



THE *Vintage rose*

Autumn 2020, Issue 23



THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES

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**NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE ROSES**

*Autumn 2020, Issue 23*

**IN THIS ISSUE:**



*Featured Rose: 'Baltimore Belle'*

It's a lovely rose, as most are that survive the whims, ravages, and vicissitudes of time. But it's also a head-turner of robust health, and, despite being 177 years old . . . *see page 3*



*Curator's Report*

On windowsills the vases count the days—blue cobalt glass, powder blue pottery, clear cylinders in steel. They are always ready, smiling at me, asking me to bring a rose blossom. . . . *see page 5*



*Four Uncommon Noisettes*

Many rose lovers who are fond of climbing and clustering flowers are fond of Noisettes and Tea-Noisettes. The Noisette, an original American rose (c. 1810), boasts virtual bouquets . . . *see page 7*



*Fostering The Friends of Vintage Roses Modern Shrub Collection*

When I agreed to foster The Friends of Vintage Roses Modern Shrub Collection, several years ago, I thought it would be no big deal . . . *see page 12*



*It's a New Day on Our Website*

I am so happy to tell you about the new look and changes to our website [www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org](http://www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org). Thanks to the hard work . . . *see page 14*

*On the cover: 'Earl of Eldon' (photo by Gregg Lowery)*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

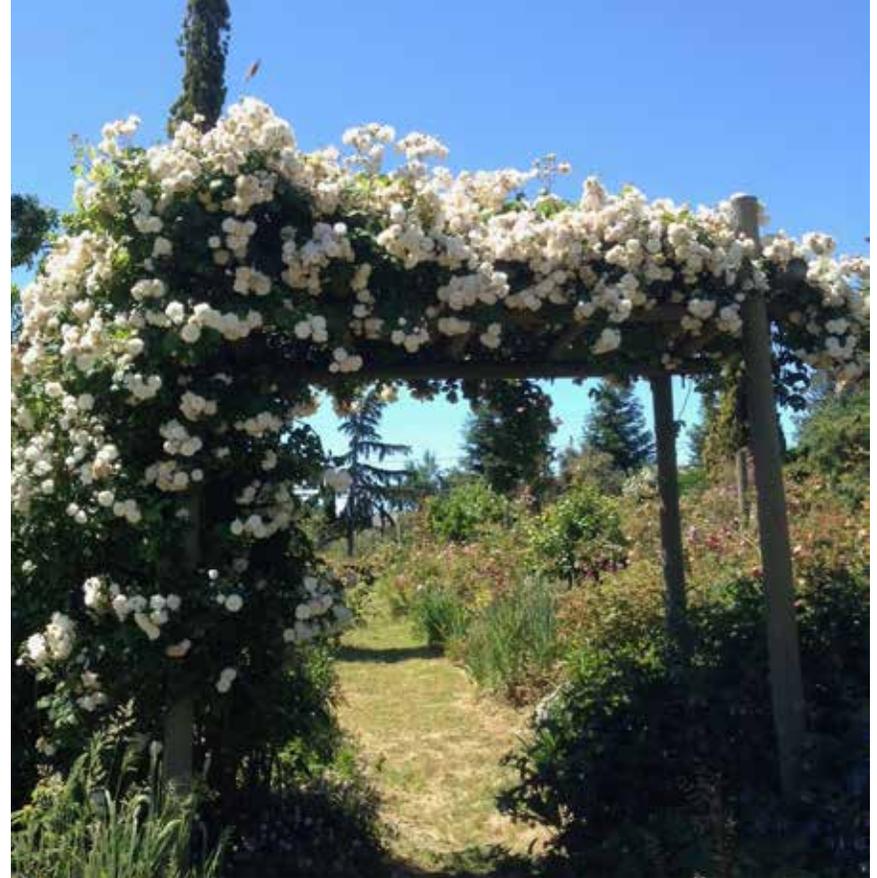
Featured Rose: 'Baltimore Belle' . . . . .	3
Curator's Report . . . . .	5
Four Uncommon Noisettes . . . . .	8
Fostering the Friends of Vintage Roses Modern Shrub Collection. . .	13
It's a New Day on Our Website . . . . .	15
'Marechal Niel' . . . . .	16

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As you all know, this has been a difficult time. For The Friends of Vintage Roses, it has meant we have had to cancel an important fundraiser in May because of COVID-19. It has meant we have had to cancel our Dirt Days of volunteer work. It has meant we have had to rethink, regroup, re-plan how we would now raise necessary funds. Out of that difficulty, came an experiment, an answer: We would hold a drive-in sale of roses. Our curator put together an enormous list of salable roses, posted it online, had buyers order the roses AND select a day and time they would drive onto the property, and, without getting out of their vehicle, receive their order of roses. It worked. Wonderfully. And we raised money more efficiently, with less work, than previous sales at other venues. As of this writing, we are now dealing with smoke and the fear of fires threatening our collection. While this too shall pass, we hope you will continue to be with us and to support our efforts in preservation.

—Darrell g. h. Schramm, editor



*'Baltimore Belle' (photo by D. Schramm)*

## A Head-Turner: 'Baltimore Belle'

*Darrell g.h. Schramm*

It's a lovely rose, as most are that survive the whims, ravages, and vicissitudes of time. But it's also a head-turner of robust health, and, despite being 177 years old, it is known for an occasional autumn bloom. A rather sexy rose, its exuberant blossoms call to mind a ruffled, unmade bed. While the flower in full bloom suggests a salacious woman, its name supposedly refers to a head-turner, a proud, pretty young woman known in the early 1800s as The Belle of Baltimore. All her several portraits show her as not beautiful but

definitely quite pretty. Daughter of William Patterson, a banker and shipowner of a distinguished Baltimore family, she was a dauntless, enterprising and strong-willed woman.

Equally enterprising but more self-serving than strong-willed was the youngest brother of Napoleon, the foppish Jerome Bonaparte, who landed on America's shores in search of escape and pleasure—not adventure—in 1803. In short time he met Elizabeth "Betsy" Patterson. Bored with Baltimore and, no doubt, seeing an exciting future, this young lady agreed at age nineteen to marry the brother of the most powerful man in the Western world. Honeymooning in Washington, D.C., they were feted by Dolley Madison. For a time they became America's most famous couple.

Unfortunately, Napoleon refused to honor the marriage and insisted that it be annulled. Succumbing to pressure, Jerome in 1805 essentially abandoned the Belle of Baltimore. A few months later, Betsy Patterson gave birth to a son whom she named Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte.

At the end of 1807, Napoleon made Jerome King of Westphalia and had him marry Catherine of Wurttemberg, after which King Jerome wrote to Betsy asking her to send their son to Europe to be educated and to grow up as befit his station as son of a king. Betsy, older (by



*Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte (Gilbert Stuart, 1804)*



*'Baltimore Belle' (photo by Bill Grant)*

A squanderer of money and a philanderer of countless women, Jerome now had two wives, for Napoleon's declaration of their annulment was not valid.

In any case, the Belle of Baltimore did not trust Jerome. By now she had heard of his royal marriage to Catherine. And though Betsy filed for an American civil divorce (which *Congress* granted her), she refused to marry another man. According to historian Desmond Seward, she declared, "Nothing could persuade me to marry anybody in America after having had an Emperor's brother for a husband." So much for love.

Four years after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, she and her son "Bo" visited Rome where they were graciously received by both Napoleon's mother and by his sister Pauline. The purpose of Betsy's trip to Italy may have been more calculating than adventuresome. According to Seward, she had hopes of her son marrying one of Uncle Joseph Bonaparte's daughters. Instead, to Betsy's disappointment and chagrin, Bo married a girl from Baltimore.

three months) and certainly wiser, declined, writing that she would deal only with the Emperor himself. Jerome replied that she should come as well, and that he would make her a princess.

By the 1830s Betsy had made a large fortune in real estate, having become a shrewd—and miserly—business woman. Yet it would seem that she still retained her attractiveness a decade later when in 1843 the Feast Brothers of Baltimore bred and named a rose reputedly in her honor. When Jerome died in 1860, she and her son sued in the French courts to claim part of his estate—and lost. The fact that by then the nepotistic Napoleon III was ruler of France did not help her cause.

Having related all this (because we do enjoy a good story), I will now backpedal somewhat. I have not found an original source that confirms the rose was indeed named for Betsy Patterson. In fact, by the time the rose was introduced in 1843, Betsy would have been nearly sixty years old, hardly what most people would refer to as a “belle.” Usually that term was applied to a debutant, an ingenue, a young marriageable and attractive woman. Perhaps the Feast Brothers named the rose for itself—the rose was and is the Belle—the beauty—of Baltimore.

This pale pink rose, ‘Baltimore Belle’, is a hybrid of *Rosa setigera* and perhaps *R. gallica*, perhaps a Noisette rose. Clusters of round buds form on this rambler, opening into fully double roses with incurved petals that detest damp weather. Sometimes they exhibit a button eye. The blossoms flower late and last long, with some autumn rebloom, at least in California, rather like Betsy Patterson returning to Europe in the autumn of her years.

The Belle of Baltimore, Seward informs us, ended her life “an immensely rich old dragon” sipping brandy. That habit could lead anyone to slide into the pool of oblivion. However, she had rubbed more than just shoulders with a Napoleonic sibling and had had a rose named for her—perhaps, thus ensuring that she, Betsy Patterson, would not be forgotten. One wonders how much at age 94 she herself remembered after all that brandy. Was it, I wonder, Remy Martin? ■



## Raindrops on Roses— *The Curator's Report*

*Gregg Lowery*

On windowsills the vases count the days—blue cobalt glass, powder blue pottery, clear cylinders in steel. They are always ready, smiling at me, asking me to bring a rose blossom. Sometimes I tag the sill with tiny Post-its, savoring the names, memorizing new and old alike. They need not be perfect blooms nor offer a leaf. Some blow their perfume round the kitchen and others flaunt bright colors, vibrant against the cobalt glass.

This is the rhythm of life with a rose collection. It grounds me. This has been a year like many before, full of the work-day life of trying to keep the roses alive, hoping they can thrive, and seeing the results of our daily efforts, delighted when the stories have good endings. And this has been a year of calm upheaval and turbulent quiet.

I struggle every few months to share with our community where we have come from and where we are now, where I think we are going. I measure these things against our mission to hold fast to the living

beauty of these old roses, and to be the guardians to pass them on to the future. And, I am confident that in this past year we have done well.

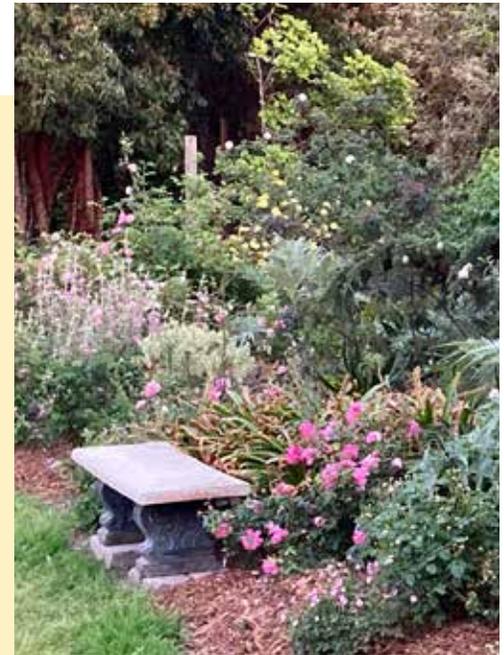
November of 2019 sent a jolt through our ranks when we witnessed a portion of our Floribunda collection afflicted with severe crown gall. Dirt Day volunteers were assisting the bare-rooting of the Floribundas which were to be shipped to their new home in Mississippi, when we realized that we had to tackle the problem with immediate measures to contain the bacteria that could easily pass from one plant to another through this process.

*below: roses prepped for the online sale, mist tunnel in the background. (All photos in this article by G. Lowery)*



**BECOME A GUARDIAN OF THE ROSE AT \$10 PER MONTH—JOIN THE GUARDIANS' PRE-SALE OF ROSES**

The Guardians commit to monthly donations to help us to maintain the extra paid help we need, and the essential materials. Guardians may commit to as little as \$5 a month, and those Guardians supporting at the \$10 per month level and above will receive an invitation to a Pre-Sale event, and a first chance to order on all of the rose sales we offer each year. Won't you join our cause and help to keep the Friends a thriving community of rose preservationists?



The Floribunda collection made it east and is being cared for and observed. Meanwhile, we had made plans for a fundraising rose sale in May of 2020—based on a very large crop of plants we had propagated. With the help of Linda Perry who did extensive research on crown gall, and Julia McDonald who put together a procedure for vetting all of those band plants, we set to work.

In March we were ready and hard at work bare-rooting each of those band-pot plants, pulling out any that showed signs of gall, drenching the roots and tops in Galltrol, a biological block against the gall bacterium, and repotting the plants into larger band pots. Just over 8 percent of those plants were culled and held apart to be re-examined in the fall. When we returned to those plants in early

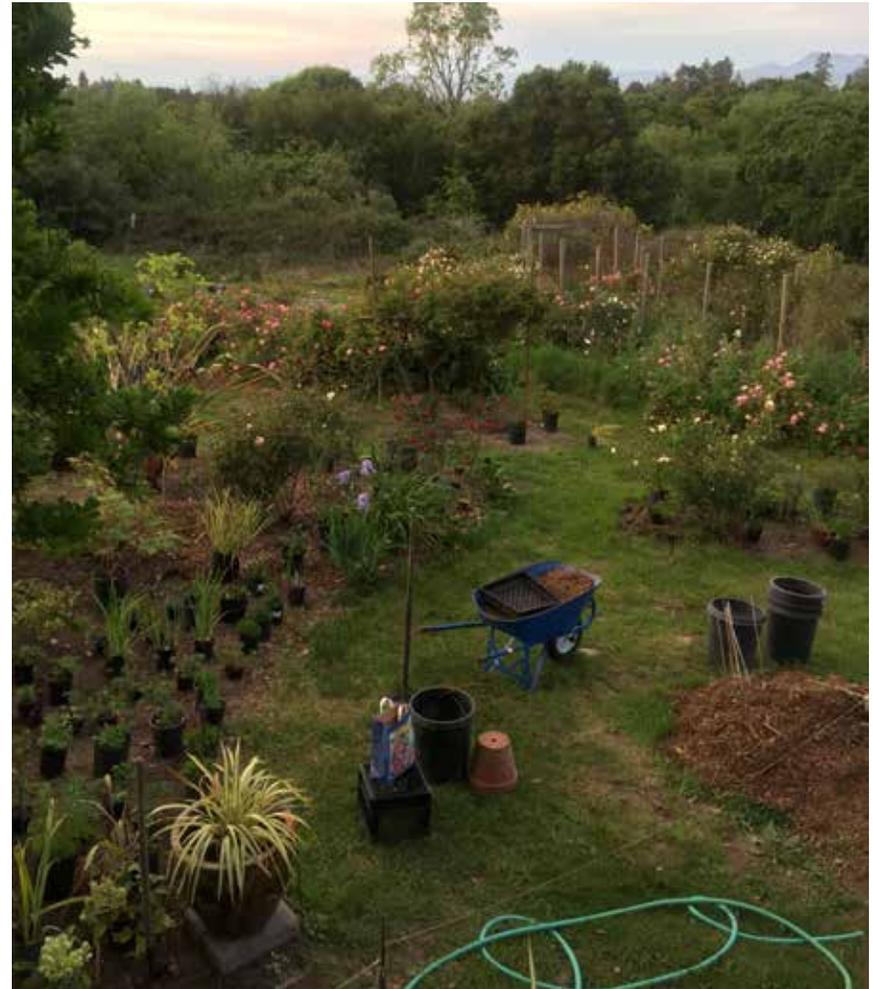
August, we found that we had been overzealous in our quarantine, and the spread of gall was far less severe than we had feared.

As we agonized over our vetting process in mid-March and worried that we might be facing an epidemic in the collection, we were stopped short in the last days by the arrival of Covid19 and the lockdown in California. The job would be completed, but our outlook for the spring was bleak. Very quickly it became clear that our May 9th fundraiser would be cancelled. Dirt Days could not be started again until the course of the real pandemic was better understood.

A few local board members and volunteers found ways to assist with some of the tasks surrounding the collection. We set to work on a plan to have a virtual rose sale with carefully choreographed pickup days. The plan was a success, and brought in our first income for the year, helping to match the generous gifts of long-term donors to our cause.

Some things can be left undone, but caring for living plants is not one of them. We now face the loss of a huge effort in 2019 to work through the entire pot collection of mother plants, upgrading their health and growth. Without volunteer days, and lacking enough in donations to keep our hired workers making progress, the challenge of weeding, mulching and feeding 3000 pots of roses has strained our abilities.

Nevertheless, we persist in doing what we can to prepare for more of the collection to get into other curators' hands. These are the folks who share the joyful burden of giving these roses a second chance. On May 9th, the date we had planned for our rose sale and garden tour, two of us visited Susan Feichtmeir to see the glory of her new planting of Shrub roses, a planting that will soon contain the Polyantha rose collection as well. Daniel Nauman collected the latest installment in his Pernetiana rose collection, and Pamela Temple came to rescue an installment of the English Rose collection as well.



The garden here in Sebastopol got a good share of care this spring when our Secretary Joan Olson joined the volunteer gardening crew, helping us to work on the revitalization of several areas. So many of our volunteers have kept in touch, anxious for the day when they can return. Our work on the mist tunnel is nearing completion, and we hope to kick into propagation mode in September to prepare for sales in 2021.

With offers of assistance from supporters this past week, we will shortly launch a small fundraiser specifically to pay for the installation of a generator to keep our well functioning during fire season. This week's fires in Sonoma had a direct impact locally, placing us on alert for evacuation and the near certain disruption of electrical service. I'm relieved to say that we purchased and installed the equipment, and supporters like you are standing at the ready to donate to the cause.

For now, a second virtual sale this year is planned for mid to late September, with pickup weekends to be scheduled in October. We hope you will join us, support us with your rose purchases and consider becoming a Guardian of the Roses. ■

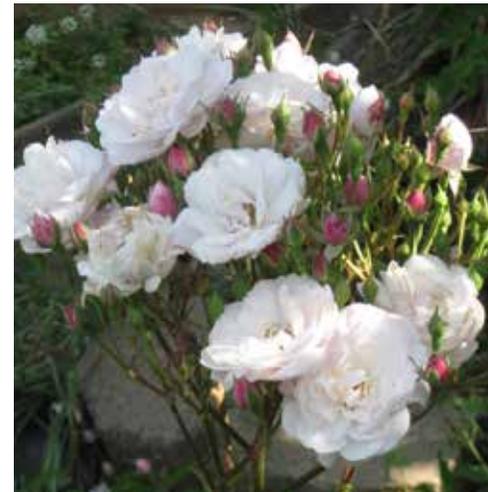


## Four Uncommon Noisettes

Darrell g.h. Schramm



Many rose lovers who are fond of climbing and clustering flowers are fond of Noisettes and Tea-Noisettes. The Noisette, an original American rose (c. 1810), boasts virtual bouquets of usually small to medium full flowers, fragrant often with a clove scent inherited from *Rosa moschata*. Most are recurrent bloomers. Along with Tea roses, they are best for hot climates.



top: 'Juan Desprez' (photo by Gloria Leinbach);  
above: 'Blush Noisette' (photo by D. Schramm)

Noisettes became quickly popular in the American South and the south of France. With their popularity, breeders began to cross Tea roses with them, producing larger, less crowded, more sumptuous and elegant flowers. Among the still favored Noisettes we find 'Blush Noisette', 'Aimée Vibert', 'Bougainville', and 'Narrow Water'. Among the well-known Tea-Noisettes, we find 'Celine Forestier', 'Jaune Desprez', 'Lamarque', 'Marechal Niel', and 'William Allen Richardson'.



*clockwise from top left: 'William Allen Richardson' (photo by Elaine Sedlack); 'Aimée Vibert' (photo by Karl King); 'Narrow Water' (photo by B. Grant); 'Celine Forestier' (photo by Stan Shebs)*

But others, less familiar, are also still grown. And so I have chosen to write on four rather obscure roses in this extended family. Whenever I write of less familiar roses, I run into a contradiction, a confusion, or a cul-de-sac. (The cul-de-sac, as I shall show, concerns the stories behind the women for whom roses were named.) But to write of the same roses again and again, even from a different perspective, becomes prosaic if not tiresome; nor does it promote those others roses that are still extant and sometimes even more strikingly



*'Jacques Amyot' (photo by Giuseppe Bonin)*

beautiful. So uncommon are the four Noisettes that I describe here that none is to be found in the world's largest public rose garden, Europa-Rosarium in Sangerhausen.

Take the Noisette 'Jacques Amyot' of 1850. Some fifty years later in Philadelphia, H.A. Dreer, a prominent nurseryman, declared it was one of the six best Noisettes to be grown. A short plant with arching canes that can extend five feet, its flowers yield a fruity aroma. The prolific blossoms are a light rose pink, darker at the margins, creamy at the base, rather flat but double flowers about three inches across. A momentary confusion inserted itself when I discovered another rose with the same name by the same breeder, Varangot, a purplish-red Damask Perpetual of 1844—but which seems to have disappeared.

A contradiction about the spelling of the rose name occurs in a fairly recent book on Noisettes, maintaining that it has corrected the spelling of the surname as found in a Soupert et Notting catalogue to "Amiot." Yet there is no reason to suppose that only Soupert et Notting knew the correct spelling. One has merely to consult the title pages of any of Amyot's own works, say of 1565, to see how the

man himself spelled his name, not to mention Montaigne's praise of Amyot who was his contemporary. It is *not* spelled with an "i".

The rose commemorates Bishop Amyot of Auxerre in central France who lived from 1513 to 1593. Earlier, he had been a professor of languages at Bourges. He translated *Daphnis and Chloe* into French and numerous other books from Greek and Latin, not least *Plutarch's Lives*, which Sir Thomas North in turn rendered into English, a source for three of Shakespeare's plays. Critics, not least Montaigne, who exalted him above all other French writers, have professed that he raised the quality of French prose.

The second Noisette in this group has often been confused with 'Belle Vichysoise; that rose is 'Cornelie'. A rose of 1858, 'Cornelie'



'Cornelie' (photo by G. Lowery)

grows thirteen to seventeen feet, nearly without prickles. It has been described as vivid pink, as pink with violet highlights, and as bright pink with purple shading. 'Belle Vichysoise', on the other hand, is pale pink or pinkish white, and grows six to eight feet high. That suggests the two roses are not synonymous. Furthermore, the 1899 and 1906 editions of Simon & Cochet's *Nomenclature* list them separately and with the differing coloration



'Earl of Eldon' (photo by G. Lowery)

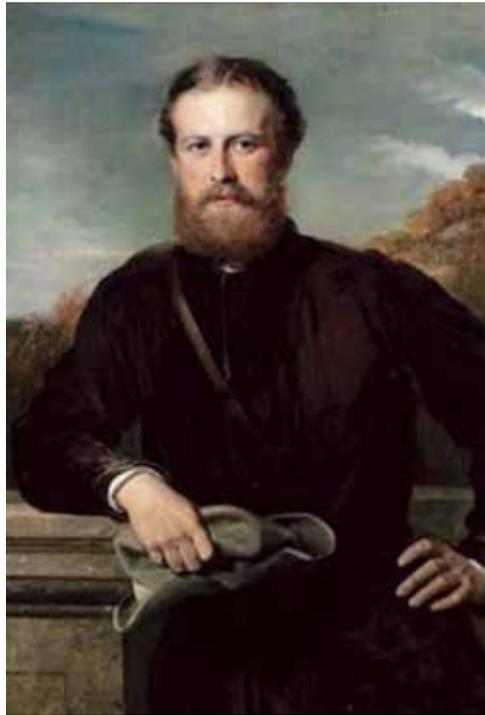
mentioned above. In addition, Roseraie Ducher in France offers 'Cornelie' for sale, showing a photo of it in vivid purplish pink. The story of its misidentification based on surmise need not concern us here. If not named for the Roman daughter of Scipio Africanus the Elder or her daughter, wife of Scipio Africanus the Younger, it is altogether likely it was named for a contemporary of the breeders Robert and Moreau, Cornelie Le Bas de Courmont, born in 1781. She and her father Charles-Claude Le Bas de Courmont survived the French Revolution, standing in long queues to be dispensed a pittance of food at near starvation. That is all we know of her personal life. Howbeit, we do know her uncle Louis-Marie Le Bas de Courmont, farmer and mayor of Clichy, was guillotined in 1794. And we know she was the cousin of the famous literary brothers Jules and Edmond Goncourt who portrayed her as a character in their forgotten novel *Germinie Lacerteux*. The last to retain the family name (she did not wed), she died in Paris in September 1863.

The Tea-Noisette 'Earl of Eldon' was introduced by George Paul & Son in 1871 at the Royal Horticultural Society exhibition. Seedling of 'Cloth of Gold' (aka 'Chromatella'), a free-flowering climber loose in petal and cupping a sweet, strong perfume, it displays a distinct color: coppery apricot or pale buff with orange in England

and northern France but paler in Mediterranean climates—chamois-incarnadine or white with a pale yellow or goldish hue at the base of the petals.

The rose was apparently named for the 3rd Earl of Eldon, John Scott (1845–1926), who inherited the title from his father John Scott, 2nd Earl of Eldon in 1854. Because at first it was assumed the 1st Earl was the source of the name of the rose, the latter perhaps deserves a tangent.

Being the most famous of the earls, the 1st Earl of Eldon, a lawyer and politician, became Lord Chancellor from 1801 to 1827 with a brief hiatus in those years. His most daring act in life seems to have been his elopement with the daughter of a Newcastle banker in 1772, using the traditional ladder set at a second story window to carry her off. He was knighted in 1788, served in the Lower House and then in the House of Lords. But, as an unbending conservative, he was not rousing popular. He opposed abolition of slavery, of debtors' prison, railway expansion, Roman Catholic political freedom, and the Reform Act to increase the right to vote among the common citizens. Once, riding in an open carriage, he was stoned by a mob but was quick to raise his umbrella to deflect the stones. A ship was named for him—not a rose—which, after leaving Bombay in 1835, caught fire from its cargo of cotton.



*3rd Earl of Eldon, John Scott  
(George Richmond, 1875)*

Fortunately, crew and 35 passengers escaped in three lifeboats before the ship exploded. The three boats, after thirteen days adrift, gratefully having taken along 20 gallons of brandy, some biscuits and jam and canned meats, reached the remote island of Rodrigues, 450 miles away where they were rescued.

But most likely the Tea-Noisette was named for the contemporary 3rd Earl of Eldon. Educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford, he married Henrietta Minna Turnor in 1869 and sired seven children. A handsome man, he gained the title of Honorary Colonel of the First Dorset Royal Volunteers, also serving as Justice of the Peace for Dorset and for Gloucestershire.

The Earl of Eldon was also the Viscount of Encombe. The Encombe estate is part of the village of Kingston in County Dorset. Although the 1st Earl in 1833 had the old twelfth century village church renovated, in 1874 the 3rd Earl commissioned the architect of London's Royal Courts of Justice to design a new church. A Victorian Gothic structure whose tower peals eight bells, it presents a certain grandeur, symmetry, and harmony. But why two churches of the same denomination? One answer is that, being tradition-minded, the villagers felt no need for a new church and for forty years chose not to attend the new one, St. James. Another answer is that St. James was built for the Scott family and posterity as a private chapel or church, though a rather imposing edifice for only the celebrants of one extended family. A third answer, smacking of gossip, is that the Earl had been found in bed with the Vicar's wife, so out of respect and loyalty to the Vicar, the villagers shunned the new church. The 3rd Earl died age 80 in 1926 and lies buried there in Kingston. In 2002 the Scott family sold the grand house and part of the estate. Today that property is owned by a former airline CEO.

Like the last rose, 'Lily Mertchersky' is a Tea-Noisette. And like my maternal grandmother's side of the family, the surname has at least three spellings: the one given here, and Merschersky and



*'Lily Mertchersky' (photo by Becky Hook)*

Meshchersky. It was bred by Gilbert Nabonnand. After he opened his nursery in 1864 on the French Riviera, he bred mostly Tea roses, capitalizing on royal patronage by naming most of his roses after nobility and others of the well-heeled class, such as this Tea-Noisette. Quite prickly, quite vigorous, quite recurrent, a mildly fragrant climber, the plant bears medium-sized flowers of

violet red. In fact, it was introduced in 1878 as the first Noisette of that color. It does, however, fade rather swiftly to mauve.

After the Crimean War, France had acquired Nice; Napoleon III, to show he really valued peace, accordingly invited Russian nobility to the area. Eager for the warm Mediterranean climate, they accepted with alacrity. And the Merschersky nobility owned at least two villas in Nice. Given that little detail and the fact that there were two Princesses Nataliya Merschersky, distant cousins a generation apart, confused matters for a time in this research.

Lily—Princess Nataliya Alexandrovna Mertchersky—was a descendant of the Stroganovs. In 1877 she wed Fabrizio Ruffo, the Duke of Sasso-Ruffo. No doubt Nabonnand named the rose to commemorate her marriage. The couple brought forth five children, two of whom died in infancy. The youngest daughter Elisabeta (1886–1940) married the son of a grand Duke of Russia, Andre Alexandrovich, in 1918. But they soon fled the Revolution, living on the French Riviera a few years before relocating to England. In absentia, Elisabeta became a Grand Duchess. During WWII in 1940,

she was dying of cancer during an air raid on London when a ceiling beam fell and struck her; she died of injuries shortly thereafter.

But how disappointing not to know more about her mother Lily. The four roses discussed here may be uncommon, but what is altogether common is that male history is invariably given more coverage than female history. Typical of most histories, including rose history, is that they continue to frame women in the context of their relationship to famous or once-important men. Why don't we know more about Lily and Cornelia? Why do we know almost nothing about their personalities and networks in which they lived? Their lives are all but absent from this study, and it is not because I did not try to explore their narratives, their lives, to make their stories at least equal to those of the men. A hundred fifty years later, it is still uncommon in 2020 for male writers to understand how important the narratives are—common or not—that show us how women live. ■

#### LOVING THE ROSE

How would you react if you discovered that one or more of the following Old Garden Roses was about to disappear forever? If 'Mme Hardy' or 'Marechal Niel' or 'Souvenir de la Malmaison', 'Celsiana', 'Comte de Chambord', 'Louise Odier', 'Aimee Vibert', 'Autumn Damask' or 'Maman Cochet' were to vanish utterly? And if you could do something to prevent that loss, would you? Here is your chance. A number of roses in the Vintage Collection are in just such a situation, with many more languishing precariously in the wings. Yet for just \$5.00 a month, you can help forestall such an irrevocable loss. By pledging \$5.00 a month, you can become a Guardian of the Rose. If you haven't already done so, make your commitment now. Contact [treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org](mailto:treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org).



## Fostering The Friends of Vintage Roses Modern Shrub Collection

*Susan Feichtmeir*

When I agreed to foster The Friends of Vintage Roses Modern Shrub Collection, several years ago, I thought it would be no big deal, but it turned out that it required a major addition to my already expansive garden. My gardener Abel Mendez and I have been working on that new section since then, and it is now starting to take shape.

I wanted this part of the garden to coordinate with the rest of the garden's design. The original section was based on a series of beds

in concentric circles with a gazebo in the center. The second section was on a steeper hillside, but I continued the use of curved beds to harmonize with the circular pattern of the original section. For this newest section, I had several practical issues to deal with. First, the hillside where the new section would be installed is fairly steep. I wanted to maximize planting area in order to house the very large Modern Shrub Collection, and possibly another collection if space allowed. I therefore opted on a very simple design of gently curving paths running perpendicular to the slope. This had the benefit of reducing erosion and earth movement, as well as giving the roses a full southwestern exposure. My only worry was that the exposure would also leave them completely unsheltered from winter weather, but I decided that the design's benefits outweighed that concern.

The terraces—which I thought would be so gentle that they would just need edging—turned out to need more hardscape than expected. We had to get an excavator in to cut them into the hill and then build retaining walls to keep them in place. This delayed the planting of the roses by a year. But after all our work, we have most of the hardscape completed and the shrubs in the ground. We are awaiting a few more plants, which were lost from the collection and have to be replaced, as well as two plants which are still in my nursery section because we did not have enough information on their habits.

Our technique for planting roses is this: once we decide where the rose will be planted, we dig a hole and set up the irrigation. We put the rose, still in its pot, into the ground and heel it in. We give it a week or two to get used to the new location before planting. We wait for foggy mornings to plant to minimize shock to the rose. We use stainless steel mesh gopher cages because of our gopher problem, although our cat Rocket has eliminated many of them.

These shrubs are hardy! We planted them on cool mornings last fall, but despite the mid-day fall heat, they almost universally started growing and blooming as soon as they were in the ground. They all look so happy to have their roots in the ground instead of a pot. We thought we had lost one rose and planted another rose in its place, but in the spring, the “dead” rose resurrected itself and we had to move the replacement rose!

Some of them have surprised me by their habits. One in particular, ‘Chimo’, which has a dark, but vivid red, semi-double blossoms, is so lank that it will either need some sort of support, or will need to be moved so it can drape more attractively from the retaining walls.



*left, top to bottom: beds staked down the slope, beds cut into the hill, retaining walls; above: already taking off! (photos by S. Feichtmeir)*

We have been so busy placing the plants in the bare beds that the design looks a little monotonous. We hope to resolve that with companion planting to give the terraces flow and coherence. I am trying to propagate some of the ground-cover geraniums and erigeron that we have in other areas of the garden, plus irises and daffodils we have

divided from the established garden. At the 2019 Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa, I bought 18 long-blooming irises of all different colors, which are also now in the beds.

As the shrubs grow this first year, we will be able to see what else we need to add interest. Experience has shown me that plants don't always perform as predicted in my garden. Many roses get much larger here than elsewhere. We are going to have to move several roses in other parts of the garden, because they have become much larger than expected. One, ‘Yuki’s Dream’, a recently discovered Chinese rose, has turned out not to be the tidy, 3-foot mound it was predicted to be, but rather, a tree-eating Rambler. So going by my experience, I expect some of these Modern Shrubs will be relocated before everything is settled.

Meanwhile, we have had the adventure of watching the whole hillside come alive with color this last spring. I was so sad that I could not have an open garden this year to show it off, but next year, everything will be even more splendid. I hope to see you then. ■

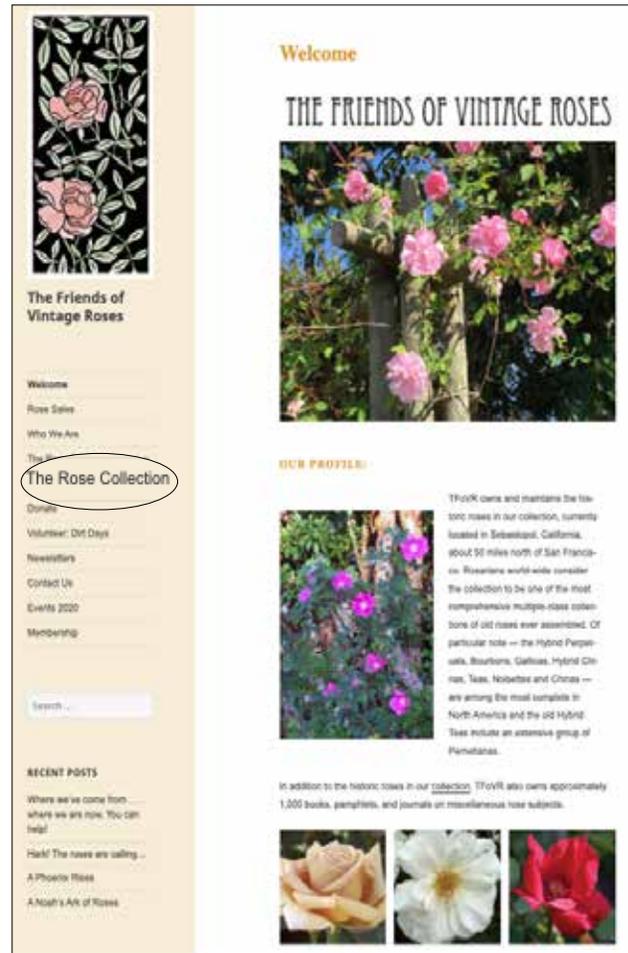
# It's A New Day on Our Website

Pamela Temple & The Editors

I am so happy to tell you about the new look and changes to our website [www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org](http://www.thefriendsofvintageroses.org). Thanks to the hard work and creative talents of our friend, layout editor and board member Joan Olson, it is not only more attractive but has become a useful resource that you will want to use again and again. It is also easier to navigate.

Some of you remember using the *Vintage Gardens' Book of Roses* catalogue as a reference and wishing it could be accessed on line. Now the rose class descriptions, growth habit drawings and codes for scent and rebloom, are available on our site as a downloadable pdf of each classification of the collection as it existed at one time in the hands of Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson. This is accessed via the menu item "The Rose Collection," which has links to the Rose Classifications. From there, (*see Albas, shown far right*), you can link to a pdf of the catalogue pages relating to that class.

Still included, but in a more attractive and accessible format, are archived newsletters, sales and event info, volunteer info and messages from our curators. The "Recent Posts" section is one you may wish to check periodically. The before-and-after photos in the section under "Where We've Come From" show the devoted passion given to the landscaping and growth of the gardens to maintain this valuable collection. The efforts are at once obvious and jaw-dropping. Additionally, under "A Noah's Ark of Roses" are



listed some of the really rare roses that are in jeopardy today. In the future we hope to offer more rose photos and perhaps some interesting reprints of *Rosa Mundi* articles.

I know you will be as pleased as I was to find this treasure of rose information. ■



*Tea-Noisette 'Marechal Niel' (photo by the late John Starnes)*

#### **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.

#### **OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Gregg Lowery, Curator & President  
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Steve Dunatov, Business Manager  
Pamela Temple, Facebook Editor  
Andrea Donahue, Treasurer  
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#### **ROSE COLLECTIONS CURATORS**

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Sue Bunte, Floribunda Rose Curator  
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Julie Matlin, Damask Perpetual Rose Curator  
Daniel Nauman, Pernetiana Rose Curator  
Bill Smith, Old European Rose Curator  
Pamela Temple, Rambler and Austin Rose Curator

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

General questions: [info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org](mailto:info@thefriendsofvintageroses.org)  
Re: the rose collection: [curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org](mailto:curator@thefriendsofvintageroses.org)  
Re: donations: [treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org](mailto:treasurer@thefriendsofvintageroses.org)  
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