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THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES
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On the cover: ‘Madame Abel Chatenay’
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 ‘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 exhalles 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.

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’Hâ) 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 that 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.
The Mystery of ‘William C. Egan’ and ‘Madame Constans’

Pamela Temple

Taking on a collection of Ramblers, many of which I’ve had no personal experience with, has been intriguing and challenging. Though I’ve done my best to research, I find little mysteries coming up as these roses mature.

Often it is a simple instance of mislabeling, such as ‘Joesph Liare’. I couldn’t find any information about this rose and resolved to wait until it bloomed before going further. When it bloomed, it looked exactly like ‘Paul Noel’. I knew there must be a labeling problem, but it was worse than I thought when I discovered the real name of the rose was ‘Joseph Liger’, which also doesn’t look like ‘Paul Noel’.

When ‘William C. Egan’ and ‘Madame Constans’ began to bloom, I assumed it was another case of incorrect labeling. Planted not far from each other in the garden, they appear to be exactly alike. The first thing I did was to look at HelpMeFind.com, a helpful site for looking at rose varieties. In the photos on HelpMeFind, as far as I could see, they also looked alike. It was a mystery that required further research. (These roses both came to me from Anne Belovich who imported them from Sangerhausen where, I am sure, there are many mysteries in that huge collection.)

I found that ‘William C. Egan’ was introduced in 1900. It was bred by Jackson Dawson, a cross between *R. wichurana* (now *R. luciae*)
William C. Egan: A Follow-up to Pamela Temple’s Article

William C. Egan was a great friend of J. Horace McFarland, American Rose Society’s longtime editor of its Annual and a former President of its association. According to McFarland, it was Egan who rescued the rose ‘Max Graf’ from oblivion. Egan, a horticulturist, lived in Highland Park near Chicago, calling his estate Egandale to which he welcomed a stream of visitors eager to see his renowned gardens and greenhouse, a “Mecca for plant-lovers.” Called by some of his friends “The Sage of Egandale,” he was known for his philosophical turn of mind and whimsical Irish humor, as well as for his roses and other plants. His judgment on garden roses was widely respected by the ARS. McFarland once wrote that devotion to roses “promotes long life,” and indeed William C. Egan lived from 1842 to 1930. The climbing rose named for him was introduced thirty years before he died, an indication of how long the man was respected in the rose world.

—The Editor
Preserved Memories of Old Hybrid Tea Roses

Horace McFarland, a leading light of the American Rose Society in the early 20th century brought roses into color for the average gardener as a publisher of books and catalogues for the world of horticulture. His book Roses of the World in Color, through numerous editions, catalogued both new roses and old. The following rose galleries, created by McFarland for various publications including the first edition of Modern Roses, offer a glimpse of what the Friends are trying to protect; all but four of these eighteen varieties still exist and grow in our collection.

To our modern eyes, attuned to the brilliant color and fine resolution of computer screens, these roses may seem somewhat faded and blurred. In McFarland’s day, these images were the equivalent of the virtual pages of today’s HelpMeFindRoses. McFarland was on the cutting edge of printing technology in the first half of the 20th century, a technology, like so many in that populist era, that brought luxuries like color photography to ordinary people’s lives. Roses had become, at long last, commonplace in the lives of the many.

To McFarland’s credit, the roses he chose to portray reflected both his own estimation of the quality of the varieties and the general favor in which the public held them. These were, in effect, the best of the best roses created in the first half of the 20th century, what was certainly the ‘golden age’ of the Hybrid Tea rose. We continue to maintain a tenuous hold on that Golden Age as we work to preserve these roses.

This page: Gallery of six Old Hybrid Teas from Modern Roses, the first edition of 1930, by Horace McFarland.

Following page: Gallery of twelve Old Hybrid Teas from How to Grow Roses by Horace McFarland and Robert Pyle, 1937.
Rose Preservation Down Under—Beautiful Gardens

It is encouraging to visit the gardens of old rose lovers. They grow old and new varieties that you often see nowhere else. And they treasure them and help to preserve them. When Pamela and Michael Temple and I traveled to New Zealand to assist with the labeling of the New Zealand register plants in November, we visited many gardens, private and public. We were astonished at the energy of these gardeners and their passion for the roses.

