



# A TIME CAPSULE OF ROSES

—*Gregg Lowery*

**IF YOU COULD CHOOSE** one rose to send a hundred years into the future, which would it be? This is the question I posed to rose lovers around the country and the world. A real time capsule is a vessel for lifeless artifacts, but imagine if we could create one that would send forward living things like rose plants—a sort of temporal Wardian Case.

What might our time cabinet contain? One group of rose lovers have been working on just such a project for the past decade, The Friends of Vintage Roses. This non-profit preservation group inherited the large rose collection that once supplied cuttings to Vintage Gar-

dens nursery. The Friends' mission since 2012 has been to send these roses off to the future.

I lead the Friends in tending and propagating more than 3,000 old and modern varieties from the collection gathered over some 30 years. Volunteers work diligently to stabilize and preserve these roses, and to encourage others to share this joyful burden.

Sharing a plant is the first step in preserving it. Others before us have done so, and made it possible for ancient roses like the damask and musk roses to continue for thousands of years. Those roses still grow in gardens



today. Over centuries they have been used to breed the roses we all grow today.

Seekers of old rose beauty like Wang Guoliang of Nanjing, China, have unearthed old roses and uncovered their stories. Author of *The Old Roses of China*, professor and botanist, he has traveled widely in his country to gather wild roses only to find old hybrids growing in towns and villages, known by names that echo their ancient Chinese names.

Imagine someone like you just a hundred years from now finding and rooting cuttings from the long lost 'Julia Child' rose! That might be a piece of a piece of the rose that grows today in your garden, a passalong from you.

LEFT: Determining the age of a 400-year-old rose, 'Xiangyun Pink'  
ABOVE: 'Lijiang Road Climber'

## A Living Time Capsule

The Friends set a goal ten years ago to duplicate sections of the collection of roses to be passed on to individual curators to preserve. Curators maintain collections, from large groups like hybrid teas to small classes like hybrid musks. The roses belong to the curators—they are entrusted with preserving them, and they agree to share with other curators to complete the circle.

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*“No man knows through what wild centuries roves back the rose.”*

— Walter de la Mare

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## A Virtual Vision of Roses

The Friends would like to share with the world what YOU want to be preserved. We ask for one rose only, and a comment. What do you think should survive, and why?

We will keep this Time Capsule of Roses on a page on our website and update it with the requests we receive. We encourage those who read that wish list to offer propagating material to groups like the California Coastal Rose Society who sponsor the Rare Rose Auction or to us. Share your cuttings with others!

Go to our page on the internet:  
[thefriendsofvintageroses.org/TimeCapsule](http://thefriendsofvintageroses.org/TimeCapsule) or send us an e-mail at: [info@thefriendsofvintagegardens.org](mailto:info@thefriendsofvintagegardens.org)

Response to the Time Capsule was overwhelming and we are very grateful. To include all the voices I offer only brief excerpts from each. Full messages will be included in our online Time Capsule. Photos and credits will appear there.

George Orwell in 1936 imagined that his fruit trees might live a hundred years. They did not, but his roses still today survive. This news is part of a recent book that explores his life and work and vision by Rebecca Solnit, *Orwell's Roses*.



TOP TO BOTTOM: 'Mlle. Cecile Brunner', 'Rosa Mundi', 'Marechal Niel', 'Xiangyun Pink'

*"Some of us are brought up on Gilbert and Sullivan and develop later in life a taste for Bach." —G. S. Thomas*

**Agnes Smith T**

Di Durston—Perth, Western Australia

Contender for 'Hume's Blush Tea-Scented China', my plant comes from Rookwood Cemetery, the grave of Agnes Smith, 1893.

**Anne Morrow Lindbergh HT  
Clifford Orent—Palm Springs, CA**

Best performer in my garden, used in hybridizing, most notably by Bob Martin, and parent of 'Diana, Princess of Wales'.

**Annie Laurie McDowell HM  
Kim Rupert—Santa Maria, CA**

In thirty years of intimate contact, I have found ONE prickle on her. She enjoys less sun and her scent is heavy, sweet and sophisticated.

**Autumn HT**

Jody Doss—Lagunitas, CA

It is rare, and so very beautiful, and I'd love for it to exist forever!

**Autumn Damask D**

Malcolm Manners—Lakeland, FL

From a seed that sprouted well over 2000 years ago and still going strong. Worth preserving.

**Baronne Henriette de Snoy T**

Ynes De Licandro—Uruguay

My beloved rose. Because of a beautiful ancient bush I found, I began rose rustling in Uruguay!

**Belfield Ch**

Stephen Scanniello—Barnegat, NJ

A Bermuda mystery thought to be the original 'Slater's Crimson China'. Of all the candidates, "Belfield" best matches Curtis' plate in *The Botanical Garden*, from 1794.

**Belinda's Dream HT**

Marilyn Wellan—Shreveport, LA

Bred in America: a people's rose, gorgeous, healthy, fragrant, available.

**Cardinal de Richelieu G**

Craig Bergmann—Lake Forest, IL

My rose would be this gallica for its vigor, hardiness, smaller scale, unique color and fragrance.

**Charlotte Armstrong HT**

Burling Leong—Visalia, CA

A 1940 hybrid tea bred by Lammerts has 5,940 unique descendants. She still has potential for future roses.

**Climbing Crimson Glory HTCl**

Mariano Saviello—Argentina

Big, double crimson red flowers turn purple as they age with a strong damask rose fragrance.

**Climbing Crimson Glory HTCl**

Paula Larkin Hutton—Los Altos, CA

What do people think of when they think of a rose? Red, fragrant, re-blooming. And for me, it has to be a climber.

**Climbing Roundelay HTCl**

Diane Wiley—Nampa, ID

A monster so vigorous and beautiful, it is visible from the road.

**Compassion LCl**

Inger Gledhill—New Zealand

'Compassion' is a rose of lovely colour, perfume and shapely buds.

**Crepuscule TN**

Matthias Meilland—France

To choose one variety from the Meilland family would be difficult. 'Crepuscule' for the blood and 'Peace' for its history.

**Emmie Gray Ch**

John Blocker—Coronado, CA

It is wiry, briary and natural.

**Dakota Redwing Fl**

Nancy Aitkenhead—Goleta, CA

By breeder Paul Barden, her color in my garden is unique—dark maroon in spring, lighter in fall, a velvet touch, an old rose scent.

**Devoniensis T**

Murray Radka—Otago, New Zealand

A rare English tea, hardy and reliable, with large beautifully formed double cream to blush pink flowers, fragrant—the “Magnolia Rose.”

**Duc d'Angouleme HCh**

Katie Watts—Petaluma, CA

From round, magenta bud to strong pink, becoming mauve, lavender, then gray.

**Duchesse de Rohan HP**

Darrell Schramm—Vallejo, CA

Quietly elegant, alluringly fragrant, virtuously dependable, utterly beautiful.

**Empress Josephine G**

Elaine Sedlack—Eugene, OR

A not-quite-gallica with gallica longevity named for she who found peace in her garden.

**Erinnerung an Brod R**

Giulio Baistrocchi—UK, Italy

For Rudolf Geschwind's work, and a reminder of Middle Europe and the Iron Curtain.

**Felicite Parmentier A**

Diane Fenster—Pacifica, CA

'Felicite Parmentier' needs to continue into the future!

**Dainty Bess HT**

Stephen Hoy—Warner Robins, GA

Its fragrance, beautiful filaments and long stems place it at the top of a niche of hybrid teas that was once highly cherished.

**Frances E. Lester HM**

Ron Robertson—Fontainebleau, France

Its fragrance carries, a mass of flowers a re-bloomer would scarcely match, and colourful hips.

**Francis Meiland HT**

Dan Bifano—Montecito, CA

Pink roses are always in fashion and this has a large, voluptuous bloom, intoxicatingly fragrant.

**Grandmother's Hat HP**

Holly Hagy—CA

A beautiful, tough lady that withstood the test of time, with a true rose scent.

