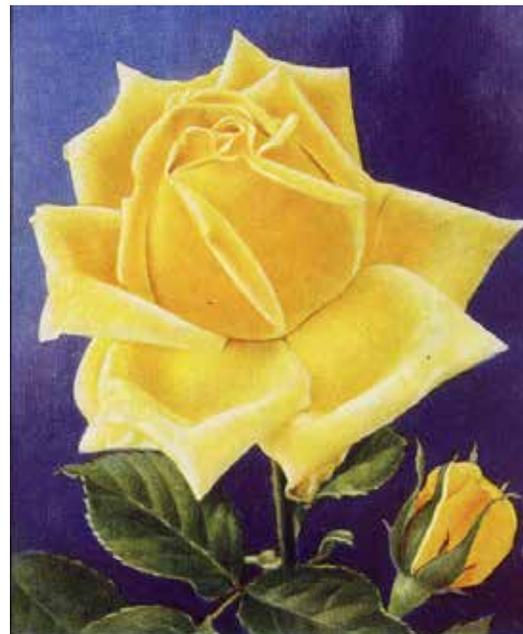


*'Irish Fireflame' (photo by K. King)*

become an orange-crimson-pink-gold blend, like flames, but perhaps more gold than of the other colors. Though on a tall, rather willowy plant, the flowers bloom profusely, emitting a pleasant scent. It won a Gold Medal.

It is one of several single Hybrid Teas introduced in the first quarter of the 20th century. Indeed, it was Dickson who introduced the first three of four in 1903: 'Irish Beauty', 'Irish Glory', and 'Irish Modesty', with Lambert of Germany presenting the fourth, his 'Morganroth'. These were followed by 'Irish Elegance', which raised eyebrows and expanded the tastes of Hybrid Tea/Pernetiana lovers, and by 'Old Gold', 'Isobel', 'Lulu', 'Innocence', 'Ethel James', 'Mrs. Oakley Fisher', 'Vesuvius', 'Dainty Bess' and a couple of others. Like seven or eight of these, 'Irish Fireflame' is still commercially available.

'Julien Potin' is a yellow rose that, according to J.H. Nicolas, "was foisted on the public." Potin himself, an orchid and rose lover, was the owner of a chain of grocery stores in France. When some of his employees approached the famous Pernet-Ducher to buy a rose to be named in honor of their employer, Pernet-Ducher demurred. But giving in finally to the insistence of the committee, he pointed



*'Julien Potin' (from Will's cigarette cards)*

to a discarded seedling, stating rather condescendingly, "Take it. It's good enough for a grocer." And so the rose came to be named for Julien Potin. Eventually, however, Potin's business failed, and, losing his chain of stores and his grand estate, he committed suicide.

Somewhat variable in color as well as in form, the pointed buds, a bright yellow, open to cupped flowers of primrose yellow with darker shading. Its 48 petals are more richly colored than the similar 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet'. But it bleaches easily. While 'Julien Potin' can thrive in soil of high lime content, it becomes a very closed-mouthed personality on wet days.

*Note: Part II will appear in our next issue.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Vintage Roses exists to preserve and enhance the unique and extensive collection of historic roses developed by Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson, to establish the collection in a garden, and to share the collection with other public rose preservation efforts, all for the purpose of educating the public about the importance of the rose to human history, cultures, technology, and science.

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## MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Please join us to end the loss of living history—the extinction of old roses. While we do all that we can, we are limited by a budget of donations—donations that must maintain more than 5000 living plants! Volunteers help to shoulder some of the work, but we need mulch, organic fertilizers, an efficient watering system and much more just to do the basic work.



*R. foetida persiana (photo by G. Lowery)*

Won't you help us and become one of our Guardians of the Rose with a sustaining, automatic monthly contribution of as little as \$5 per month? Membership to The Friends of Vintage Roses is a \$35 yearly donation. Sustaining membership is an amount of your choice donated monthly through your bank or PayPal.

All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. We are a non-profit (501c3) organization. Please visit our website for more information about how you can help!  
[www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org](http://www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org)