A 13-hour flight did not stop these intrepid rose lovers from driving directly from the airport to the Auckland Botanic Gardens where curator Paula Lollback has created no less than five unique rose gardens, perhaps the most inspiring tour de force in public rose gardening in the world. Alongside a much improved, traditional, bedded rose layout are a cottage garden with old foundling roses, a richly companioned garden of old and climbing roses, a planting of New Zealand natives and roses, a stream garden with shrub roses and riparian plants, and a densely planted herbaceous border with older roses.

Some sentimental favorites of mine graced these gardens, including the real ‘Baby Faurax’, a violet blue dwarf Polyantha; the New Zealand-raised Rugosa hybrid, ‘Ann Endt’; and the very rare ‘Lady Huntingfield’, a rich apricot Hybrid Tea from Australia’s Natives Rose Garden ABG.

‘Ann Endt’

‘Lady Huntingfield’

‘Baby Faurax’
arching over rich plantings of perennials and flowering shrubs with massive plantings of spring bulbs. I think this was the moment when Pamela and I realized that our own excesses of roses in our gardens were minor. We were impressed by the incredible energy and tenacity of Olga and George. It is a garden that I wish all of you could visit!

Among the hundreds of roses dancing over arbors and hedges and trees, we encountered the “Balmain Rose”, an exquisite single peach pink of glowing beauty. This Australian foundling is also known as “Katie Pianto’s Rose.” There are many rare and lovely roses in Olga’s garden. She has ‘adopted’ a number of roses that have been newly propagated for preservation as a result of the national register of heritage roses. One I had not seen for years and wish it might return to the USA is ‘River’s George IV’, a very early Hybrid China of 1817 from the British breeder Thomas Rivers. Also quite rare, and a particular love of mine, is the Hulthemia hybrid ‘Afghan Girl’, which Fran Rawlings has propagated from her garden to spread around.

Our first visit to local heritage rose groups was in the garden of Olga Yuretich and her husband George, about an hour’s drive north of Auckland Metro. It is the work of a lifetime, acres of old roses, rambling and spilling from trees, arching over rich plantings of perennials and flowering shrubs with massive plantings of spring bulbs. I think this was the moment when Pamela and I realized that our own excesses of roses in our gardens were minor. We were impressed by the incredible energy and tenacity of Olga and George. It is a garden that I wish all of you could visit!

The next stage of our journey took us a day’s drive southward to Hastings on the East Coast of the North Island. It was to visit Georgina Campbell that we went to the pyramid house in a vast garden of roses. The scale, on which Georgina gardens, struck us
again as brave and passionate. Her garden of many acres houses a very large collection of old roses, grown vigorously in the mild climate of the North. She has worked hard to create the only collection of McGredy roses in the world, and her efforts underscore the importance of preserving for a very specific reason. Sam McGredy, last of the rose breeding clan of Ireland, moved to New Zealand to continue the family business. His hybrids have had great success in the late 20th century. Of the 1000 plus varieties Georgina grows, many stood out, but a rather recent HT called ‘Amber Flush’ from the Dutch breeder Ilsink, I greatly admired.

From Hastings we traveled right across the North Island to the west to visit Jennie Chillingworth in Whanganui, an old river settlement near the coast. Jennie leads a Heritage Roses New Zealand group in the area and we met them and shared our story that evening at the home of Trissa McIntyre and her richly planted, small town garden.

The greatest treasure for me was Jennie Chillingworth’s garden on the river north of Whanganui. She and her husband Mark had suffered a massive rising of waters the winter before which flooded...
favorite early Hybrid Musks were more luscious than I have ever seen them: ‘Penelope’ and ‘Clytemnestra’, early introductions of Rev. Joseph Pemberton.

