



THE *Vintage rose*  
October–December 2017, Issue 18



THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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**NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES**

October–December 2017, Issue 18

**IN THIS ISSUE:**



*'Violinista Costa'*  
(featured rose)

That Carlos Camprubi should have been breeding and bringing out roses during that chaotic and dangerous time . . . makes me feel tender and protective toward this beautiful, wartime rose. . . . *see page 4*



*Curator's Report*

You may well wonder what is happening with The Friends of Vintage Roses, as it appears on the surface that we are simply 'giving away' the roses that are our mission to preserve. . . . *see page 8*



*A Lazy Time*

In 1880–81, the advent of French new roses were so many one could barely keep abreast. Louis Levêque alone turned out so many Hybrid Perpetuals each year that one wondered at their quality. . . . *see page xx*



*Paul's Himalayan Musk Rambler*

I had been wondering where to plant the rose. Suddenly I had the idea to plant it onto White Bear . . . *see page xx*

*On the cover: 'Violinista Costa' (photo by D. Schramm)*

We wish to thank the Heritage Rose Foundation for use of the excerpts of articles by Joyce and Barbara from *California's Rose Heritage* (2005). That journal can still be purchased through its website: [www.heritagrosefoundation.org](http://www.heritagrosefoundation.org).

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Featured Rose: ‘Violinista Costa’ . . . . . 3  
Barbara Worl: In Memoriam . . . . . 5  
Joyce Demits: In Memoriam . . . . . 7  
Curator’s Report. . . . . 8  
TFoVR: A Mission and A History. . . . . 10  
A Lazy Time . . . . . 11  
Paul’s Himalayan Musk Rambler . . . . . 15  
*Rainbow*: A Book Review . . . . . 17

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**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR AND THE CURATOR**

The Friends of Vintage Roses has been fortunate in enlisting other groups, nurseries and individuals to help in its efforts to preserve some of the rose categories in its collection. As you will read in our curator’s report, adding to the initial ‘adoption’ made by Pamela and Michael Temple of the entire Rambler collection some years back, we have recently found foster homes for modern Shrub roses, Floribundas, Hybrid Teas, the old reblooming HPs, Bourbons, Portlands, as well as our complete collection of Old European Roses. We are exceedingly grateful. But even as we preserve old roses, we should also preserve the memory of those old rosarians who have passed on from this life to another. People like Joyce Demits and Barbara Worl did a tremendous service to the rose world by finding, preserving and passing on to others many an heirloom rose. We are richer for their efforts and love. In this issue we offer them a memorial and our readers a *memento mori*.

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**DIRT DAYS FOR 2017**

11/11 – SATURDAY                      11/19 – SUNDAY



*‘Violinista Costa’ (photo by D. Schramm)*

**Violinista Costa**

*Darrell g.h .Schramm*

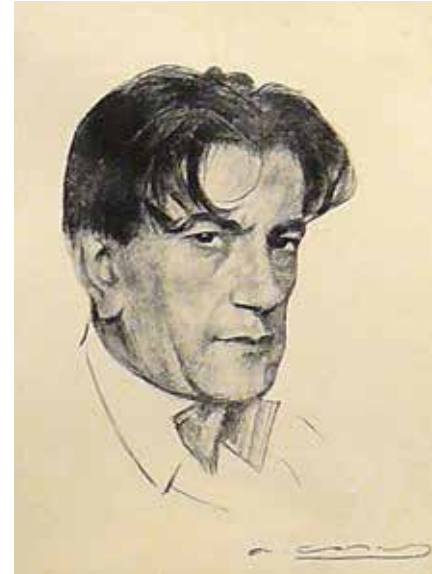
The Catalan rose, ‘Violinista Costa’, one of my favorite Hybrid Teas, is the product of two Hybrid Teas, ‘Shot Silk’ and ‘Sensation’. Curiously, Walter Lammerts—who gave us ‘Charlotte Armstrong’, ‘Chrysler Imperial’, ‘Golden Showers’, ‘Marian Anderson’, and ‘Queen Elizabeth’—in a long article of the 1947 *American Rose Annual* classified ‘Violinista Costa’ as a “true polyantha.” He was incorrect.