**Grandmother's Hat HP**

Jeri Jennings—Camarillo, CA

The toughest, most-generous, healthy rose we have grown in 35 years. We give it to novices.

**Grey Pearl HT**

Becky Yianilos—Carlsbad, CA

McGredy's 1945 rose, in shades of soft dove gray, dusky lavender pink and beige, takes my breath away,

**Hoag House Cream HT**

Larry Hinman—Sebastopol, CA

Beautiful, demurely sweet, mysterious. Who were the Hoags, who their gardeners?

**Jesse Hildreth T**

Jill Perry—Santa Cruz, CA

The pale yellow tea in San Juan Bautista cemetery was doomed until local residents and the HRG agreed to take over maintenance.

**Julia Child Fl**

Tom Carruth—Altadena, CA

I'm torn between my own 'Julia Child' and 'Eyes for You'. Preserve the originals for breeding!

TOP TO BOTTOM: 'Anne Morrow Lindbergh', *Rosa x dupontii*, 'Monsieur Tillier', 'Montecito'



TOP TO BOTTOM: 'Dainty Bess', 'Love and Peace', 'Rose Edouard', 'Maman Cochet', 'Sally Holmes'

**Lady Hillingdon T**

Sharon Van Enoo—Torrance, CA

She is constantly in bloom and acts like a three year old—an eager-beaver to be the first.

**Lady Mary Fitzwilliam HT**

Trang Bui—Sebastopol, CA

This pale pink rose with opulent blooms and fragrance helped usher in the era of HTs, ancestor to thousands of roses.

**Lamarque TN**

Brenda Pagliari—Santa Rosa, CA

It has been in my garden for the past 40 years. It climbs and covers my fence with lovely, lemony-white blooms.

**Lijiang Road Climber R**

Viru Viraraghavan—India

Admirably fulfilling the poet's expectation is this exquisite hybrid gigantea of which there are so many towering specimens carefully preserved by elaborate scaffolding in the heritage village of Lijiang, China.

**Lijiang Road Climber R**

Helga Brichet—Italy

Its display of languid, pale pink blooms in early spring shows the marvels which nature can produce without the hand of man.

**Love and Peace HT**

Ping Lim—Portland, OR

Created to share her beauty and charm with the world, it was named to remind us to cherish love and peace needed on Earth.

**Maman Cochet T**

Becky Hook—France

An excellent example of a tea; the variation in color; the form and the fragrance warrant preserving.

**Manning's Blush E**

Pamela Temple—Willits, CA

It has survived since 1797—double pink, damask-scented blooms, apple-scented foliage.

**Marechal Niel TN**

Eric Hagiwara-Nagata—CA

I'm torn between two—'Marechal Niel' and *Rosa sericea pteracantha*.

**Mary Washington N**

Thea Gurns—Coronado, CA

A noisette named to honor George's mother—powdery rose scent powerful on humid beach days.

**Mendocino Crepe Rose HCh**

Alice Flores—Mendocino, CA

Large, elegantly quartered, and prolific, it survived as a "passalong plant" at old homesteads.

**Mister Lincoln HT**

Barbra Streisand—Malibu, CA

**Mlle Marie Drivon B**

Etienne Bouret—Pamiers, France

Mlle Marie Drivon has just what a rose must have—the beauty and the perfume.

**Mlle. Cecile Brunner Pol**

Cydney Wade—Archer, FL

"The Sweetheart Rose" was the first of its type, with apple fragrance, disease resistance and an abundance of flowers.

**Mlle. Cecile Brunner Pol**

Fabien Ducher—Lyon, France

One of the best roses after more than a hundred years. We see no reason why it won't be here in another hundred.

**Mlle. Marie van Houtte T**

John Hook—France

A choice tea rose with a delicious tea scent, it produces beautiful seedlings.

*“In the spring of 1936, a writer planted roses.”*

—Rebecca Solnit, *Orwell’s Roses*

**Mme. Alfred Carriere TN**  
Margaret Spaulding—Glen Ellen, CA

White through cream to blush, long blooming, tough, resilient; this rose seems ageless to me.

**Mme. Alfred Carriere TN**  
Maureen Viggo—New Zealand

Soft white perfumed blooms repeating throughout the season with soft green growth on pliable canes.

**Mme. Boll HP**  
Thomas Hawel—Sangerhausen, Germany

Quartered, fragrant, pink-petaled, heavily filled blooms, it combines the charm of historical roses with the steady bloom of modern roses. To choose only one rose from our stock of some 8,700 unique roses at Sangerhausen is difficult for me.

**Mme. Isaac Pereire B**  
Odile Masquelier—Lyon, France

She is first because of her fragrance, then because of the history of her ancestry.

**Mme. Isaac Pereire B**  
Linda Knowles—Roseville, CA

People expect and hope for a rose to be fragrant, and this rose delivers in spades.

**Monsieur Tillier T**  
Jean Vieth—Walnut Creek, CA

Seven flushes—blooming magnificently, without disease, in spite of drought and wildfire smoke.

**Montecito R**  
Linda Buzzell—Santa Barbara, CA

Lovely single white blooms are followed by spectacular, fat orange hips, decoration for months.

**Mrs. B. R. Cant T**  
Pamela Greenewald—Alachua, FL

Reliable, strong, fragrant and large; tolerates heat and humidity so well, with large blooms full of scent and character.

**Oklahoma HT**  
Shirley Morgan—Houston, TX

Dark red, it is almost black sometimes. I love the fragrance, different than the old garden roses.

**Old Blush Ch**  
Joan Taylor—Hampshire, England

Free flowering, wonderfully fragrant soft pink blooms, with a history much longer than most.

**Old Blush Ch**  
Katsuhiko Maebara—Sakura City, Japan

Long ago it came from China to Japan. It seems as if this rose is native in my country, I can see them everywhere, even in my home town of Sakura.

**Peace HT**  
Andrew Smith—Mill Valley, CA

Growing up, it was so ubiquitous I equated the word “rose” with ‘Peace’.

**Peggy Martin PolCl**  
Peggy Martin—Gonzales, LA

Received the ARS members choice award for this year. Thousands and thousands have been sold, with reports of cold hardiness.

**President Herbert Hoover HT**  
Daniel Naumann—Red Bluff, CA

The ivory, apricot and shifting pink are spot on. If one can call a pastel saturated, it is; a vegetative symbol of fashion, c. 1930.



TOP TO BOTTOM: *Rosa spinosissima*, 'Prospect Hill Red China', 'Schmidt's Smooth Yellow', *Rosa fedtschenkoana*, 'Grandmother's Hat'



**Prospect Hill Red China Ch**  
Billy West—Perth, Australia

The blooms are luminous—bringing warm light to the garden—especially welcome in winter.

*“President Herbert Hoover . . . a vegetative symbol of fashion, circa 1930.”* —Daniel Naumann

**Quietness S**  
Pam Smith—Dallas, TX

Bred by Griffith Buck for the cold, it flourishes in the heat—good genes.

**Renae PolCI**  
Carolyn Sanders—Albany, CA

Very fragrant blooms are shades of light pink and primarily appear in large clusters throughout the season.

**Rosa banksiae alba plena Banks**  
Daphne Whitfort-Smith—Timaru, New Zealand

Delicious scent, yummy clusters of little double creamy rosettes, prickly free, evergreen and disease free.

**Rosa californica plena Sp**  
Saxon Holt—Novato, CA

More than the aesthetic beauty we humans ascribe to nature we must value the ecological function of gardens. Surely our native species roses must be preserved.

**Rosa fedtschenkoana Sp**  
Jon Dodson—Hampshire, England

Without this we wouldn't have the Autumn Damask, and my life would be so bleak.

**Rosa gallica officinalis G**  
Therese Loubert—Rosiers-sur-Loire, France

For a long time it served as a physical remedy, a medicinal herb, the “apothecary’s rose.”

**Rosa moschata Sp**  
Marilyn Hartley—Petaluma, CA

This has left an imprint in my brain. I have only to close my eyes, and I can smell the strong notes of cloves.

**Rosa multiflora Sp**  
Yuki Mikanagi—Chiba, Japan

One of the most important wild parents of our beautiful garden roses. As a rootstock it can't be ignored!

**Rosa Mundi G**  
Kathleen Earley—England

Beautiful, ancient and robust, it dates back at least 500 years. Silky petals, pink and white striped and splashed blooms.

**Rosa spinosissima Sp**  
Peter Boyd—England

Wild populations of this species in the British Isles and Europe have decreased from habitat destruction.

**Rosa spinosissima Sp**  
Page Dickey—CT

I love its elegant, single white, fragrant flowers born in profusion in May, and its low shrubby habit, splendid on top of a stone wall, as Gertrude Jekyll suggests.

**Rosa x Dupontii Sp**  
Peter Winne—Hartford, CT

Planted at Elizabeth Park in Hartford, CT in 1904 and still going strong.

**Rose Edouard B**  
Virija Viraraghavan—India

Is it from the Isle of Reunion, or from the lush green paddy fields of Tanjavur on the banks of the fertile River Cauvery in south India? Its sweet scent has wafted across the centuries.



TOP TO BOTTOM: 'Renae', 'Quietness', 'Lady Hillingdon', 'Duchesse de Rohan'

**Rose Gaujard HT**

Crenagh Elliott—Victoria, Canada

A classic from the middle of the last century, a strong blue-pink with a silvery reverse.

**Rusty Fl**

Beth Hana, Los Molinos, CA

Mine did not survive the Camp Fire.

**Safrano T**

Brent Dickerson—Los Angeles, CA

Beautiful with delicate, luscious tintings, a good garden subject exceedingly important to rose history and progress.

**The Active Ch**

Fran Rawling—Dunedin, New Zealand

For Reverend Samuel Marsden's ship commissioned in 1814 to set up the first NZ missionary station.

**The Active Ch**

Georgina Campbell—Hastings, New Zealand

A wonderful hedge, it copes with extremes in weather, with simple single flowers, a wonderful scent and great wee hips.

*“ . . . there are towering specimens, preserved by elaborate scaffolding in Lijiang, China.” —Viru Viraraghavan*

**Sally Holmes HM**

Susan Feichtmeir—Santa Rosa, CA

Just three branches make a massive bouquet, a terrific example of the excellence of shrubs.

**Sally Holmes HM**

Judy Eitzen—CA

In Sacramento Valley's long hot summers, her blooms fade to white with soft coral buds.

**Schmidt's Smooth Yellow Pol**

Jackie Schmidt—San Rafael, CA

The best match I have seen for this rose is 'George Elger'. It is a yellow polyantha.

**Secret Garden Musk Climber Msk**

Lois Ann Helgeson—Minnesota

The intoxicating fragrance of this single white, disease-resistant found rose—intensely clove.

**Soleil d'Or HT**

Margaret Furness—Adelaide, Australia

In terms of parents that made a difference to the gene pool, it brought wonderful new colours.

**The Finest HT**

John Bagnasco—Fallbrook, CA

Pure white, spicy fragrance. A tribute to 9/11 police casualties, bred by Ping Lim.

**White Cap LCl**

Connie Hilker—Fredricksburg, VA

A superstar in my garden most people have never heard of and few nurseries carry.

**White Mountains R**

Leon Ginenthal—Ithaca, NY

Bred by E. B. Risley in 1958, it flowers for 5–6 weeks with white flowers that emerge from pink buds.

**William Shakespeare S/AUS**

Alice Waters—Berkeley, CA

. . . and Othello.

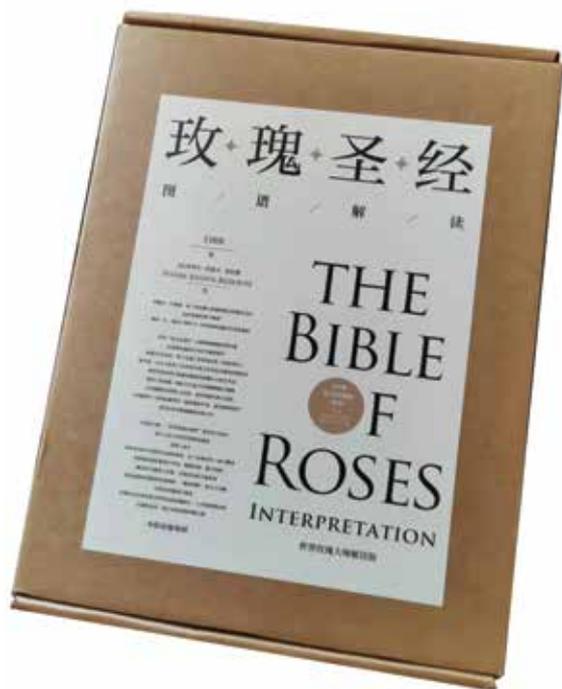


TOPTO BOTTOM: 'Baronne Henriette de Snoy', 'Manning's Blush', 'Empress Josephine', 'Peace', 'Belfield'

## A Four-Hundred-Year-Old Rose and a Chinese Rose Scholar

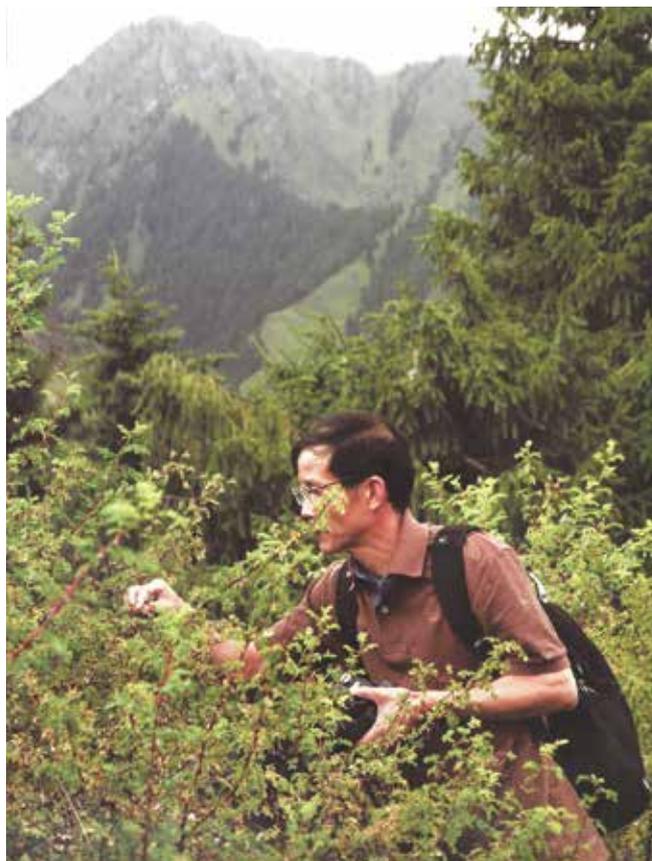
With his contribution to our Time Capsule of Roses, Wang Guoliang has shared with us the discovery of a 400-year-old-rose, and the best selling success of his second book on the history of roses.

"I have been working on finding, describing, studying, and preserving old roses in China. Your program of sending one rose a hundred years into the future is quite magnificent and meaningful. I have no reason not to take part in it. So I select carefully and devoutly one from the massive rose collection of mine in China, for the candidate.



"It is 'Xiangyun Pink', an old *Rosa odorata*-type, perpetual rose cloned from a huge bush of about 400 years old, the oldest one still living in China. The details are on page 272 in *Old Roses in China*, my first book. The rose is a big bush, with shining and thick foliage, pointed, broad petals, flowers changing color with the season and within the season, blooming throughout the year, with a really strong tea-rose scent.

"At the end of last year, my new book, titled *The Bible of Roses/Interpretation* was published. It became very quickly the best seller of the year, and won three awards;



Salute to the Author, Best Seller of the year, and Best Author. To date it has been reprinted five times. Now I am writing another book, a book compiling and describing all the old roses in China, and some abroad."

ABOVE: The Bible of Roses cover

TOP RIGHT Wang Guoliang botanizing in China

RIGHT: 'Xiangyun Pink'