In eight days we had travelled nearly the length of the North Island. Our time had been so limited that we had not been able to meet with Judith Soja, HRNZ convener in the Wellington area, or with Rachel Solomon who curates the heritage rose garden and the modern rose garden in Wellington. We were about to meet them on the South Island, and will return one day to visit them. But one last opportunity

large sections of the garden—the evidence was hard to detect, and the meticulous care that their garden receives was remarkable. It is a plant lover’s garden with a rich and varied landscape of colorful flowers and foliage, the sort of garden that works well in our Northern California climate, though with a bit more rain through the year. Old roses were everywhere, woven together with campanulas, clematis, euphorbias, geraniums and so much more. And a croquet lawn to die for! And trained on the deck of Mark and Jenny’s old Craftsman house, two of our

‘Penelope’
of a much loved cemetery planted with historic roses lay in our final leg, and we were glad we took the time to make that final stop. The Pauatahanui Burial Ground lies near the main route to Wellington from the north. Like the Old Sacramento Cemetery, it was cleared by volunteers, beginning in 1991 and planted with a wealth of old roses collected from old homesteads and roadsides. Its hilly overlook provides a tranquil place to wander among the roses.

We very nearly did not stop when we reached Pauahahanui for lack of a parking place, but we persevered and were glad we did. It was richly planted with old roses, many we knew well and others that are rare to our gardens here. It is always worthwhile to see a really good plant of ‘Canary Bird’, a cultivar of *Rosa xanthina* of China, and theirs was in good bloom. I had never seen a foundling form of the old Gallica rose, ‘Tuscany’, and the plant at Pauahatanui was splendid. A garden so well tended with such a loving choice of old roses is rare to find.

For now we leave you at Wellington, about to depart early tomorrow by plane to the South Island. New Zealand is blessed with a kind climate for gardening and with a kind hearted people who love to garden. Pamela, Michael and I felt very fortunate to have had this opportunity. The gardens will live in our memories and the people in our hearts forever. Until our next newsletter then, when you land at Christchurch and continue with us on our joyous celebration of old roses down under!

—Gregg Lowery

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**Extraordinary New Zealand Gardeners**

Heritage Roses are alive and vibrant in New Zealand, as we saw in the gardens of these amazing people. Their very personal garden creations made our time on the North Island a joy.

- Jenny Chillingworth
- Rachel Solomon and Judith Soja
- Paula Lollbach
- Georgina Campbell
- Olga Yuretich
When Yellow Was Not Yellow Enough

Darrell g.h. Schramm

By now you know the story. But maybe not all of it. He wanted to breed a pure yellow rose. I refer, of course, to Joseph Pernet-Ducher, the Frenchman who by 1900 had infused the color yellow—and orange—into the hybrid tea class of roses.

True, some yellow roses did exist then. As far back as the twelfth century, Omar Khayyam, a famous Persian mathematician and poet, wrote, “The nightingale in the old tongue of Persia cries out/to the yellow rose.” Quite likely this was Rosa foetida. About 1581 the traveling botanist Charles de l’Ecluse of Flanders brought from Western Asia to Italy a specimen of R. hemisphaerica, also known as The Sulphur Rose, R. sulphurea, Double Yellow Rose, and Jaune Double de Hollande, among others. It soon found its way to the Netherlands, England, and France. ‘Hulthemia Persica’, possibly a rose poseur hailing from central Asia and known to the West since 1789, exhibits a bright yellow but marked at the base of its petals with brown blotches. From the young United States came ‘Harison’s Yellow’, a hybridized rose of 1830, blooming for the first time in France in 1847. Reputedly it is the offspring of R. foetida and R. spinosissima. Another bright yellow rose appeared in Europe in 1880, the species R. ecae from Afghanistan. And by 1899 R. hugonis, a golden yellow species, had arrived from China. But long before then Pernet-Ducher had begun his experimentation.

Just why did Pernet-Ducher desire a cultivated yellow rose? Indeed, nurseries and gardens already abounded in other yellow cultivars, mostly tea roses, a few noisettes and even hybrid teas; however, they were pale yellow, buff yellow, creamy yellow, sulphur yellow, fawn, and at their most intense, primrose and lemon yellow. And they were inclined to fade. There were among others ‘Anna Olivier’, ‘Duchesse d’Auerstaedt’, ‘Etoile de Lyon’, ‘Isabella Sprunt’, ‘Jaune Desprez’, ‘Jean Ducher’, ‘Lamarque’, ‘Le Pactole’, ‘Mlle Franceska Kruger’, ‘Marechal Niel’,
Marie Lambert’, Marie van Houtte’, ‘Perle des Jardins’, ‘Rubens’, ‘William Allen Richardson’, and, of course, ‘Safrano’—not to mention ‘Smith’s Yellow’ of 1830, the first dwarf yellow rose with a tea scent. But these were not yellow enough.