Camprubi's rose contains no *Rosa multiflora* gene, not even a Hybrid Polyantha gene. Not only are both parents Hybrid Teas but their immediate parents were 'Sunstar', a Pernetiana, and 'Hugh Dickson', a Hybrid Perpetual. Indeed, the entire family tree is mostly Hybrid Tea, with a few exceptions of unknowns farther back. (Lammerts knew none of the parentage of this rose.) Furthermore, 'Violinista Costa' produces no cluster of blooms but large and solitary flowers—of a lustrous, luscious vermillion—on thick, strong canes. The large prickles are stalwart as well.

'Violinista Costa' was introduced during the Spanish Civil War, 1936, a fact that engenders my astonishment as much as my admiration. That Carlos Camprubi should have been breeding and bringing out roses during that chaotic and dangerous time seems remarkable. (But then Pedro Dot also continued his hybridizing during that time.) That fact alone makes me feel tender and protective toward this beautiful, wartime rose.

When I first saw and acquired this rose, given the feminine endings of its name, I presumed it had been named for a female violinist from the coast of Spain. However, long and painstaking research has revealed otherwise. While Costa is not an uncommon Spanish surname, certainly not in Catalonia, only one violinist was living and prominent both at the time Camprubi was breeding roses and at the place—the Catalan region of Spain—where he bred them. That violinist was the very popular Francisco Costa.

Francisco Costa was born in February 1891 and died in September 1959. A friend of Andres Segovia, he lived in Barcelona on Calle Muntaner. Teaching violin at Barcelona's Music Conservatory, he tutored Xavier Montsalvatge (1912–2002), who was to become a major composer from the 1930s to the 1990s. The year before the civil war in Spain, Costa also mentored Goh Soon Tioe (1911–1982), who became a renowned Indonesian violinist.



Francisco Costa  
(illustration by Ramon Casas)

Throughout his adult life, Costa was enormously popular, not only with the Barcelona Philharmonic but with the music-loving public. The Barcelona newspaper *La Vanguardia*, which reported his concerts and recitals from the 1920s to his final public appearance, often mentioned a full house when he performed. Frequently he played at the Palau de la Musica Catalana in his home city, but he was in demand throughout Spain. In fact, his popularity crossed borders: France, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Egypt, and other countries welcomed him enthusiastically as well. One critic in 1938 claimed the public was addicted to his art of the violin, his technical precision, the expressiveness of feeling, the ability to interpret the classics poetically. *La Vanguardia* referred to him often as the great Catalan "violinista Francisco Costa." According to the famous composer and musician Joaquin Turina, Costa was the most inspired and Bohemian of Spanish violinists. In short, he was valued and loved. At least a half dozen artists painted his portrait. At a time when his nation suffered turmoil and tragedy, Francisco Costa continued to offer the beauty of his music to the public. It probably took no more than a second's thought for Camprubi to name his rose in honor of the great violinist. ■

BARBARA WORL died September 12. Over the years she made three gardens in Palo Alto and Menlo Park, California, that have enchanted and inspired all who have visited them. Born in Indiana and educated at Stanford University, she is one of the original members of the Heritage Roses Group. An exceptional photographer, she owned Sweetbriar Press and built the garden book section at Bell's Books in Palo Alto, where she had worked since 1950. Her third garden was featured in *Visions of Roses* by Peter Beales.



### from "My Third Garden" by Barbara Worl (2005)

I've been lucky enough to make three gardens in my life, two of them on the same piece of land. It is said that the third time is the charm, but the chance for me to prove it came when I left my garden at Cowper Street and returned to the first garden that I had made around my home in the mid- to late 1950s. Although it had been neglected for some years and suffered a lengthy drought, many of my original plants had survived to be woven into the new design.

The first project was clearance. Ivy, seedling privet, and acacia trees were removed as were the old, ailing Japanese cherry and my quince tree. I wanted to build a double 8-foot-wide trellis for climbing roses across 60 feet of my frontage and over a raised bed which

on the street side stepped up along its entire length by thirds, and jutted out on slants so that cars could be parked on angles. The inside was a gentle curve along the entire 60 feet made with my old concrete chunks. About 30 feet down it went behind *Rosa canina*, the Dog Rose, which Graham Stuart Thomas had sent me from Sunningdale Nursery in the early '60s. The top was once the rose 'Bullata' but the *canina* root stock had survived. Two years later the neglected, scraggy rose had made a great recovery. So did my new third garden come from the roots of the first one.

I had a great time getting climbers for the double trellis. Every post had at least one rose, one post had three, and several remaining ones had two, one front and back. In pruning season two winters later from the top of a ladder I surveyed the expanse I had spent 10 days pruning and thought to myself, "You must be crazy; you are 67 years old and it's only going to get bigger as the years go on!" So I removed 'Constance Spry' and 'Baltimore Belle', which were lovely roses but programmed to conquer the world. 'Blairii No. 2' got furious with me for consistently pruning it too hard and it died. I was still left with lots of real house eaters: 'Buff Beauty', 'Mme Alfred Carrière', 'Rêve d'Or', the southern version of 'Lamarque', 'François Juranville', the false 'Sombreuil', 'Fantin LaTour', 'Alexandre Girault', 'Pink Mermaid', 'Graham Thomas', 'Reine des Violettes', and climbing 'Iceberg', while underneath grew shade-loving primroses, ferns, and epimediums. . . .

The large original plant of "Grandmother's Hat" was already planted against the fence. Near it went the single white *Banksia* rose, supported by a group of large iron rebar "lollypops." This rose is supposed to float the scent of violets freely on the air when in bloom; sadly I confess I've never noticed that from my plant. After blooming, it's pruned back hard as otherwise it would completely cover everything around it. Close by is a January-blooming white flowering bush quince and the spiraea 'Bridal Wreath,' which blooms in April to May with many of the old roses. . . .

Since automobiles had been evicted to the street for parking, I turned half the carport into a garden shed and got ready to go on with plants all around the house, even on the former driveway. But prevented from tearing it up, I devised a way to get around this! The first solution was pots. I returned from Half Moon Bay Nursery with two of the lovely large brown Chinese pots, but when I went to buy more they had doubled in price. I played around with the pots' heights, searching out different iron stands to set some of them off. One very large one, looking like something out of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, contains the double Chestnut Rose, *R. roxburghii plena*, which repeats its flowers during the summer. On opposite sides of the driveway, in brown Chinese pots went 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' and 'Souper et Notting', an excellent Moss rose that climbs and gives sprays of pink flowers. Both these roses repeat.



As the original two pots hardly made an imprint on the empty driveway, the problem was solved by mixing chimney flues of various forms and sizes with different pottery containers. The largest of the flues was a circle 20 inches wide and 3 feet tall. Some were used full height, some cut in half, and even a few in thirds. Into several of the largest flues went 'Long John Silver', 'Breeze Hill', a rose which Leonie Bell had sent me as the real 'The Garland', 'Phyllis Bide', and the French rose 'Claudia Cardinale'. Over each we placed a rusty iron tower in which they could climb. Three large rectangular flues

were located directly near the fence as I hoped to give better drainage to the roses planted in them: 'Kew Rambler', which has climbed into the persimmon tree, *R. macrantha*, and 'Daisy Hill'. Over the years I've added many smaller containers around the larger ones so that I can have daffodils and tulips in their season, and then later in summer different dahlias and coleus. At this point I even have pots in front of the driveway gate!

Though it really is a small garden, it gives the illusion of being bigger and more spacious than it truly is. Three years ago when Gregg Lowery gave a talk on roses at Filoli, he and Phillip Robinson came to see my new garden afterwards. We went all around, talked plants and roses, and dug up a few things for them. After sitting on the patio for a time with my favorite drink—lemon, ginger, echinacea, Gregg got up and walked around the garden again, from front to back and back to front. As he went he gently muttered to himself, "I like this garden . . . I do like this garden." It was a mantra that I too could say over to myself, and I am honored that he felt the same. Making gardens is a most happy way to live. This third garden has been a joy from beginning to end. I do not look forward to the day when I must curtail my activity in it. ■

JOYCE DEMITS *died on July 25th of this year. She and her sister Virginia had rescued abandoned roses for more than 40 years in Northern California, especially in and around Mendocino County. Their efforts at bringing mystery roses to the attention of their nursery's customers changed the way old rose lovers in California viewed the value of founding roses. Their attention to provenance, recording and publishing where their roses came from was groundbreaking. Their gentle encouragement of other fledgling nurseries is a lesson in generosity to us all.*



**from “A Passion for Lost Roses”  
by Joyce Demits (2005)**

My sister Virginia and I have rescued abandoned roses for more than 40 years in and around Mendocino County. The love and passion of the rose became my heritage. This adventure began before I can truly recall.



As a young child (circa 1940s), I rescued the roses my mother removed from her garden and put on the burn pile. Mother loved roses, and her garden had limited space. The latest wonder rose must replace the old rose. The old rose worked for the child Joyce. An old rose rescuer was born.

In 1964, with three children and a motor-car enthusiast husband, I had a vision of

wonderful, fragrant old roses. Virginia and her family owned a place, and she was gardening on the small with flowers and roses. But vegetables were big, as eating and feeding the children came first. Gary and I were renting and looking for land to build on in the Fort Bragg area. Land along the coastal area west of Highway 1 was very expensive even in 1964.

Meanwhile Virginia and I were collecting cuttings of abandoned roses from roadsides, vacant home sites, Rose Memorial Cemetery in Fort Bragg, and Hillcrest Cemetery in Mendocino. From Rose



*‘Duchesse de Brabant’  
(photo by D. Schramm)*

Memorial we found ‘La France’, ‘Blush Noisette’, ‘Devoniensis’, and ‘Duchesse de Brabant’. In Mendocino we collected ‘Fellemburg’, ‘Paul Ricault’, ‘Crepe Rose’, ‘Gardenia’, ‘American Pillar’, ‘Mme Alfred Carrière’, ‘Magna Charta’, and many others. Virginia planted the roses she collected in her flower and vegetable garden, where they were safe from deer. I had mine in gallon

pots—old metal pots—arranged at the back of our duplex.

Driving around looking at land for sale and rose rescuing as well took up all our free time. Out of sight in the back of our rental, the rose starts were growing big, very big: ‘Gardenia’, ‘Veilchenblau’, ‘Clair Jacquier’, ‘Blush Noisette’, ‘American Pillar’, ‘Dorothy Perkins’, ‘Rêve d’Or’, ‘Russell’s Cottage Rose’, and others. We needed a home. Then we found Mitchell Creek Drive, with transitional Pygmy soil, very acidic, poor, and no drainage. No structure, no water well. On moving day for the rescues, we took them out to Mitchell Creek

Drive to this final home, and I do mean final. Some grow today where the pots were first placed in the fall of 1965. Early in 1966 mother died. Long live her roses.

With the love and help of my father, we built our home, and the roses thrived. Virginia and I, ever on the alert for lost roses, continued to find more and wonderful roses in so many great hunting places: Elk, Manchester, Willits, Humboldt County, Ukiah, Spy Rock, Middletown in Lake County. With friends Sadie and Jerry Heitman, I drove up into the Gold Country where we discovered the "Secret Garden Musk," the "Secret Garden Noisette," and others. I've been everywhere.

Virginia and I sent away for Tillotson's Old Rose catalogue; we dreamed and learned. Virginia joined the American Rose Society, and I joined the Royal National Rose Society. Enter Graham Stuart Thomas, O.B.E. 1970. I wrote to Mr. Thomas and he wrote a wonderful and encouraging letter back.

Encouraged by Mr. Thomas, I imported old garden roses from David Austen's Nursery in England. The most memorable is the beautiful 'Kiftsgate'. Virginia and I learned of a group of old rose supporters and found that we're not alone: Miriam Wilkins, Barbara Worl, and all the Heritage Rose Group. We are so happy to be among other old rose rescuers. . . . I've been so grateful to have the old roses in my life and the folks who love and care about them.

I have a creeping concern for the more than one thousand roses now in my care. I know when the gardener dies, the garden dies. In 1981 Virginia and I began and developed a family-run old rose nursery, the Heritage Roses Garden, which we operated together until 1999. But that is another story. ■



*top to bottom: Tea bouquet from the collection—no two alike; 'Ibiza' from the Vintage Hybrid Tea collection (photos by D. Schramm); 'Kathleen Ferrier' in the Vintage Floribunda collection (photo by C. Orent)*

#### **CURATOR'S REPORT**

You may well wonder what is happening with The Friends of Vintage Roses, as it appears on the surface that we are simply 'giving away' the roses that are our mission to preserve. In my last report I tried to describe our project to find "foster parents" for potted rose plants we maintain currently in Sebastopol. Some of the volunteers who maintain plants in the collection are adopting one or two here, a dozen or two there. But there are brave souls who have recently taken on entire portions of the collection: all of the Floribundas, all of the Pernetiana Hybrid Teas, all of the modern Shrub roses.

Why are we doing this, and what will be left at our site in Sebastopol? It is the question I am asked frequently today. The burden of





top: 'Ile de France' from the Vintage Rambler collection; above: 'Marchioness of Lorne' in the Vintage Hybrid Perpetual collection (photos by D. Schramm)

maintaining more than 4000 roses in pots, along with the two thousand that grow in the garden, has simply strained our resources and our volunteer force beyond our abilities. We must reduce this burden or face losing all.

Our mission statement is and has been to preserve the roses, and to share them with other rose preservation efforts. The mission also includes establishing the collection in a garden or gardens where the public can learn about the history and value of roses to human beings. In the long term we have set our sights on continuing to work on the planted garden in Sebastopol as a core presentation of the collection. In the shorter term we are working to seed other collections with smaller segments of the TFoVR rose collection to ensure their survival. This process has acceler-

ated over the past few months, so that we can, in the coming year, focus our attention on the collection in the garden and its value as an example of the beauty we are committed to preserve.

Stay tuned during the last months of 2017 as we share the stories of the people who are adopting our plants via emails and posts on our website.

—Gregg Lowery

## Plant Parenthood in a Nutshell

### THE FRIENDS' ADOPT-A-ROSE

In our new effort to halt losses of rare roses in our collection, the Friends are embarking on a plan to share the wealth, and a bit of the responsibility, with individuals.

We are offering roses for volunteers to take home and adopt, permanently. These are roses currently in pots at our garden site in Sebastopol. At each Dirt Day we'll have a list of roses that have been cleaned and mulched but may be in poor condition and require TLC short term. At the end of the day volunteers will be welcome to take one or more home with them. Please note that we are not able to provide particular varieties not on our adoption lists; however, the more you volunteer to help us with this preservation effort, the more likely you will be to ultimately adopt a specific rose.

### WHAT WE OFFER TO YOU

- These rose plants will be yours to keep, plant, or maintain in containers as you prefer.
- If you need advice on planting or caring for the roses, we'll do our best to answer your questions and guide you.
- If you should lose the plant, we're willing to assist you in finding a replacement or in making one from cuttings.

### WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

- Volunteer to help with our clean up and maintenance of the rose collection, both in pots and in the ground. We can't offer adoptions until the cleanup work on pots is done.

- Provide us with access to a limited number of cuttings or budwood if we should need it in the future. We will continue our work to get varieties into many hands to preserve them.
- Add your rose garden collection to Help Me Find Roses on the internet. Private gardeners may set up their own rose collections anonymously on this largest database of roses in the world. You will need to join HMF at the base member rate if you are not a member already. [www.helpmefind.com](http://www.helpmefind.com)

#### THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES: A MISSION AND A HISTORY

- Prior to 2012 “The Friends of Vintage Gardens” was a volunteer force of our nursery customers who wanted to help to maintain the garden housing a collection of 3500 rose cultivars.
- In 2012, when the property (my garden at the time) had to be sold, the new owners went out of their way to allow the roses to stay and for the group to lease the garden.
- By 2013 The Friends of Vintage Roses was born of the old volunteer force, a 501c3 nonprofit member group whose mission was to preserve this large, collection it had inherited. Its purpose was NOT to preserve a garden but a collection of plants with value to people around the world. Its objective was to find ways to realize that preservation, including placing some or all of the collection in the hands of other preservation nonprofits, public and private gardens, and nurseries for propagation and distribution.
- In 2014, after the close of Vintage Gardens nursery, I donated a collection of more than 2000 rose varieties which I had

duplicated from my former collection and from the gardens of many others who were able to provide varieties that had been lost.

- 2014 to the present, the volunteers have worked hard to augment those gift roses; however, the result has been the creation of a pot nursery of 4000 to 5000 plants. Therein lies the burden of maintenance which our young, nonprofit, volunteer/donor support group has not been able to manage adequately.
- In 2017 our board decided to follow a course we had started years ago, of spreading the maintenance around. We had experimented with various ‘adoptions’ of portions of the collection, most notably Pamela and Michael Temple taking on the large collection of ramblers and providing those roses with a permanent home. With other such adoptions in the works, the board concluded that to save the plants we were trying to maintain, we needed to send out most of our container plant collection to others to grow and preserve.
- Through the past 4 years we have worked with nurseries and public gardens, as well as with some notable private collections, to duplicate whatever we can and pass on in order to find others with whom to share the preservation responsibility. Currently we are providing access to our collections of Albas, Centifolias, Damasks, Eglantines, Gallicas, Hybrid Bourbons and Hybrid Chinas, Mosses, Spinosissimas and Species roses to a nursery that has committed to our preservation ethic.
- As we work to secure our rare rose collection through the preservation work of others, we anticipate that the number of varieties maintained here at the Sebastopol garden will diminish. We hope to stabilize this collection in its garden setting as a teaching garden and an inspiration to others to grow and preserve old roses.



*'Archiduchesse Elizabeth d'Autriche'* (photo by B. Grant)

## A Lazy Time: Four Lingerin' Roses

*Darrell g.h. Schramm*

It was a time of prosperity, a time of ease, a time of peace. From an utterly English perspective, the years of 1880–81 were a time when Society chit-chatted about blue china, white lilies and red Hybrid Perpetual roses. It was a time of the Pre-Raphaelite painters but also the ambiguous Whistler and the dissolute poet Swinburne, as well

as of the latest witticism of Lord So-and-So or Sir Whosoever and of the teas or salons of Lady Somebody or her rival Lady Somebody Else. It was a splendid, empty time, peaceable to be sure, when little was happening outside or inside the self-exalted and indulgent lives of smart London society.

Rose breeder Henry Bennett was an exception, however, making something different happen in the world of horticulture. He was officially recognized by the Horticultural Society of Lyon to have bred deliberately hybrids of Tea roses. ('La France', bred in 1867, was first considered a Hybrid Perpetual, only later acknowledged as a Hybrid Tea. In any case, earlier Hybrid Teas had preceded it.) Bennett had been busy.

His first series of Hybrid Teas had entered commerce in 1879, bearing the names 'Beauty of Stapleford', 'Duchess of Connaught', 'Duke of Connaught' (the latter two Queen Victoria's daughter-in-law and son Arthur, respectively), 'Duchess of Westminster', 'Michael Saunders', and 'Pearl'. Unfortunately they, like the Hybrid Perpetuals of that year and the next and the next, have all "gone by the wayside." Perhaps an occasional but doubtful comment or question in Society cocktail talk included the many roses of England's new rose breeder who was bringing sudden progress to the rose world for the garden-loving English.

Indeed, it was a time of prosperity, a time of ease, and a time of peace elsewhere, too. From a French perspective, the years of 1880–81 were a time when the French at salons, cafes, theatre intermissions, and other social gatherings had much to say, mostly about people and the arts—though, no doubt, some women gushed becomingly about Worth's latest fashion in hats or gowns. Of people the conversation or gossip would have included the death of Flaubert, the resignation of MacMahon as their second President, the pros and cons of painter John Sargent's possible homosexuality, the decadence of novelist Huysmans.

And of the arts these comfortable French may have discussed Victor Hugo's *Four Winds of the Spirit*, Emile Zola's latest two novels, and the American Saint-Gaudens' work in Paris, especially his more than life-size sculpture of Admiral Farragut. Verlaine's new poems or the music of the latest Bohemian composer may have found a place in their conversation, but certainly the fifth and the sixth Impressionist art exhibitions did. The news or musings may have included roses as well, but the French were perhaps almost inured to the frequent introductions of new roses, for their production soundly surpassed those of any other nation. In 1880–81, the advent of their new roses were so many one could barely keep abreast. Louis Levêque alone turned out so many Hybrid Perpetuals each year that one wondered at their quality.

Nonetheless, two roses did turn one's head and invite the sensitive nose. 'Archiduchesse Elisabeth d'Autriche', a Hybrid Perpetual bred by Moreau-Robert, was one, an unassailable satiny, lilac-pink bloom, quite large and bosomy, growing on a big plant virtually free of prickles. Floriferous and fragrant, it blooms in summer and again in autumn. It reaches about five feet in height and width. The rose remains in commerce.

Although one respected source states the namesake for this rose was the daughter of Emperor Franz-Josef, the emperor had no daughter by that name; her father was Archduke Joseph (an easy mistake to make), Palatine of Hungary, which made her a princess of Hungary. (She was also princess of Bohemia). Archduke Joseph is not, however, the same as Archiduc Joseph for whom a popular Tea rose is named. The problem in the history here is the frequent recurrence of names. In fact, there were three archduchesses named Elizabeth, not counting the Empress of Austria's title before her reign. This rose seems to have been named for Archduchess Elisabeth Franziska, born in 1831, who married Archduke Ferdinand Karl Viktor of Austria-Este in 1847, with whom she had one daughter. After his death, she married her first cousin in 1854,



*'Ulrich Brunner fils' (photo by D. Schramm)*

Karl Ferdinand by whom she had six children. (Note the similarity of her husbands' names, an easy source of confusion.) She died of pneumonia in 1903.

The only other Hybrid Perpetual of this period that has survived Time's ravages is 'Ulrich Brunner fils'. It is not a rose that has sat in comfortable obscurity. In 1910 Rev. Foster-Melliard recommended it as one of the three best roses for cottage gardens. Vita Sackville-West grew it at Sissinghurst and admired its ability to repeat its bloom. In the 1990s, Peter Beales spoke of it as one of the Hybrid Perpetuals



*'Mlle Cecile Brunner'* (photo by R. Robertson)

of which he was particularly fond; on the other hand, Graham Thomas found it ordinary and vulgar. Judge for yourself.

The very large and somewhat loosely cupped flowers are sweet of scent and a maraschino cherry red, lighter on the reverse side. The plant is erect and rather symmetrical with smooth wood and light green, serrate leaves. Like most red Hybrid Perpetuals, it grows well in partial shade. And like the previous rose, it exhibits very few prickles. Prune it high and lightly until it has reached its full height, then prune more closely. After its spring bloom, it can be pruned again for its autumn blooms, which will be smaller. 'Ulrich Brunner fils' can be grown in a large container, such as a half wine barrel.

The rose was named for the brother of Cecile Brunner, famous namesake of the sweetheart rose. Ulrich Brunner fils (the son)



*'Mignonette'* (photo by C. Wade)

very first Hybrid Polyantha rose, the Tea 'Mme de Tartas' being a parent. This lovely little rose grows on a shrub of dark, blue-green canes and stems, sending out mostly clusters of slender, pale pink buds of thirty or more that open into small flowers which fade in the sun. Like the other two roses described above, the plant is virtually without prickles. The climbing sport, originated in California in 1894, is scarcely without a flower except in winter. In California the enormous climber seems more common, whereas in Oregon the shrub seems to be preferred. This popular rose hints at eternity.

After nearly 140 years in commerce, the Polyantha 'Mignonette' (1880) has found a niche in rose history. It was the third Polyantha ever bred, following 'Pacquette' (both by Guillot fils) and 'Anna-Maria de Montravel' (by the widow Rambaud). It grows as a compact, dwarf plant about a foot tall, with glossy leaves and reddish,

was a respected rose breeder in Lausanne, Switzerland. As his nursery business began to decline, he became depressed. One day he left his house and family, never to be seen again. However, his name on the rose and the rose itself—like that of his sister—still survive today.

In fact, the Polyantha 'Mlle Cecile Brunner' was also introduced that same year, 1881. It appears to be the



clockwise from above left:  
*'Pacquette'* (from *Deutsches Rosenbuch*, 1889); *'Mme Norbert Lavavasseur'* (photo by E. Bouret); left: *'Gruss an Aachen'* (photo by D. Schramm)

falcate prickles. The blush-colored flowers, quite miniature but recurrent, open in tight clusters. Its deeply toothed stipules are telltale of its *R. multiflora* heritage.

Several plants side by side create a lovely low border. *'Mignonette'* is the ancestor of several excellent, more modern Polyanthas, including *'Mme Norbert Lavavasseur'* and *'Miss Edith Cavell'*. In 1891, the famous Pernet-Ducher found *'Mignonette'* fascinating enough to interbreed it with the Hybrid Perpetual rose *'Jules Margottin'*, thereby creating another of the first Hybrid Polyanthas. Although that hybrid remained in circulation only slightly longer than a decade, it did inspire a few others, most notably *'Gruss an Aachen'* of 1908, which is still very much in circulation.

Thus, though not much is remembered of that comfortable, peaceful time, 1880 and 1881, four remarkable roses have survived to remind us that even out of a lazy afternoon a lingering beauty may come to stay. ■



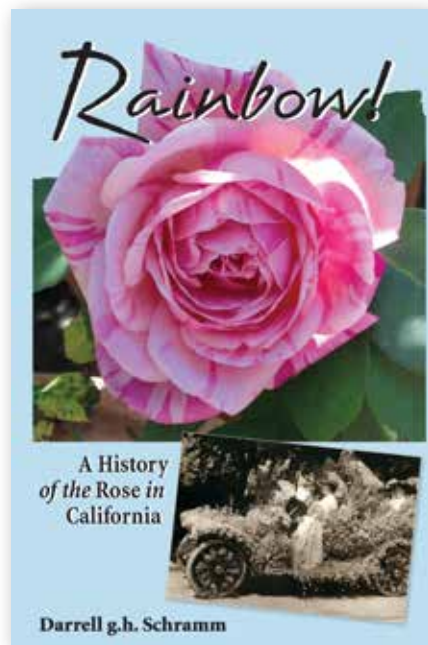
## Paul's Himalayan Musk Rambler

*Pamela Temple*

'Paul's Himalayan Musk Rambler' is a seedling of *Rosa brunonii*. Introduced in 1916 by George Paul, it has been popular ever since with rose lovers who have the room to grow this massive climber. Its flowers are small, double, strongly scented, of a soft lilac pink fading to white.

*(photo by P. Temple)*

I have had a long, happy relationship with this rose in my garden. I first yearned to grow it after seeing a photo in a rose book of an amazing mountain of bloom. Twenty years ago we bought a small plant. This was at the time that our much-loved motor home White Bear blew a head gasket and died. We managed to roll it down the driveway to the front of the house. We'd had such good times traveling in White Bear that we hated the thought of taking it to the junk yard. White Bear is a Toyota Dolphin with a tall bubble top on which we had a welder build a large rack. I had been wondering where to plant the rose. Suddenly I had the idea to plant it onto White Bear. I gave it a good planting hole and put wire fencing around it for deer protection. Now after twenty years it has grown into a gigantic turtleshell over the motor home with the front of the vehicle sticking out. It is still growing and building. To me it is like a rose parade fantasy. ■



## ***Rainbow:*** **A Book Review**

*Dario Marsch*

What a pleasure, what an education to learn so much about the roses and horticulturists of early California! For years I've wanted to know more about our rose heritage beyond what I learned in that fine monograph of articles *California's Rose Heritage* published in 2005. And now, at last, we can read an author whose own passion for old roses has in a way created its sequel. This

new book, *Rainbow: A History of the Rose in California* by Darrell g.h. Schramm, is the very first such history. It begins with the early explorers and missionaries, then delves into the Gold Rush era through the first 75 years of statehood.

The first chapter commences with the Rose of Castile, that rose which seemed to be growing everywhere between San Diego and San Francisco as Gaspar de Portola, Fathers Crespi and Junipero Serra, and others traversed the coastal areas of very early California. But was it the true Rosa de Castilla, or was the term a generic one used by all Hispanic missionaries and explorers alike?

That section segues into a chapter of the nine identified wild roses growing in California. By the time of the Gold Rush, cultivated roses were quickly establishing themselves. The book discusses the first 42 roses propagated by various nurserymen in the new state, ten of which are still available today.

We learn that the first nursery to sell cultivated garden roses was William C. Walker's Golden Gate Nursery established in 1849. Obviously some early California immigrants came not for gold but for what gold could buy. Schramm addresses the numerous nurserymen who took part in the great horticultural advance of the new state. Some of these were John Bidwell, John Rock, Edward Gill, Luther Burbank, Kate Sessions, Francesco Fenzi, and George Roeding, not to mention many others.

The book is a fine mine of condensed information. At one point readers are informed by an early rose authority of how best to grow healthy roses in the Bay Area. This history allows us to see the gradual progress of the rose industry. It also includes six appendices, not least one that presents the chronological timeline of both 19th and early 20th century founding of nurseries known for selling and sometimes breeding roses. The book also includes a glossary of rose terms and an extensive bibliography. The nearly eight years of research to produce this book is obvious and commendable.

*Rainbow* will appeal to rose lovers, gardeners, historians, and especially those interested in Californiana. The book can be purchased for \$24.99 directly from Createspace at

<https://www.createspace.com/7229975>.



## Support The Friends of Vintage Roses

### How to Save Roses from Extinction

Few rose collections in the world contain such a wide cross-section of old and modern roses—our goal to disseminate these roses to public gardens and growers offers hope to rose lovers world-wide.

Our collection of nearly 4000 roses will disappear without your support! Among them are many of the rarest and oldest varieties and species that still survive. Together they tell a story of the hundreds of years that their beauty has touched humankind.

The Friends maintain about 4,000 rose plants in containers and more than 2,000 plants in the demonstration gardens. One by one they will go extinct unless we act. Volunteers do what they can twice a month, but maintenance must be ongoing if the roses are to survive. Your yearly membership donation of \$35 or more helps to provide the care that these plants desperately need—keeping them healthy and free of both invasive blackberry vines and weeds.

As a Guardian of the Roses you can provide steady support with monthly contributions of \$10 or more. Please consider joining in that capacity. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under our 501(c)3 non-profit status. Help pass on this irreplaceable resource to future generations!

### 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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