What Pernet-Ducher longed to grow was an unfading yellow rose, a bright yellow unfading rose, like ‘Harison’s Yellow’ or one of the few yellow species. And he wanted a rose that would pass on the rich, deep yellow gene.

But why choose Rosa foetida persiana (also called ‘Persian Yellow’) as a breeding parent? ‘Hulthemia’ contains brownish blotches, so it was not a pure yellow. R. hemisphraeica was both notoriously difficult to propagate and reluctant to open in damp or wet climates and weather. ‘Harison’s Yellow’ was already an offspring, and apparently the great rosarian preferred to work with the purity of an actual species. And R. ecae and R. hugonis had not yet been discovered when Pernet-Ducher began his experimentation.

In 1877 Jean Sisley in an early issue of *Journal des Roses* urged breeders to use *R. foetida* in hybridization. Probably in response to Sisley’s advice and after much consideration, in 1883 Pernet-Ducher began to work with *R. foetida persiana*, the deep yellow double form of the species. It was a reluctant parent. He persisted. By 1888 he had narrowed his choice of the other parent to the recurrently blooming ‘Antoine Ducher’. In May of 1893, he discovered a small specimen in his greenhouse with a yellowish bloom. Grafting it to several different understocks in 1896, he found it to produce a viable rose and released it for commerce in 1900, naming it ‘Soleil d’Or’.

The name, translated as Golden Sun revealed his optimism. From various accounts the rose was “yellow and carmine,” “yellowish orange red,” “reddish gold shaded nasturtium red,” “golden yellow, the interior saffron yellow . . . passing to orange red and shade pink around the upper part.” It was not pure yellow. It was not deep yellow. But he had infused some yellow into his hybrid rose.

In the meantime, Alexander Dickson of Ireland was attempting to create yellow hybrid teas: ‘Lady Castlereagh’ and ‘Mrs. Daniel McKee’ (both light yellow), ‘Peggy’ (saffron or primrose), ‘Mrs. Rosa foetida persiana

‘Soleil d’Or’

‘Kaiserin Augusta Victoria’

‘Mrs. Leonard Petrie’
Peter Blair’ (lemon or chrome yellow with a more golden center), ‘Margaret Molyneaux’ (with some peach shading), and ‘Duchess of Wellington’ (light to deep yellow but aging to copper tones). By the time Dickson came out with the strong, medium yellow ‘Mrs. Leonard Petrie’ in 1910, Pernet-Ducher had released ‘Rayon d’Or’ of “purest, brightest yellow . . . the exact color of ‘Persian Yellow’” but “marred by crimson streaks on the outer petals.”

In 1905 Theodosia Shepherd of Ventura, California, had introduced a golden orange rose named ‘Shepherd’s Oriole.’ Though it may have been a tea rather than a hybrid tea, the intense color was unusual and close to Pernet-Ducher’s later results.

L. Wilhelm Hinner in Germany seems to have been working toward a yellow rose as well, mostly using ‘Kaiserin Augusta Victoria’ a white rose with a yellow center. ‘Franz Deegan’ in 1901 revealed a golden yellow center with delicate yellow edges that often turned white; ‘Goldelse’ in 1902 showed a deep golden yellow but, like the rest of his yellowish roses, seemed slow to attract a following. In any case, hybrids of hybrids do not have the strength of those close to a species source.

One other German hybridist worked with R. foetida persiana. In 1902 Dr. Franz Muller released ‘Gottfried Keller’, a rose with complex parentage: (‘Mme Berard’ × ‘Persian Yellow’) × (‘Pierre Notting’ × ‘Mme Berard’) × ‘Persian Yellow’. Unfortunately, the rose was colored more apricot than yellow.

Despite at least one enthusiast claiming that ‘Rayon d’Or’ left “no room for improvement,” Pernet-Ducher did not feel content to rest on his laurels. Ten years later, in 1920, he introduced ‘Souvenir de Claudius Pernet’ in memory of one of his two sons killed in World War I. This rose was a pure, deep sunflower yellow. Victory at last. Not the strongest of hybrid teas, it gradually lost its popularity. Nonetheless, deep, bright yellow—as well as orange—had entered the color wheel of roses.
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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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.

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'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet'