

"...to support preservation of the West Adams community's architectural heritage and beautification activities, and to educate Los Angeles' citizens and others about cultural heritage and restoration techniques. . ."

NEWSLETTER



Number 184

June-July 2001

Everything's Coming Up Roses!



Rose Madness arrives every Spring in Southern California, where even the smallest garden is often awash in a profusion of beautiful blooms. And these days, you're apt to see old-fashioned and heritage rose varieties alongside tried-and-true modern hybrids, especially in the gardens of historic homes like our own in West Adams. That's why we've devoted nearly this entire special Annual Gardens issue of the West Adams Heritage Newsletter, and WAHA's annual June Garden Meeting, to the topic of roses.

Inside, you'll find articles on English Roses, Heritage Roses, a History of Roses, Web Sites for Rose Lovers, and, for history buffs, a gardening article reprinted from a 1909 journal.

WAHA's **June Garden Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, June 24**, starting at 2 p.m., at the home and verdant rose garden of Donald Pemrick, 2057 South Harvard Boulevard (south of Washington) in Harvard Heights. Everything is coming up roses at this event. Please bring a cut bloom from your own rose garden (identified by cultivar name, if possible) so we can compare notes on the best petals and scent. WAHA will have vases of water to help your rose keep its cool. And don't forget to review the West Adams homes nominated for their glorious gardens and new paint jobs (the nominees' list is on page 5), for on this day we vote. We'll also have local West Adams rosarians who'll share tips and information on rose pruning techniques, fertilization, and favorite varieties. The event is potluck: Please bring a salad or such from your garden.

July 4th Event: A Star-Spangled Picnic



The historic Cummings B. Jones/Marvin Gaye Residence in Western Heights plays host to WAHA's annual event celebrating America's birthday. Bring the kids -- your own or someone else's -- and wear your summer whites at WAHA's 4th of July picnic, to be held at Larry Leker and Tom Rozelle's home, 2101 South Gramercy Place, from noon to 4 p.m. As always, Wa-hot dogs will be for sale, cold drinks are on the house, and the potluck theme is sum-

meritime picnic -- please bring salads, main dishes, fruits or desserts to share.

Designed in 1905 by famed architects Hunt and Burns, this Tudor-Craftsman mansion is one of the most famous West Adams residences.



WAHA's Annual Ice Cream Social

Partake of three delicious flavors of Haagen Dazs ice cream and scrumptious sweets at the
Historic Stearns-Dockweiler Residence
27 St. James Park,
the home of Janice and Jim Robinson

Saturday, August 25
1 - 4 p.m.

*Baked goods for sale and a raffle for great prizes
This event is kid-friendly and mother approved!*

North University Park
(north of Adams., west of Figueroa at Scarff)

To volunteer, call Greg (323/734-7725) or Alma (323/737-2060)

West Adams Religious Art and Architecture Tour Saturday June 23 see page 5

**WEST ADAMS
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

2263 S. Harvard Boulevard
Historic West Adams
Los Angeles, California 90018
323/ 735-WAHA
www.neighborhoodlink.com/lalwestadams

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Historian

Newsletter Staff

Laura Meyers 323/737-6146

Editor and Layout Lauramlnk@aol.com

Michael Smith 323/734-7725

Senior Writer mikegreg@pacbell.net

Judy Schoening 323/734-8123

Resources Columnist schoening@mediaone.net

Tom Gracyk 323/731-0987

Circulation

Janice Lipeles 323/737-2370

Advertising

Inside This Issue

In the Garden:

Heirloom Roses 8

History of Roses 9

Adventures in Nurseryland 10

English Roses 11

A 1909 Landscape Vision 12

Resources: Web Sites for Rose Lovers 17

WAHA News:

Accomplishments 3

Annual Financial Report 3

Religious Art & Architecture Tour 4

A WAHA Treat: Asian Food Fest 4

Garden/ Paint Contest Nominees 5

Through My Eyes Only 6

Expo Light Rail Update 7

Directory Update 15

Block Club & Neighborhood News 16

Member Discounts 22

WAHA Classifieds 23

**WAHA Committee Chairs and
Standing Meetings**

Community Outreach Chair: Jennifer Charnofsky
323/734-7391 - call to join

Historic Preservation/Zoning & Planning

Chairs: Eric Bronson 323/737-1163 and
Tom Florio 213/749-8469 - Meets third Mondays - 6/18 and
7/16 at City Living Realty, 2316 1/2 South Union, Suite 2

Newsletter Chair: John Deaven 323/737-7761 - Meets
thirds Tuesdays - 6/19 call Laura Meyers for location 323/
737-6146; 7/17 at Michael Smith's 323/734-7725

Membership Chair: John Kurtz 323/732-2990 - Meets the
Wednesday before the WAHA Board Meeting 6/27 and 7/25

Holiday Tour Call Jacqueline Sharps 323/766-8842 to join

Fundraising Call Catherine Barrier 323/732-7233

Web Site Call Clayton de Leon 323/734-0660

Neighborhood Council Liaisons Contact Colleen
Davis 323/733-0446 and Jean Frost 213/748-1656

Programs and Events Greg Stegall 323/734-7725 and
Alma Carlisle 323/737-2060

The **WAHA Board** meets on the fourth Thursday of
each month. Contact Jacqueline Sharps for location.

*All committee meetings begin at 7 p.m. All WAHA
members are encouraged to join one of the committees!*

WAHA NEWS

It's Been A Good Year

Each May, at the WAHA Board of Directors' Annual Retreat, we elect new officers (see masthead on page 2) and review the organization's accomplishments. In the past fiscal year, WAHA has:

- * Increased its membership to the highest level in the organization's history;

- * Continued to support a thriving Adopt-A-School program, which includes an annual architectural tour, awards to prize students, and donations to the ASTRO camp program;

- * Increased event attendance at monthly WAHA General Meetings;

- * Published a Resource Guide, Membership Directory, brochure for the National Trust, Annual Restaurant Guide - in addition to the monthly newsletter;

- * Participated in a successful, pro-active effort to save 300 historic homes on Hobart, Harvard, and La Salle from demolition by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD);

- * Helped identify an alternative school site at Washington and Vermont;

- * Continued to advocate on behalf of the South Seas House;

- * Assisted in the establishment of four more H.P.O.Z. historic districts (on the heels of the successful establishment of the University Park H.P.O.Z. on March 22, 2000): Western Heights, Harvard Heights, Adams/ Normandie (an expansion of the existing Van Buren Place H.P.O.Z.) and La Fayette Square;

- * Continue to support efforts to create new H.P.O.Z. areas, including the active support to establish potential new districts in the areas of Gramercy Park/Kinney Heights, Hoover and 30th Street, and Hobart and 30th Street;

- * Supported the move-off (rather than demolition) of residences belonging to the Brothers of St. John of God to Jefferson Boulevard, to make way for construction of new senior care facility;

West Adams Heritage Association Annual Financial Report For the Year ended April 30, 2001

Cash in Bank at April 30, 2000 \$39,730.36

Income

Advertising	880.00
Donations	376.00
Interest Income	1,645.48
Membership Dues	10,763.00
Product Sales	394.50
Tour Donations	36,086.00
Total Income	\$50,144.98

Expenses

Administration	6,297.78
Community Relations	4,307.71
Historic and Preservation	700.00
Membership	1,050.42
Products	264.38
Publications	6,146.54
Social	5,369.15
Tours	21,294.23
Total Expense	(\$45,430.21)

Cash in Bank at April 30, 2001 \$44,445.13

- * Donated funds to the Washington Irving Library, designating the purchase of books on Los Angeles history, architecture, and art);

- * Developed very strong working relationships with City Council members and their deputies;

- * Held elected position on the Mid-City Project Area of the Community Redevelopment Area;

- * Helped salvage architectural elements of four historic houses before their demolition;

- * Arranged the salvage of historic fabric of the Los Angeles Swim Stadium before its remodeling;

- * Successfully applied for West Adams to be a field tour for delegates to the annual National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference;

- * Also had a booth at the National Trust Conference;

- * Arranged for WAHA Board members to attend the of National Trust Conference;

- * Actively participated as a member of the Coalition To Improve The Quality Of Life In The Rampart Community;

- * Reviewed numerous Environmental Documents for projects in West Adams;

- * Successfully fundraised through our annual Cemetery and Holiday Tours; and

- * Contributed funds to the Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas, Gramercy Group Home, Woodcraft Rangers, French Pacific Bakery (for a façade improvement) and, during the holidays, to families in need.

WAHA NEWS

Asian Treats for WAHA Foodies

The Asia Society of Southern California Center Presents its annual Asia Pacific Fusion Food and Wine Festival at 20th Century Fox Studios in Century City on Sunday, June 24, 12:30-4.30 p.m. Expect continuous entertainment and food food food.

Culinary demonstrations and walking tours of the historic 20th Century Fox backlot are all in the day's events. Entertainment includes taiko drummers from Japan plus dancers, musicians and performers from Korea, Thailand, China, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

But the real point of the festival is the chow. It's all about pairing of Asian foods (provided by some of LA's great chefs and restaurants like Linq, McCormick and Schmick's, Asia de Cuba at Mondrian, Mandalay, Monsoon, Chandarette, Flavor of India, Kung Pao China Bistro, Sushiya, and Crustacean) with California wines (this year California, Oregon and Washington wines are featured, including Domaine Louis Jadout, Robert Mondavi, Santa Barbara Winery, Benziger, Sequoia Grove, Archery Summit, Fess Parker, Presidio, and Panther Creek, among others). Not a wine lover? Check out the beer, sake and exotic teas.

The event is a fund raiser for the Asia Society and tickets are priced at \$50/person, \$80/couple. WAHA member Mira Advani Honeycutt has been producing this event for the Asia Society for the last few years. Mira has arranged a discount for WAHA members and friends. If 10 or more WAHA members group together, then Mira and the Asia Society can offer tickets at \$25/person. Contact Mira or her assistant, Nadiya, at the Asia Society (213/624-0945) no later than **MONDAY, June 19th** with your group of ten to get the discounted rate. You'll need to buy all the tickets at one time, and pass them out to your fellow foodies yourself, to get this 50% discount.

Parking is free.

West Adams Religious Art and Architecture Tour

Reserve Saturday, June 23, to enjoy WAHA's second Tour of Religious Architecture. Experience the interiors of our neighborhood's religious meeting places, learn about the architects who designed them, and discover how West Adams' changing demographics and the institutions' changing congregations have contributed to West Adams' religious and cultural heritage.

The docent-guided bus tour will include eight West Adams churches, starting at the Dawa Center of Masjid Umar Mosque, 1025 Exposition Boulevard, where tour parking also available. The other churches are: Old Catholic Church; St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral; First African

Methodist Episcopal Zion Cathedral; Roger Williams Baptist Church; the Second Church of Christ the Scientist; St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church; and St. John's Episcopal Church.

Volunteers are needed to make this educational fundraising event a success. To become a part of the volunteer staff call Tour Chair Linda Scribner ASAP at 323/735-1385.

To take the tour, make your reservation by calling 323/732-2774. Advance tickets for current WAHA members are \$25 each; non-WAHA members \$28 each. If available, tickets on tour day/at the door are \$30 each. Light refreshments will be served.

Preservation Begins At Home



City Living Realty

19 years of service to West Adams

David Raposa Broker/Owner 323/734-2001

For Sale:

* **The Dr. Grandville MacGowan Residence, Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument #479.** 14,500-sq-ft mansion on 3/4 acre. Stunning! \$1,250,000

* **Victorian - Just Restored!** Double parlor, formal dining rm, sunroom/family rm, den, 4 BR, 2 BA, central air, new paint in & out, refinished wood flrs, solar water heater, many more upgrades, 2,600 sq ft. 1269 South Victoria Ave. \$465,000.

In Escrow:

* **Restored Craftsman.** Multiple offers! 1812 S. Bronson. Natural wood, copper plumbing; quake retrofit 4 BR, 3 BA

* **Colonial Revival c. 1914.** Sold in one day! Restored and upgraded in Serrano National Register District. 4,160 sq ft plus finished third floor. 4 Br 4 Ba - Move-in condition.

* **Lafayette Square Renaissance Craftsman c. 1914.**

* **Commercial Building.** Vermont Avenue

*Our New Offices are in the Victorian Village
2316 1/2 Union Avenue Suite 2 * 213/747-1337*

WAHA NEWS

In the Garden: Check Out These Contestants

Every June, West Adams Heritage hosts a special gardens general meeting where we learn more about our own garden plots and take a look at our neighbors' efforts to beautify their homes and gardens. This year is no different.

Below are the nominees for this year's Garden and Painting Contests. Please try to view each entry before the voting at the June Garden Meeting, Sunday, June 24, 2 p.m. at 2057 S. Harvard.

GARDEN CONTEST

Jacquelyn Sage
2272 W. 31st Street

Linda Marais
2534 9th Avenue

Terri Sullivan
2123 S. Bronson Avenue

Emily Green
2158 W. 24th Street (Front & Back Garden)

Dan Gaby & Carlos Zamora
2159 W. 20th Street

Donald Pemrick (Back Garden)
2057 S. Harvard Boulevard

Steve & Nina Rochelle
1933 S. Oxford

Salvador and Diane Lopez
1688 W. 23rd Street

Philip Lance and Francisco George
1522 S. Hobart Avenue
(Note: this is an organic garden)

Micki Dickoff and Christie Webb
2405 4th Avenue

Cat Slater and Woody Woodward
2524 4th Avenue

Clayton de Leon
2523 4th Avenue

Michelle McDonough
2424 5th Avenue

Joe Begin and Mae Lumalang
2420 5th Avenue

Ed Troser and David Raposa
2515 4th Avenue

Steve Rowe and Robert Hausenbauer
1626 5th Avenue

PAINT CONTEST

Terri Sullivan
2123 S. Bronson Avenue

Michelle McDonough
2424 5th Avenue

Emily Green
2158 W. 24th Street

2159 W. 20th Street

1738 S. Oxford

Art Curtis and Shelly Adler
2647 S. Magnolia Avenue

Donald Pemrick
2057 S. Harvard Blvd.

Orlando and Carla Sotelo
1724 S. Harvard Blvd.

Suzie and Don Henderson
1660 W. 25th Street

Gregory Daniel
1822 S. Bronson Avenue

Steve Rowe and Robert Hausenbauer
1626 5th Avenue

Through My Eyes Only My Afternoon at the Salisbury House By John B. Deaven

WAHA member Jim Childs has such a warm and appealing telephone voice that I feel it is hard to turn him down when he is calling for a favor. Could I be a docent for one of the houses on the "North University Park and Figueroa Corridor Historic Homes & Building Tour," he asked. The event was a self-guided tour, this past April, and it was a part of the First Annual "Blooming of the Roses Festival" presented by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Jim offered me a choice of sites. Would I like hanging out at University Park HPOZ's favorite Victorian, the "Pink Lady" (Durfee House/L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument #273)? Or would I prefer being at The Salisbury House (LAHCM #240) at 2703 S. Hoover St? I chose the latter since it has not been open to the community for many years, and I had never before set foot in it.

The Salisbury House is located at the southwest corner of Hoover and 27th St. It is across the street from the Cockins Residence. Both places are 19th Century Queen Anne Victorian Houses. (The Cockins House is the new Center of U.S.C.'s Dept. of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy. Several of us from WAHA got a good look at the interior of the Cockins House in December 2000 at their Christmas Open House, and the house is a true showpiece for the University of Southern California.) Although the Salisbury House is similar to the Cockins Residence in design, it truly has its own unique tale and look. One step into the Salisbury House on Hoover Street, and one is thrust into a fabulous fantasy world like no other house in West Adams has to offer.

The Salisbury House was built in 1891 for \$18,000, plus \$3,500 for the land. It is 12,000 square feet with six bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a ballroom on the entire 3rd floor. It was designed by noted L.A. architects James H. Bradbeer and Walter Ferris. The exterior brown

paint is original from 1891. The interior is paneled throughout with hardwoods, and the rooms have 12-foot high ceilings!

I got to docent with three of my favorite WAHA members. First, there was former WAHA board member Art Curtis, who, four Halloweens ago, persuaded my wife, Nancy, and me to start hosting the October WAHA socials. Art is still as persuasive as ever, as I listened to him charm tour goers about the highlights of West Adams. Second was former Bob Bortfeld Award recipient Dave Raposa, my neighbor on Fourth Avenue. Inside the Salisbury House, Dave was pointing out architectural detail that only a Realtor of historic homes would spot. I loved being there to learn from his observations. Third was video creator Ron Jarman, who I befriended three years ago at WAHA's Rosedale Cemetery tour. Ron is just plain fun to be with, and he sure knows his movie history.

Nevertheless, the thrill of the afternoon was not necessarily the house, nor the WAHA friends, but the discovery and meeting of the owners of the Salisbury House. This is where the story gets wonderfully interesting.

At its lowest point, The Salisbury House was a rooming house with 13 individual rooms sectioned off and occupied by 44 people. In 1980 it

was purchased by Raphael A. Garcia and Sergio Gutman. The two gentlemen are similar in height and size, both swapping terrific stories, one after the other.

At age 19, Raphael came to the United States from his native Cuba in 1960. He flew from Cuba to New York, where he lived for 2 1/2 years. Raphael met Sergio in N.Y., and they came to L.A. together.

Raphael claims that they both worked hard at many different jobs, and they also had many booths at local swap meets. Raphael said they took turns overseeing the booths, while the other looked around. When one sees the interior of their Salisbury House, the story makes complete sense. For, you see, both men are true collectors. The house is filled with huge chandeliers from South America, large Asian vases, enormous pieces of furniture, and tall candelabra.

Raphael and Sergio own a vast collection of hand fans. Many are framed on the wall in gorgeous fan-shaped gold frames. The oldest fan is circa 1760-80. Many of the fans are not framed, but beautifully showcased in the bedrooms, in antique cabinets. In 1998 Raphael hand painted 120 different fans to give to visitors of the Fan Association of North America, which has members all over the world. The fans alone are a separate and satisfying story.

However, there are dolls, too! The upstairs of the Salisbury House is loaded with dolls. I tried to count them

Continued on page 7

Luis Gutierrez
CARPENTER



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Update on Expo Light Rail


Now that the draft EIS/EIR for a transit system on the Expo line has been released, Friends4Expo Transit has asked for further help with campaign strategy and outreach to community groups and elected officials along the Exposition Boulevard right-of-way:

Please remember to write to the MTA Board! Time is running out, and they need to hear from us.

Personal paper letters by mail or fax have the most impact. Write to the 13 MTA Board members, especially MTA Chair Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (both at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012), expressing your support for a light rail transit system along the Exposition Right of Way. Despite community sentiment, it still seems as if these two elected officials are supporting a bus route rather than light rail. But rail can carry many more riders, and with considerably less noise and pollution, than buses.

Go to the website <http://www.friends4expo.org/> to read more about Expo Light Rail, and find the link where you can send one e-mail message to all 13 MTA Board members.

You can also attend upcoming public meetings. After the public comment period ends on June 15, the MTA



WAHA Eats Out

Calling on all WAHA Food Lovers. We are now planning our Annual August Food & Restaurant Guide. If you'd like to review a local restaurant please contact Newsletter Editor Laura Meyers (323/737-6146). We have a working list of eateries we'd like to see covered, or you may have your own special cafe you'd like to share with your neighbors.

Eating and writing deadlines: July 10th.

Board will decide whether or not to utilize the right of way for a transit project, and, if yes, the Board will greenlight either light rail or a busway for design. At press time, the MTA Planning and Programming Committee meeting was slated for June 21, with an MTA Board vote tentatively scheduled for the Board's June 28 meeting (the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.) at MTA headquarters downtown.

Through My Eyes Only Continued from page 6

and gave up. Rolls and rolls of dolls stare back at you, keeping watch over the house by night. Most of the dolls are exquisite antique dolls of all sizes, shapes, colors, and costumes. Some Cabbage Patch dolls are included, still in their collectible boxes, and the men own several Barbie dolls, including Barbie as Scarlett O'Hara in the green drapery gown and Barbie as the film version of "My Fair Lady" at the Ascot races! Both men have made award-winning, 1st Place dolls for the California Ceramics & Crafts Guild. It is their current hobby.

Somewhere during my four hours on Hoover Street, examining every detail, WAHA's favorite photographer Harry Demas waltzed in. He was taking the tour along with his good friend Desi Griffin. Harry had us all pose here and pose there, with the fans, with the dolls, with the Bette Davis photo collection. Did I mention that, by the way? The late Ms. Davis is in many antique frames, representing different stages of her life, as if she was a truly beloved member of the family. In all honesty, I loved it.

Art said the house has eight rooms in the full-size basement. We never got down there! Raphael said the 3rd floor has an elaborate train collection. We never got up there, either!

Near the end of the afternoon, WAHA member Joyce Albers dropped in, and again, all the fan, doll, and house

stories were re-told. The longer one stayed there, the more detail one's eye would focus on. For example, there was a nutcracker collection, a snuffbox collection, a dye-cast toy car collection, a ceramic egg collection, a small pitcher collection, a miniature clock collection, a stuffed teddy bear collection, and an antique hat collection, which Ron and I delighted in. There also was a life-size, stuffed peacock on the dining room wall, a Chagall Lithograph III upstairs, a mink stole over a red dress with a string of pearls on a dress-form next to Bette's picture, enormous armoires everywhere, a draped canopy ceiling in one of the bedrooms, and a collection of old medicine bottles that the owners discovered while digging in their yard!

Raphael admits that both Sergio and he are slowing down, as life goes on. In July 2000 Raphael was severely bitten by three fierce dogs owned by a neighbor. I'll spare you the details.

In closing, Raphael said to me that he would be willing to open The Salisbury House on Hoover Street to the WAHA membership for one of our monthly socials in the future. Maybe we can get the Program & Events Co-chairs to pin him down on that. It would be great. Believe me (and Art, and Dave, and Ron), the house is truly worth looking at. As the plaque in the hallway says from the Cultural Heritage Commission of Los Angeles, "The Salisbury House is Fine Victorian Architecture; Cornerstone of the North University Park." In my words, it's an eyeful!

Heirloom Roses

Roses have been around for 30 million years. The term "Old Rose" or heirloom rose usually applies to roses bred before 1920, but the roots or many roses' origins are still shrouded in mystery. Mentions in ancient Greek and Roman texts (Pliny the Elder and Herodotus) help us recognize some of the oldest roses, as have depictions of roses on frescoes at Knossos on Crete and other ruins.

Nonetheless, the evolutionary path leading to today's roses is a road that can still be walked by inquiring gardeners. The history of roses is alive, in bloom — and available from specialty growers. Whether you fancy the simplicity of a species rose or the lush opulence of a centifolia, you'll find not merely a few examples of each kind, but entire selections from which to choose. And what a selection it is: 'Rose du Roi', 'Communis', 'Robert le Diable', 'Celestial', 'Austrian Copper', 'American Beauty', 'Maiden's Blush', 'Old Blush', 'Variegata di Bologna', 'Pompon de Bourgogne', 'Reine Victoria', 'Koenigin von Daenemark', and a host of baronesses, duchesses, and countesses, with the occasional general, marechal, or cardinal along the way. The richness of their names alone makes historic roses worth cherishing.

Hundreds of species, sections, subdivisions, and hybrids of roses have been inventoried over the years. This article, reprinted from AOL's garden tips site (aol.homestore.com) describes Old Rose categories. We've included in each category a few examples of plants which are available to modern gardeners. We have tried to include roses that are fragrant and repeat-blooming, in a variety of colors. But there are, literally, thousands of other roses you may be able to plant in your West Adams garden. Check out "Web Sites for Rose Lovers" on page 17 for sources of heirloom roses.

GALLICA ROSES

In the wild, *Rosa gallica* is found in central, western, and southern Europe and in western Asia — the very territories where early western civilizations emerged. It can claim, therefore, to be perhaps the earliest rose to have been noticed, revered, and cultivated. Pliny's red "rose of Miletus" may well have been a form of *R. gallica*. Certainly by the Middle Ages various gallicas, particularly 'Apothecary's Rose', were grown for medicine and perfume. Commercial cultivation southeast of Paris led to an early name for the group: "rose of Provins."

Gallicas display the color red in all its manifestations: purple, magenta, crimson, cerise. The group also includes a few pink representatives and various elaborately to subtly striped and mottled combinations. The blossoms are notably fragrant; the plants are tough, vigorous, adaptable, and cold hardy.

Grown on their own roots, gallicas can spread into sizable colonies of stems; budded plants may grow larger than own-root bushes, but they won't sucker in the same

fashion. Most are compact, upright, and only sparsely thorned, with outward- or upward-pointing foliage and flowers that also face upward.

CHARLES de MILLS (circa 1840) Red violet. A heady fragrance rises from flat, full-petaled crimson flowers that reveal tints of purple, lavender, and pink. When fully open, the blossoms are circular, often showing a button eye in the center of the folded, swirling petals. Dark foliage adorns a 5-foot, nearly thornless plant.

DAMASK ROSES

Among the old garden groups, the damasks rank with the gallicas as the oldest roses known — and indeed, modern research places *Rosa gallica* in their ancestry. Their most notable attribute is intense fragrance, a trait that brought them to the attention of the first Mediterranean and Near Eastern cultures and led to their early domestication as a cultivated crop. Even today, acres of summer damasks are grown in Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, India, northern Africa, and southern France for use in the production of attar of roses.

Two distinct damask types existed in ancient times and persist to this day. The larger group is the summer damasks (probably deriving in part from *R. phoenicia*), varieties with a single annual late-spring flowering. The autumn damask group contains just one rose, closely related to the summer damasks but noteworthy for its repeat bloom: it flowers not only in spring, but also off and on through summer and autumn. This individual is thought to have *R. moschata*, the musk rose, in its parentage.

All damasks typically have grayish, softly downy, rather elongated and pointed leaves; the canes tend to be thorny, often bearing both large thorns and smaller prickles. Summer damask roses form attractive bushes that arch and mound to around 5 feet high. 'Autumn Damask' has sparser foliage and a more upright habit; it's a somewhat lanky bush, best used among better-foliaged companions.

AUTUMN DAMASK (ancient) Pink. Its botanical name is Rosa x damascena 'Bifera' ('Semperflorens'), but it goes by several more euphonious common names, including "quatre saisons" ("four seasons"), "rose of Paestum," and "rose of Castile." Slender buds with notably long sepals open to loose, highly scented blossoms in clear pink. After the spring flowering, it continues to bloom sporadically until stopped by cold weather. The plant is large, open, and thorny, with light gray-green foliage.

YORK and LANCASTER (before 1629) White and pink. Though properly called Rosa x damascena 'Versicolor', this rose is almost universally known by the name commemorating the two opposing royal houses in the Wars of the Roses. The loosely double blossoms may be pinkish white, light to medium pink, or a pink-and-white combination; all three variations sometimes appear in a single flower cluster. The plant is fairly tall (to 6 or 7 feet), with grayish leaves and plentiful thorns.

ALBA ROSES

The original alba roses were natural hybrids, thought to be derived from the damask rose and a white form of the dog rose (*Rosa canina*). The combination sweetened the dam-

Continued on page 14

A History of Roses...

Reprinted from AOL's garden tips site (aol.homestore.com)

From spring into autumn, you see roses everywhere. Beautiful in form, blooming in a rainbow of colors, often enticingly fragrant, they're mainstays of public and private gardens. Few would argue that they don't deserve the name "queen of flowers." The surprise is that this regal title was bestowed by the Greek poet Sappho over 2,500 years ago, when all to be had were wild roses — blooms of a decidedly demure demeanor. Even those simple blossoms, it seems, had a loveliness and presence that set them apart.

In the classical Mediterranean world, Sappho was the first to elevate the rose to royal status, but far from the first to take written note of it. Roses are mentioned in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* of Homer; four centuries later — in the 5th century B.C. — the historian Herodotus remarked on King Midas's rose garden in Phrygia. A century after that, Theophrastus recorded botanical descriptions of contemporary roses, noting that the flowers were grown in Egypt as well as in Greece. At about the same time — but thousands of miles to the east — Confucius commented on extensive rose plantings in the Peking Imperial Gardens.

Ancient art provides yet more evidence of our long-standing romance with the rose. Asian coins minted as far back as 4,000 B.C. bear rose motifs; single rose blossoms appear in Cretan frescoes dating to 1,600 B.C.; rose-inspired architectural decorations have been discovered in Assyrian and Babylonian ruins. Chaplets found adorning Egyptian mummies contain desiccated rose blossoms that may be from *Rosa x richardii*, a plant still cultivated today — more often under the common names "St. John's rose" or "rose of the tombs."

Here is a brief history of the rose, tracing the ways the modest flowers beloved of Sappho have led to the glorious and varied blooms that grace today's gardens.

When In Rome...

By the time the Roman Empire

replaced Greece as the dominant civilization in the Mediterranean basin, roses were already an integral part of Roman society. The flowers decorated parties, weddings, and funerals; on festival days and other important occasions, statues and monuments were wreathed in roses, and the streets were strewn with their petals. Rose-draped warriors departed for battle with rose-adorned shields and chariots. Wealthy Romans could bathe in rose water, wear rose garlands, eat confections made from rose petals, and sip rose wine. When ill, they could take medicines prepared from rose petals, seeds, or hips (given the vitamin C content of rose hips, some of these potions may have been genuinely beneficial). To support such widespread demand, a thriving rose-growing industry developed, much of it located in Egypt (then a Roman colony), where winters were mild.

While upper-class Romans reveled in the sensual delights that roses could provide, the plants attracted scholarly attention as well: Pliny's first-century *Natural History* records the different types, colors, and growth habits of the roses then in cultivation.

Exaltation of Roses

The Roman Empire was ultimately to collapse of its own bureaucratic weight, geographic extension, and corruption, but not before its emperors had officially embraced a new religion: Christianity. The disintegration of the empire left millions of now-Christian Romans scattered from England to North Africa to the Black Sea — a population with a rose-infused past. It was not surprising, then, that the flowers eventually took on religious significance. Roses became a symbol for survivors of religious persecution; a white rose often represented the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. The word "rosary," originally meaning simply "rose garden," later came to refer to the series of prayers related to the life of Christ and the Virgin. The rose's role in Christian imagery is perhaps most magnificently expressed, however, in

the stained glass "rose windows" of medieval cathedrals — intricately fashioned circular windows with petal-like panels radiating from the center.

Of course, roses still had a place in secular life and symbolism. From the earliest days of chivalry, they were a favored motif in heraldry (a legacy, perhaps, of the rose-bedecked Roman shields and chariots). Beginning with Edward I in 1272, several English monarchs took the rose as a royal badge. Such usage later gave the Wars of the Roses their name: the conflict involved the houses of York and Lancaster, whose emblems were a white and a red rose, respectively.

War of the Roses

In 1455, two families, the Yorks and Lancasters, began a struggle for the throne of England which would last thirty years. The Yorks' symbolic rose was *Rosa alba* (now known as the White Rose of York). The Lancasters took as their emblem the Apothecary's Rose (*Rosa gallica officinalis*). The legend has it that the two families stopped feuding when a rosebush was found in the British countryside that had roses of both red and white. The York and Lancaster Rose was named so because it was thought to be this fabled rose of red and white. However, the York and Lancaster Rose actually was not introduced until 1551, sixty-six years after the end of the War of the Roses. (By the way, the Lancasters won.)

Ironically, perhaps, certain practical Roman uses of the rose were kept alive only by religion. In hundreds of Christian monasteries scattered over Western Europe, rose plants were cultivated for medicine, for perfume, and perhaps even for Communion wine.

In the Renaissance of Western Europe, science and the arts flourished as they had not done since the classical civilizations of over a thousand years earlier. In art, worldly themes began to appear more frequently; Renaissance canvases often celebrated daily life, ordinary people, landscapes — and flow-

Continued on page 18

Through A Garden Looking Glass: Our Excellent Adventures in Nurseryland

by Laura Meyers and Peggy King

You know we are serious gardeners because:

- * The perpetual scratches on our arms are NOT from our respective cats and dogs;
- * In winter, next to a cozy fire, when others read romance novels, we pore over glossy catalogs deciding which heritage seedlings or floral rarities deserve space in our increasingly-crowded planting beds;
- * The dark lines under our fingernails are not decorations painted on by a local manicurist; and
- * While the rest of you spend your hard-earned extra cash on lovely vacations in Tuscany or smart tax-sheltered investments, we pine for exotic shrubs and pilfer our retirement funds in order to have "just one more" unusual perennial, old-fashioned rose or sweet-smelling posy.

And, when we do have "free" time, we often head to fun destinations like....no, not Magic Mountain, nor the newest hot restaurant, but rather, Hortus, that gardener's delight of a nursery in Pasadena.

And so, when we heard about several cool, new-to-us, nurseries, the temptation was too much to resist. Laura and Peggy headed out on three new, excellent adventures.

Limberlost

Incongruous though it seems, one of Southern California's best sources for antique and rare roses lies beneath the traffic lanes of the Van Nuys Airport. Twenty years ago, Bob and Kathy Edberg founded Limberlost Nursery (named after a turn-of-the-century children's book, *The Girl of The Limberlost*, about a fantastical forest) to help preserve and encourage the use of old garden roses as landscape shrubs.

Sold in 2000, Limberlost still offers a virtual encyclopedia of antique and old-fashioned roses, organized in a color wheel forest so visitors can see all the pinks, yellow, whites, reds or lavender stock together. Here rose lovers will find all manner of heritage roses such as antique Tea roses, classic varieties, English roses, climbers and tree roses – some 550 cultivars in all dating from 1200 AD to the Modern era. It's always best to shop early in the planting year for the rare antiques, as the quantity of plants can be limited – but the quality at Limberlost is quite high. Although "June Gloom" has hung over Los Angeles all spring long, Limberlost's roses were without mildew when we visited.

Expect to pay more for these special bushes (\$25 and up) compared to the roses at OSH (where Laura recently purchased a nice rose for \$5.95) or Armstrong (we paid \$12.95

for a rose bush here). Plants are available in 5-, 7- and 15-gallon containers as well as 20" and 24" boxes. Limberlost is open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

16152 Saticoy Street Van Nuys 818/997-6421

The Outdoor Room

If you're a rose fanatic, you'll love The Outdoor Room, a nursery tucked up against a cliff near the ocean end of Sunset Boulevard. This nursery sells an array of classic roses and specialty roses along with English-style roses (David Austin as well as Jackson & Perkins' recently-introduced English roses), Romanticas (another new introduction of old-style roses, much like Austins but quartered) and its own exclusive line of new-old and old-old roses, developed by in-house hybridizer Kim Rupert. Plus, The Outdoor Room carries stock from Ashdown Roses, a new rose producer with what's been called an "astonishing collection" of uncommon and rare roses. "Last year, Ashdown budded 350 varieties," noted Rupert. "This year, 500" – including "Brown Velvet", a strange, chocolate colored rose Laura has coveted since seeing in on a garden tour last month (we're crossing our fingers that Rupert can deliver a nice Brown Velvet to Laura in September). Peggy salivated at the sight of the dark purple David Austin rose, "The Prince" ("Aus Velvet"), the moss roses, and at the large array of tiny cluster-type single roses offered at The Outdoor Room.

But you don't have to be a rose person to drool with delight at this nursery. There are plenty of other unusual plants, including a wonderful collection of ground covers (such as many varieties of creeping thyme), silver-leaved baby's breath, tons of different campanellas, water plants and grasses. "We have weird things," Rupert acknowledged. "We try to get in all the great, strange perennials we can find." The Outdoor Room also features drought-resistant plants supplied by producer Native Sons. The color purple can be found in flowering plants throughout, and of course, Laura couldn't help but walking off with a deep purple Calla Lily, at \$19 three times more expensive than the more common white, pink or yellow varieties.

In addition to the plants themselves, this nursery – created by well-known landscape designer Sandy Kennedy (who restored the gardens at Getty House, the official L.A. Mayor's residence) – offers strong design and landscape ideas. Don't miss the waterfall – you won't believe you are in Los Angeles. Open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

17311 Sunset Blvd. (about two blocks east of PCH) Pacific Palisades 310/454-5509

Continued on next page





In the Garden: English Roses



by Laura Meyers

My new garden passion is the English Rose. (Yes, I know, I change passions quickly. Readers of this space know that last year I waxed on, and on, about tomatoes). For anyone who owns a vintage home, the draw of English Roses is undeniable. Visualize in your mind's eye the cabbage roses found on chintz fabrics, and add a heady perfume. These wonderful flowers have the delicious fragrance one expects from Old Roses, as well as the fluffy, "poofy" peony-like fullness one sees in antique botanical drawings depicting ancient roses. And yet, unlike most Old Rose varieties, these flowers bloom all summer long.

The term "English Rose" was originated by David Austin, an English rose breeder, to describe roses which have been bred to marry the growth habit, scent and graceful cupped-and-quartered flower form of old rose cultivars with the repeat flowering of modern hybrids, and a rich palette of colors famed for pastels (especially pinks and apricots) but ranging to velvet reds. In the late 1950's, Austin began cross-breeding Floribundas, Climbers and Hybrid Tea roses with Gallicas, Bourbons, Portlands and Antique Teas, among other Old Roses. Then, Austin often "back-crossed" his English Roses with old roses. His resulting group of roses became known for the beauty of their flowers in cup shapes, rosettes or even downward-turned domed flowers. English Roses are also especially notable for their fragrances, ranging from Old Rose to Tea Rose to Musk Rose to Myrrh, often with touches of honey or almond blossoms.

Although David Austin roses are now considered a category unto themselves, so many parent rose cultivars have

gone into the mix that the rose "children" are an extremely diverse group. Apricot "English Garden" is a compact (3' X 3') plant well-suited for containers, while deep pink "Gertrude Jekyll" can grow to twice my height (10' X 6'). One of the most popular David Austins is Abraham Darby, which has very large, very fragrant, many-petaled apricot-yellow-pink blooms. Abraham Darby can be kept pruned smaller than its normal 6' X 6' reach, but can also be trained as a climber to 18 feet.

Unlike Modern Hybrid Teas, which hate to share their space with other vegetation, English Roses are ideally suited for citizenship in a mixed flower border or cottage garden. David Austins don't mind companions at their feet, so they work well in a crowded perennial garden like mine. Try lavender-flowered catmint or gray-leafed lamb's ear as companion plants. They also don't mind some light shade (they're from foggy Olde England, after all.)

Today, other breeders, including major grower Jackson & Perkins, are following David Austin's lead and developing their own English-style roses. Besides the repeat-flowering ("remontant") characteristics of more modern cultivars, English Roses attract gardeners who like the soft yellows and apricots rarely found in true Old Roses. Because many of these introductions are relatively new, one must be careful in selecting specific breeds for your West Adams garden. A specific English Rose may be described as growing to three or four feet in its native England. But here in sunny Southern California, the same rose can explode into a huge specimen.

Nursery Adventures Continued from page 8

XOTX-Tropico

Warning: XOTX (pronounced "exotics") is not for the claustrophobic. This nursery, featuring the "flora of the entire world," is stuffed to its gills with plants. But this jungle of vines, perennials, tropical plants, succulents, roses and orchids has something for every gardener. Like scent? Laura couldn't resist the blueberry-scented "Tiger Princess" (Angelonia), or a "Chocolate Cosmos." Unusual color grab your attention? XOTX was selling a blue Sweet Pea this spring. Got kids? They may have fun with insect-eating trumpet plants from Indonesia, or a Venus fly trap. This nursery also had the hard-to-find thornless, purple-pink La Reine Victoria Bourbon rose, which can grow in shade conditions, and brilliantly-tinted Pink Angel Trumpet, which Peggy couldn't leave behind.

"We have many rare plants that we grow, which are unavailable elsewhere in the country," proprietor Leon Massoth boasts. The plants are grown from seeds and cuttings "from our expeditions" across the globe. Recent finds include: a rare American Salvia, actually grown from seeds found in Germany; "Kangaroo Paws," an Australia native evergreen perennial; and a blush pink Calla (okay, we must confess: Laura purchased that one, too). The nursery's growing field also includes 2,000 roses.

One thing we always appreciate is a knowledgeable staff, and XOTX expert horticulturist was able to identify several "volunteers" in our gardens, plants that have shown up via the wind or birds to take root. Free information aside, XOTX is anything but inexpensive: even some small (two-inch pots) but unique Shasta Daisy plants commanded hefty (\$6) prices. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

900 North Fairfax Avenue (between Melrose and Santa Monica) West Hollywood 323/654-9999

Let's Take A Look at A Gardener's Views of A Century Ago:

Landscape Gardening Without Freaks or Frills

by H.F. Major

(Reprinted from "Suburban Life" magazine of March 1909):

How painful are the cluttered doorways of many suburban houses, cramped and crowded with a heterogeneous mass of shrubs that will never develop, and which were bought in a moment of sheer distraction when the nursery agent came along to find the housewife with her cake in the oven. It is a good rule never to set out a plant unless you are sure that you need it in order to produce the effect that you desire. Merely because a plant is "pretty" is no reason for planting it. And, for this reason, before you begin to plant have some definite scheme or plan in mind and stick to that plan. It is best to confide it to paper, and then it will be less easy to change.

The penurious farmer, rather than seek good and lasting advice from the landscape architect, who has made a study of reproducing natural effects, goes to the catalogues, and is there staggered by a conglomeration of horticultural freaks, with wonderful and most alluring descriptions as to their hidden charms; whereas the good old stable material is hardly given advertising space, and is put down at such a low price that even the stingy farmer thinks there must be something wrong with it, if it costs only "two-bits."

The same applies to matter of garden furnishings. What a crime it is to litter up a bit of natural scenery with a stiff wooden-backed, red-painted iron seat, when the good old-fashioned rustic seat composes so much better with the landscape, is more alluring and much less expensive.

Again let me warn you against freak planting. How out of place and unnatural are the up-side-down trees! The nurseryman

sells a great many of these sad, weeping things. Is a yard only a place to set out plants? So many people think they must have a "Teas' weeping mulberry," especially if the nursery agent describes its wondrous beauty. That's the very reason you don't want it. It is so conspicuous as to detract from all other beauty in your yard. It's exactly like building a barn to afford advertising space for somebody's root-beer, or like the woman who bought the dress goods to match some buttons that she had. If a weeping tree is used, it should always be against a background of other trees or of shrubbery.

How absurd are urns made of slag, or flower-beds bordered with concrete stuck full of colored glass. An old stump will make a most handsome urn, and a good window-box is much more attractive than all the glass or shell-bordered flower-beds in the world, and don't, for beauty's sake, use a hot-water boiler, split in half, as a receptacle for

flowering plants. There are a few general simple rules for planting.

Do not plant in spots, for instance, like shoe-buttons, all over your lawn. This is the common nursery way of planting and is decidedly unnatural. You should plant in border masses, to create a spirit of privacy on your grounds and screen out disagreeable views and buildings; not, however, in straight lines, but with free, easy-flowing curves of foliage mass, which add mystery and charm by their variation, and create a spirit of inquisitiveness as to what lies beyond. Here, let me quote one of our foremost of modern Landscape Architects, Mr. O. C. Simonds of Chicago, who says: "For the ideal shape of our planting beds we should look to the clouds, which always take on a free and natural form and outline."

Trees should not be sparingly or indiscriminately placed, but bountifully, especially in certain parts of the border, to give contrast of shade, mass and color; but where the distant view is good they should either be omitted or replaced by low-growing shrubbery, which does not interfere with the prospect. At the same time, do not plant them in even-numbered groups, since this suggests formality.

Dells and low sections of ground should not be filled with planting, but the beautiful stretch of green turf should be left open to reflect the lights and shadows which move over its rolling surface. A lawn may be as fine a mirror as any sheet of water. It is a matter of educating the eye to see the reflections therein.

Again, in planting shrubbery, use large enough masses so that you can realize the effect of your variety. Nature is not stingy. Why should you be? Penuriousness is one of the greatest bugbears to the art of landscape gardening.

If you cannot buy expensive nursery stock, you can at least collect some elderberries, and nothing could be more attractive than their mass of white flowers followed by red or black berries, - this, of course, dependent upon the variety which you collect.

There is another beautiful wild shrub, the hazel, which, if planted for nothing else, will at least attract the cheery little gray squirrels. What vines can be more attractive on your porches than the honeysuckle; and the bitter-sweet, which grows in such rampant profusion in our swamps and lowlands.

And as for flowers, just stop and take notice for a moment of the beautiful wild iris - the native flag; the azalea growing in the old woodlot; the wild asters growing in such riot by the roadside, and the button-bush - the cephalanthus

Continued on next page



A 1909 Gardener's Views Continued from page 12

- dipping its fuzzy little buttons in the mill-pond.

As to walks and drives, they should show directness of purpose, ease of communication, should be inconspicuous, and not curved without a good reason. Moreover, they should lead up to something; laying them straight up to and in front of a house should be avoided, if possible, for the bare road sets off a house to disadvantage and has a tendency to spoil the unity of your design; nor should they be "snaky," - winding in and out across the lawn without any reason for a curve. We immediately feel that we would like to cut across lots, and there is nothing to hinder us. A multiplicity of roads is expensive to build and also to maintain, while the excess of bare space is unpleasant to the eye. When walks are desired in addition to roads, it is best to leave a turf strip between them. At the same time, the walks should essentially parallel the drive system. But, where the ground space is not limited, the curve of the walk may be changed somewhat from that of the road.

In many cases the walk and drive are both combined, - that is, the drive is used as a walk. This is especially the case in long country roads, and for this reason the road should be well made and drained. Mr. Olmsted has said that the whole philosophy of roads lies in this: "that they go where they are wanted, that they are properly built, and that they look well."

There are so many things that need attention that one does not know where to begin or stop. Let me plead once and for all with you to begin the establishment of good street trees; not the gnarly box elders, but good sturdy maples; or, for your wider streets, the beautiful stately elms, shadowing the dusty road from the baking rays of a noon-day sun. Set your neighbors a good example, and plant good trees. And why leave your country drives barren and unattractive, - ever reminding the pedestrian of the numerous long miles he has yet to travel, when, with a little care and attention, - perhaps a day or two each year, - you can add to the comfort of a world of people by the transplanting or careful placing of one good tree, so restful to the eye, so soothing to the tired workman.

Then there is the school-house, usually so desolate and unattractive, which with a little attention might be made very interesting, and should really make children enjoy going to school. The matter of the country school-house is one of deep concern. Our strongest impressions are those formed while we are young boys and girls, and our impressions are largely those of association. I know a little old country school-house in New York, where a dilapidated and snaky graveyard occupies what should be the recess grounds and ball-field. Can you imagine anything more discouraging to the little boy, tired out with his morning over his books, than to come forth and have death staring him in the face, and always to look back upon the associations of his childhood, only to see a gravestone hanging upon the neck of memory?

Then there is the suburban railroad station. Is any-

thing more indicative of the general welfare of a community than its approach? Public sentiment must control these matters, and a little spirit in any district soon induces the railroad company to make the station grounds something more than a smoke-hole.

The profession of landscape gardening is a new one, and one fast becoming necessary to the welfare and happiness of the American public. I am frequently asked for books on landscape gardening, not only for popular reading, but for professional study. Among the earliest celebrities in this line of work were such men as A.J. Downing, who is known not only for his actual work, but for his writings. Also, Sir Humphrey Repton, one of the most practical and thorough men who has ever practiced the profession. Repton's life and reprint of his theories and works is published in a very enjoyable edition gotten out under the auspices of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Among other writings worthy of consideration, especially from the standpoint of the amateur and the general knowledge-seeker, are such books as Mrs. Ely's *A Woman's Hardy Garden*, Mrs. Schuyler Vam Rensselaer's *Art Out of Doors*, Rose Standish Nichol's *English Pleasure Gardens* and I thoroughly recommend for general reading the modern magazines on gardening. Among our most fascinating writers of the day is Professor Liberty Hyde Bailey, Director of the College of Agriculture of Cornell University.

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Heirloom Roses

Continued from Page 8

ask parent's tangy perfume and produced long-lived, sparsely thorned plants of vigorous, upright habit and exceptional disease resistance. Of the early forms of *Rosa x alba*, just a few remain in cultivation — but these include some of the most valuable old roses for garden decoration. All the albas flower only once annually, in spring. The single to very double blossoms, in white or delicate tints of pink, are beautifully displayed against a backdrop of plentiful gray-green foliage. Most of these roses tolerate some shade; the bushes can serve as self-supporting shrubs, as pseudo-climbers attached to fences or walls, or even as bedding roses if pruned fairly heavily.

GREAT MAIDEN'S BLUSH (well before 1738) *Pink-tinted white. This lovely antique has been known by various names, including Rosa alba incarnata and the more suggestive 'La Seduisante' and 'Cuisse de Nymphe.' Plentiful gray-green foliage clothes a large (to 7-foot-tall) shrub that arches under the weight of its clustered full, milky blush pink blossoms.*

MAIDEN'S BLUSH (1797) *Pink-tinted white. Sometimes called 'Small Maiden's Blush' to distinguish it from 'Great Maiden's Blush'. In comparison to the latter, this is a smaller bush (reaching only about 4 feet), with slightly smaller blossoms of the same milky pale pink.*

CENTIFOLIA ROSES

Derivatives of the albas and damasks, the centifolias are known for their lush blossoms: centifolia literally means "hundred-leafed," a reference to the countless petals — certainly 100 or more — contained in each bloom. The variety 'Cabbage Rose' is one of the best-known members of the group. Indeed, "cabbage rose" has become a common name for the class as a whole, a general description of the archetypal round blossoms: great globes consisting of large outer petals which, as the flower opens, cradle the multitude of smaller petals within.

The springtime blossoms are intensely fragrant, still the main source of true rose essence for the French perfume industry. Colors include all shades of pink; a few varieties offer white or red-violet blooms. The leaves are characteristically drooping, each consisting of broad, rounded leaflets. The larger-growing varieties have lax, thorny canes that arch or sprawl with the weight of the heavy blossoms; you can drape them over a low fence as semiclimbers or give them a support (such as wire or wooden "cages") from which the flower-laden stems can spill.

CABBAGE ROSE (before 1600) *Pink. Here is the archetype of the class: Rosa x centifolia, also known by the name "Provence rose." Medium pink, bowl-shaped blossoms packed with countless petals appear on arching, thorny, 5- to 6-foot canes decked out in coarse gray-green foliage.*

FANTIN-LATOUR (date unknown) *Pink. Named for a famous French painter, tradition places this famous rose among the centifolias, but its country and date of origin are a mystery, and its ancestry may involve more than centifolia: it has fewer thorns and larger, darker leaves than the usual. The sumptuous blossoms are large, full, and rich soft pink; they open cup shaped, then reflex to show a buttonlike center. Arching canes form a tall bush to around 6 feet high. A very vigorous rose*

with a long flowering season, though it does not repeat bloom.

ROSE des PEINTRES (before 1800) *Pink. Here is the typical pink centifolia, the rose often seen in 16th- and 17th-century Dutch and Flemish floral still-lives. Usually described as an "improved" 'Cabbage Rose', it offers similar rich pink flowers on a slightly taller plant with darker foliage.*

THE BISHOP (date unknown) *Red violet. Plant this atypical variety for a harmonious color variation among the prevailing pink centifolias. A slender, upright bush to about 4 feet tall bears scented rosettes that open cerise to magenta, then age to shades of violet and gray.*

CHINA ROSES

The first China roses to arrive in Europe were the product of centuries of work by Chinese horticulturists, who selected and preserved superior forms of *Rosa chinensis* for their own gardens. To Europeans, the novelty of these roses lay in their ability to flower repeatedly, in flush after flush, from spring until stopped by autumn frosts; in the warm-winter gardens of the French and Italian Riviera, they bloomed virtually all year round.

Chinas are the main source of repeat flowering in modern roses. In the plants, you first see what resembles a modern rose bush: upright to vase shaped or rounded, with smooth, elongated leaflets and fairly stiff stems that terminate in one blossom or a cluster of several blooms. The flowers are fairly small, just 2 to 3 inches in diameter, and their color darkens rather than fades with exposure to sunlight (a trait unique to the China roses).

Remarkably, the two original imports from China are still available for planting today.

LOUIS PHILIPPE (1834) *Red. This one offers all you might want in vigor and profuse bloom. The bush is large, open, and broadly vase-shaped, reminiscent of a tumbleweed in its shape and density. Rather small, pink-centered red blossoms with shell-shaped petals come in clusters. In the South, this variety has been used for hedge planting.*

MUTABILIS (before 1894) *Buff, pink, and red. This is a true individual, different from other Chinas and, in plant, showing considerable tea rose influence. From buff yellow buds, the five-petaled single blossoms open buff, then turn pink, and finally age to a light wine red. Plants showing all three colors at once seem to be covered with a swarm of butterflies. The bush is wide spreading, rounded, and definitely large, with main canes that become thick and woody in time; it can even be trained against a wall in the manner of a climber.*

PORTLAND ROSES

The revolution that ultimately led to the plethora of modern varieties began with these roses — the first group to be developed through breeding with the repeat-flowering Asian types. Popularly called Portland roses in homage to 'Duchess of Portland', the first of the group, they also were known as "perpetual damasks" — a name that hints at their character. Though ancestries appear to vary a bit, all Portlands seem to have been derived in part from 'Autumn Damask' and the China roses, in particular 'Slater's Crimson China'. The resulting hybrids combine the full-petaled floral style (and fragrance) of once-blooming European classes with the repeat bloom of the Chinas. The plants are

Continued on the next page

The following are changes to the WAHA Membership Directory for 2000-01. Please update your copy of the directory if you want to keep it current. If you have a new mailing address, please contact WAHA by mail, or call John Kurtz (Membership Chair) at 323/732-2990, so your newsletter and other mailings can get to you in a timely manner.

We will be updating the Directory in August after the current membership renewal drive is complete. So until then

Update with New Information

Change Address for:

Amy Forbes & Andrew Murr, 323 S. Irving, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Aries, Ramon 2143 Portland St. Los Angeles, CA. 90007

Add Phone Number for:

Hernandez, Jesus 626/799-5193

Add (and welcome) new WAHA members

L. B. Nye, 2331 W. 31st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018 310/640-6181

Terry Speth, 4325 Victoria Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90019 323/934-0839

Heritage Roses

Continued from Prior Page

fairly short and shrubby, even stiff; many show the damask characteristic of bearing foliage right up to the base of the flower to form a leafy collar.

COMTE de CHAMBORD (1860) Pink. Plentiful repeat flowering reveals China heritage, but in all other respects, this rose might as well be a damask or gallica. Upright 3-foot plants with light green leaves produce petal-crammed blooms in a luscious rich pink; the flowers start out cupped, then open flat, even quartered, to reveal a button eye.

ROSE de RESCHT (date unknown) Crimson purple. These little pompons pack a powerful fragrance. Borne in clusters, they bloom continuously on a bushy, upright, 3-foot plant densely clothed in grayed green leaves.

BOURBON ROSES

In the hands of European breeders, a hybrid found growing in the hedgerows of the Ile de Bourbon (now Reunion) begat a group known simply as Bourbons. Though their individual ancestries include other roses and rose classes, these Bourbons form a distinct group that foreshadowed the hybrid perpetuals. From the China side of the Bourbon equation came silken petals and reliable repeat flowering; from the 'Autumn Damask' parent came intense fragrance and larger plants, many of which might be called semiclimbers.

LOUISE ODIER (1851) Pink. Full-petaled, cupped to camellialike blossoms in bright, deep pink have a pronounced fragrance. A vigorous plant to about 5 feet tall, this rose may be used as an upright (pillar-type) climber, but the canes must be securely tied if they're not to be weighed down by their heavy flower clusters.

MME. ISAAC PEREIRE (1881) Violet pink. Everything about this rose says "big" — including its intoxicating fragrance. Full-petaled blossoms of an intense purplish pink are backed by large leaves on a plant so vigorous it is better used as a small climber. In its sport 'Mme. Ernst Calvat' (1888), the flower color is softened to a silvery light raspberry pink.

REINE VICTORIA (1872) Pink. Also sold as 'La Reine Victoria'. Shell-like, silky, rich pink petals form cupped, globular, fragrant, medium-size flowers, carried in small clusters on a slender, 6-foot bush with elegant-looking soft green leaves. 'Mme. Pierre Oger' (1878) is a sport of 'Reine Victoria', differing only in flower color: its blossoms are ivory to palest pink, their petals edged in darker pink.

SOUVENIR de la MALMAISON (1843) Light pink. The flat, circular, soft pink flowers are so full of petals they might pass for centifolias — in fact, they are so double that they may not open fully in damp climates. The rounded, hybrid tea-like bush often establishes slowly, but eventually reaches 4 feet; the climbing sort is especially vigorous. There is a creamy white sport, 'Kronprinzessin Viktoria' (1887), as well as a dark pink to rosy red sport (1845) sold as 'Red Souvenir de la Malmaison', 'Souvenir de la Malmaison Rouge', or 'Lewison Gower'.

VARIEGATA di BOLOGNA (1909) White and red. Cupped, double blossoms to 4 inches across flaunt a peppermint-stick combination of white petals striped purplish red. Borne in small clusters, the flowers appear primarily in spring; repeat bloom is spotty. The plant is tall and vigorous; it can be trained as a pillar-climber or simply allowed to become a 6-foot fountain of canes.

NOISETTE ROSES

Whether it arose through deliberate hybridization or as a chance seedling, the first Noisette rose appeared at the plantation of South Carolina rice grower John

Continued on page 17

BLOCK CLUB & NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Adams-Normandie Neighborhood Association (ANNA)

After standing committee reports we evaluated our Earth Day Event. Deeming it highly successful we made it a new annual event. Main accolades go to Project Manager Tres Tanner for a superior effort.

Sponsors Krispy Kreme and McDonalds helped bring the volunteers out to do curbside street addressing, large trash pick-up (four trucks worth), and sidewalk/median cleaning. Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas joined us in a show of support. VIVA 107.1 FM broadcast from our home base at the Tanner's.

We discussed ideas for our Neighborhood Matching Grant application and put them in committee.

We confirmed final details for

Block Club and Neighborhood News is an important and integral part of the WAHA Newsletter -- a place for us to share ideas, information, and upcoming events. To publicize future events, you must provide the information to the newsletter well in advance, no later than the first of the prior month (eg: August 1 for the September issue). To submit "News from Around the Blocks," please contact Michael S. Smith at 323/734-7725. You may also e-mail information to mikegreg@pacbell.net, or fax to 213/894-5335 (please address to Mike Smith).

our tour of St. John's Episcopal Church and lunch at the Mercado de Paloma.

After voting to update three computers we will be placing them in our neighborhood through a competitive essay contest. We hope to achieve this goal by the beginning of the Fall school year.

In June we will have our annual Member Appreciation Event in lieu of the monthly meeting.

The athletically inclined will meet at the MidTown Bowling Lanes to enjoy a couple of games and dinner hosted by ANNA.

Patricia Valenzuela volunteered to be the Project Manager for our June outing to The Last Remaining Seats/Broadway Historic Theater District.

ANNA planned on June 9 at 1:30 PM to stand on the corner of Normandie at 25th Street and welcome

our members, cyclists Jim Jansen and Paul Hulse, on their triumphant return to Los Angeles with the California Aids Ride 8. The closing ceremonies were held in Exposition Park that same day.

SPECIAL NOTICE: If you are interested in doing curbside street addressing in your community, ANNA can help. We have invested in several sets of the costly brass numerical templates. You can rent a set for \$25 a day, or hire an ANNA team to do the addressing for \$5 an address with a minimum order of 25 addresses. Call president Marianne Muellerleile if you are interested, 323/733-3776.

Visit WAHA on the Internet,

WAHA is developing a new web site, and needs your professional input. Should we offer member services? Promote the identity of the Historic West Adams District? Build membership? Publicize our events?

To answer these questions and start designing a new Internet presence for West Adams Heritage, the WAHA Board has established a new web site committee, chaired by Clayton de Leon. Board members Catherine Barrier and Tom Florio are also currently serving on this committee. Please contact any of them (see phone numbers on the masthead, page 2) if you'd like to join the committee. Meantime, check out

WAHA's current web site,

@

www.westadams.org

or

www.neighborhoodlink.com/la/westadams

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Heirloom Roses

Continued from Page 15

Champneys. Known as 'Champneys' Pink Cluster', it was a cross of the musk rose (*Rosa moschata*) and the China variety 'Old Blush'. Champneys' neighbor, Philippe Noisette, sent seeds (or seedlings) from the Champneys plant to his brother in Paris; the rose raised from these was the first to bear the Noisette name, which was then applied to the race soon derived from it. The original Noisettes were shrubby semiclimbers that were virtually everblooming, bearing small, clustered flowers. Crossed to various tea roses, they gave rise to the larger-flowered tea-Noisettes — definite climbers with blooms mainly in luscious shades of yellow, salmon, and buff orange. Abundant bloom and good, plentiful foliage is typical of both Noisettes and tea-Noisettes. These are choice plants for fairly mild-winter regions (temperatures no lower than about 10°F/-12°C), where they stand little danger of being killed by frosts.

BLUSH NOISETTE (1817) Pink. The first rose to carry the Noisette name. Sizable clusters of small, rounded buds open to full, fragrant pink blossoms. The plant is mounding and semiclimbing.

CHAMPNEYS' PINK CLUSTER (1811) Pink. The progenitor of all Noisette roses. Like its offspring 'Blush Noisette', it's a shrubby semiclimber bearing clusters of small flowers. The notably sweet-scented blooms are semidouble, with overlapping petals; the color is palest pink.

MARECHAL NIEL (1864) Yellow. Probably the most famous Noisette, beloved since its introduction for its large, beautifully shaped, highly fragrant blossoms of soft medium yellow that face downward from pendent pedicels. Not always the easiest plant to grow well, it needs a warm climate and good care; it grows especially successfully (to 8 to 12 feet) in climates that are frost free (or nearly so).

MME. ALFRED CARRIERE (1879) Pinkish white. This one looks a bit different from the others of its group, betraying a probable shot of Bourbon in its ancestry. It's big and vigorous, with plentiful gray-green foliage; you can use it as a climber or maintain it as a large, arching shrub. The blush white to lightest salmon pink flowers are moderately large, full, and sweetly fragrant.

REVE d'OR (1869) Golden apricot. The foliage is among the best you'll see on any climbing rose — thick, semiglossy, bronzed green. The plant is vigorous and freely branching; the fairly large, moderately full, shapely blossoms vary from buff apricot to gold to nearly orange, depending on the weather.

TEA ROSES

The first two China roses brought to Europe were 'Old Blush' and 'Slater's Crimson China'. Some years later, two more arrived: 'Park's Yellow Tea-scented China' and 'Hume's Blush Tea-scented China'. These last two formed the foundation of the class that became known as tea roses, an extensive group often called "the aristocrats of the rose world." Where winter allows their survival (10°F/-12°C is about the limit), most build a framework of long-lived wood to become large, dense, well-foliaged shrubs that are hardly without bloom from the first spring flush until frost. Most are resistant to common foliage diseases.

The color range is largely pastel — white, cream, yellow, pink — with a few more vivid varieties; the sweetly scented blossoms are often carried on flexible pedicels that give them a graceful droop. Many of the teas show the traits

Resources

Web Sites for Rose Aficionados

The American Rose Society www.ars.com

Growers:

www.liggettrose.com

www.jacksonandperkins.com

www.ashdownroses.com

<http://vintagegardens.com> (offers 2000-plus roses, and custom rooting)

www.meilland.com (in French)

"Roses of Yesterday and Today" at

www.rosesofyesterday.com

How-to gardening sites:

www.rosemagazine.com

www.gardenweb.com/forums/roses

www.uncommongarden.com

<http://roses.about.com>

<http://forums.timelessroses.com>

www.olderoses.com Rose books and links to web sites

Other Online Antique Rose Sources:

www.almostheavenroses.com/

www.amityheritageroses.com/

www.antiqueroseemporium.com/

www.chambleeroses.com/

www.heirloomroses.com/

"High Country Roses" at <http://easilink.com/>

~smf/

"Peter Beales' Classic Roses" at

www.classicroses.co.uk/

"The Rosarie at Bayfields" at www.rosarie.com/

www.whiterabbitroses.com/

that typify their descendants, the hybrid teas: long, pointed buds, informal open flowers, bushy plants that rebloom reliably throughout the growing season.

You can prune teas to restrict their size somewhat, but as a group they do not like hard pruning and may take several years to recover from it. Most varieties easily reach a height of 4 to 6 feet; taller kinds can attain 6 to 8 feet or more.

DUCHESS de BRABANT (1857) Pink. This tall, rounded, dense plant is constantly in bloom, bearing cupped, moderately full, medium pink flowers with shell-shaped petals. The sport 'Mme. Joseph Schwartz' (1880) has pink-blushed ivory flowers on an identical plant.

MME. FRANZISKA KRUEGER (1880) Yellow and pink. No other tea produces more flowers in a year. Shapely,

Continued on page 18

Heirloom Roses**Continued from Page 17**

pointed buds swirl open to very double blossoms whose color varies greatly with the weather — from creamy yellow with pink to golden orange with lighter tints. The vigorous plant is upright but bushy and rounded. 'Blumenschmidt' (1906) is a mostly-yellow sport.

MONS. TILLIER (1891) Reddish pink. Also sold as 'Archiduc Joseph' (which may be its original and correct name), this is an extraordinary rose. Opening from plump red buds, the flat, circular blossoms are packed with petals in old-rose style — but in shades of warm dark pink with gold, brick red, and lilac tints. Lustrous, diseaseproof, almost hollylike foliage completely covers a tall, rounded, thorny bush that can be planted as a barrier hedge.

SAFRANO (1839) Buff and gold. Pointed, tannish orange buds that mimic perfect hybrid tea style quickly open to informal blossoms that change from gold to buff to creamy beige before the petals fall. The plant is a large, wide-angled, rounded bush, always in bloom. New growth has a bronzy plum color.

HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSES

If the teas can be said to embody refinement, the hybrid perpetuals certainly have staked out opulence for their own. In 19th-century rose development, they were the logical next step beyond the Portland and Bourbon types. Their ancestries include China and 'Autumn Damask' — enough to ensure repeat flowering — as well as gallica, damask, and centifolia to influence floral style, fragrance, and plant and foliage character.

Capacity for repeat flowering varies from variety to variety, though none is as prolific after the spring flush as a China or tea. This more sporadic bloom, however, is a tradeoff for greater hardiness and guaranteed vigor in colder-winter regions. In the 19th century, hybrid perpetuals were the roses most likely to succeed in northern Europe and in colder parts of the United States, as long as they received some winter protection. Most are large plants (typically to 4 to 6 feet, often taller), and many are a bit coarse — but when the blooms are this sumptuous, who cares? Many send out rangy or arching canes that can be pegged down or spread out as you would do for a climber; either sort of training encourages greater bloom.

GENERAL JACQUEMINOT (1853) Red. This is the historic "jack rose," an ancestor of virtually all contemporary red hybrid teas. Full, slightly cupped, highly fragrant blossoms of cherry crimson open from shapely darker red buds. The plant is strong and upright.

LA REINE (1842) Pink. Compared to its large and lusty companions, this rose is almost demure. Very full, cupped, medium pink flowers are freely produced on a bushy plant to about 3 feet high.

PAUL NEYRON (1869) Deep pink. Though the nickname "cabbage rose" is usually applied to centifolias, the term is just as appropriate for this individual: its fat buds unfold to huge blossoms loaded with row upon row of petals in a deep, slightly bluish pink. The bush is tall, somewhat arching, and nearly thornless, with lettuce green leaves.

PRINCE NOIR Large, fragrant many-petaled blooms of reddish purple to reddish black. High marks as a garden shrub and for exhibition cut flowers. Profuse bloomer with great repeat. 3.5 feet.

REINE des VIOLETTES (1860) Magenta violet. Aside from its repeat-flowering ability, this one has much more in common with gallicas than with other hybrid perpetuals. Full, flat flowers with a central button eye start out carmine red, then quickly fade to shades of ma-

genta, violet, and lavender. The medium-tall plant is nearly thornless, with gray-green leaves.

MOSS ROSES

Most of the noteworthy mutations in the world of roses involve petals — their color, size, or number. The moss roses, though, are distinguished by a change in the floral "envelope": the calyx enclosing the bud (and the pedicel supporting it) is covered in decorative mossy glands. The original moss rose appeared as a mutation on a centifolia, and many of the choicest varieties are simply centifolias with that mossy detail. But hybridizing of centifolia mosses with other classes has produced repeat-blooming moss roses that flower again after the initial spring flush. A few mossy sports have appeared on damask roses, too, but the difference is apparent to the touch: a centifolia moss is soft, while a damask one is distinctly prickly.

ALFRED de DALMAS (1855) Pink. Borne on a 4-foot bush, the creamy pink, moderately full flowers with shell-shaped petals have a porcelainlike delicacy and a pleasant perfume. Buds are lightly covered in light green to pink moss. Plants bloom sporadically after the spring show.

MME. LOUIS LEVEQUE (1898) Pink. Large, cupped blossoms in silvery, satiny pink look like those of a hybrid perpetual with a light encrustation of moss for decoration. The flowers are highly fragrant, appearing on a moderately tall (about 6-foot), upright plant that blooms again after the spring show.

SALET (1854) Pink. This one offers steadier, less sporadic repeat flowering than most of the other repeat-blooming mosses. Its informal, full, deep pink blossoms show a moderate amount of moss. Rain can prevent blooms from opening. The plant has soft green leaves and few thorns; it reaches about 4 feet high.

History of the Rose**Continued from Page 9**

ers. Noteworthy are countless Flemish and Dutch floral still-lives: their mixed bouquets include realistic portraits of roses, blossoms of a style and fullness that identify them as members of old rose classes that survive to this day.

In the Renaissance, plants came to be cultivated for beauty as much as for utility, and new and different kinds were sought out and brought into cultivation. These trends continued in subsequent centuries, setting the stage for the development of the roses we know today. Thus, trade between Western Europe and the exotic East — Japan, China, and India — involved not only goods such as spices and fabrics; living plants were imported as well, thanks to burgeoning scientific curiosity and a growing upper class with an interest in magnificent gardens. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the East India Companies of England, France, and Holland funneled unfamiliar plants to private collectors and botanical gardens across Europe. Among the new arrivals were four roses destined to revolutionize the garden rose as it was then known.

Although there is some dispute over exactly when and where each of these four "China roses" made its European debut, we do know that the first two, 'Parson's Pink

Continued on page 19



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History of the Rose Continued from Page 18

China' (now known as 'Old Blush') and 'Slater's Crimson China', were established in England by about 1792. Both these plants were garden selections of *Rosa chinensis* that had been grown by the Chinese for centuries. Their clustered, smallish flowers were a far cry from the opulent European roses of the time, but they had one significant trait in their favor: they flowered repeatedly from spring until stopped by frost.

Some years later, in the early to mid-1800s, two other significant Asian imports reached Europe: 'Hume's Blush Tea-scented China' and 'Park's Yellow Tea-scented China'. The ancestors of the tea rose class, these plants would be recognized today as the first to resemble the familiar modern hybrid teas.

The China roses' first appearance on the European scene was closely followed by a second event of great consequence for rose history: the ascension of Napoleon I and his empress, Josephine, to the throne of France. The daughter of a wealthy planter from the Caribbean island of Martinique, Josephine loved flowers in general and roses in particular, and she determined to use her vast financial resources to collect and maintain all the roses then known in the western world. Begun in 1804, her collection at Malmaison, the imperial chateau, reached its zenith 10 years later, when it contained about 250 different rose species and varieties.

To preserve her treasured collection for posterity, the Empress summoned a group of artists to Malmaison, among them Pierre-Joseph Redoute, the "Raphael of the flowers." Accompanied with botanical descriptions by Claude-Antoine Thory, Redoute's watercolors were gathered in a three-volume collection, *Les Roses*, a work still unsurpassed in artistic detail and beauty.

So renowned and respected was Josephine's endeavor that it transcended even international animosities. The British, then at war with France, permitted plants found on captured French ships to be sent on to Malmaison. And when the Napoleonic Wars ended in 1815, the victorious Brit-

ish troops were ordered to protect the Malmaison garden from harm.

Sadly, without royal patronage to provide inspiration and maintenance, the garden soon fell into disrepair. But its greater mission had been accomplished. Reaching its peak at a time when European horticultural horizons were rapidly expanding, the Malmaison garden opened the eyes of botanists, gardeners, and future rose growers. It spawned a French rose industry that developed and propagated roses for an ever-expanding market of wealthy and emerging middle-class landowners. The Malmaison roses furnished both inspiration and breeding material, putting rose evolution on a fast track toward the roses we now think of as modern.

CLASSIFYING ROSES

The roses at Malmaison also encouraged serious efforts at botanical classification. Confronted by an unprecedented grouping of similar yet differing plants, botanists and horticulturists of the day recognized certain individuals as species, then organized the others into several distinct classes (described below, and in accompanying article on "Heirloom Roses"), based on appearance and presumed ancestry. Collectively, these are now known as old European roses; save for 'Autumn Damask', all flower only in late spring or early summer.

Over half of the Malmaison collection was made up of gallica roses — variants (and some hybrids) of *Rosa gallica*. Also called "French rose," the species grows wild in western Europe.

Damask roses have an obscure history that stretches back thousands of years; contemporary research suggests that *Rosa gallica*, *R. phoenicia*, and *R. moschata* (the musk rose) may all figure in the group's ancestry. Summer-flowering *R. x damascena*, possibly native to Asia Minor, seems to have been spread through the Mediterranean basin by Phoenician traders or Greek colonists, if not by the Egyptians. Legend has it that the Crusaders later brought the rose from the Holy Land to Europe; the specific name *damascena* refers to Dam-

Continued on page 20

History of the Rose

Continued from page 19

ascus, Syria. The one repeat-flowering rose known to the ancient world was a damask, the plant the Romans named "rose of Paestum" (or of Cyrianae or Carthage); its likeness appears on frescoes in Pompeii. Years later, Spanish missionaries brought the same rose to North America, where it was called "rose of Castile." Botanically known as *R. x damascena* 'Bifera' ('Semperflorens'), its best-known garden name is 'Autumn Damask'. Josephine's collection included this and seven other damasks.

Alba roses are an ancient group of natural hybrids of complex ancestry. Their flowers are white (as the name implies) or pink, carried on tall, shrubby to semiclimbing plants. Nine albas grew at Malmaison.

Centifolia roses constituted about one-eighth of the collection at Malmaison. These are the full, lush, "hundred-leafed," typically pink or white roses beloved of Dutch and Flemish painters; many are intensely fragrant. Like the albas, the centifolias are a hybrid group—deriving, in fact, from a mix of alba and damask. Many of the oldest varieties are simply sports of the original *Rosa x centifolia* or of another sport; the most radical departures from the original are the moss roses.

In the 1800s, rose breeding proceeded at a frenzied pace. Growers continued to work with the Malmaison roses, raising new varieties that fit into the classes just described. But they were active on other fronts as well. The repeat-flowering Asian imports excited great interest, and growers in the mild-winter parts of France, in particular, vastly expanded the number of varieties in two new classes (Chinas and teas) derived strictly from Asian roses. In addition, breeders began raising hybrids—first naturally occurring hybrids, then deliberate crosses—between old European roses and Asian ones, creating yet more classes with plant and flower characteristics of both parents and, typically, some repeat bloom. The six rose classes described below, together with the old European roses, are known collectively as old gar-

den roses.

China roses' capacity for near-constant bloom inspired growers to plant countless seeds from the two original representatives and encouraged importation of additional plants and seeds from China and India. The net result was a sizable group of virtually everblooming plants producing small clusters of modest-sized pink, red, or white blossoms on bushy, twiggy plants of moderate stature.

Portland roses, the first of which appeared around 1800, were the first hybrids between China roses, especially 'Slater's Crimson China', with old European types (particularly 'Autumn Damask').

Bourbon roses arose by happy accident on the Ile de Bourbon (now Reunion) in the Indian Ocean off Madagascar. Where fields were bordered by hedges of different roses, the appearance of hybrids was inevitable—and one of these, a cross between 'Old Blush' and 'Autumn Damask', was discovered in 1819 by a visiting French botanist. He sent seeds of the plant to the king's gardener in Paris, who raised a choice seedling which he christened 'Rosier de l'Ile Bourbon': a repeat-flowering, semiclimbing plant with shiny leaves, purple-tinted canes, and semidouble pink blooms. Numerous hybrids were raised from this original Bourbon, the best of which retain the parent's foliage and plant characteristics as well as its capacity for repeat bloom. The old Bourbon-China hybrid 'Gloire des Rosomanes', one of the chief sources of red color in modern roses, persists in countless older gardens today. Ironically, it is not grown for its blooms; it was once used as an understock for modern roses.

Noisette roses are a New World contribution, contemporaneous with the establishment of Malmaison in France. John Champneys, a rice planter in Charleston, South Carolina, raised a climbing hybrid between 'Old Blush' and the musk rose, calling it 'Champneys' Pink Cluster' for its large, profuse clusters of small spring-through-autumn blossoms. His neighbor, Philippe Noisette, sent seeds or

seedlings of this rose (accounts vary) to his brother in France, who raised a shrubbier, darker pink-to-crimson-to-purple rose, "Blush Noisette," from them in 1817.

Tea roses stem from the second two China roses imported from Asia: 'Hume's Blush Tea-scented China' (1810) and 'Park's Yellow Tea-scented China' (1824). Though "China" is part of each name, the two roses derive not only from *Rosa chinensis* but also from *R. gigantea*, a rampant, once-blooming, tender climber from the Himalayan foothills. Where these cold-intolerant plants would thrive—in the Caribbean islands and in mild-winter parts of France, Italy, Spain, and the United States, for example—they became the pre-eminent garden roses of their time. Noisettes were crossed with these early teas (as well as with 'Park's Yellow Tea-scented China') to produce a number of tea-Noisette climbers, many of which may as well be climbing teas (sometimes with smaller blossoms). To modern roses, the teas bequeathed their flower form and overall refinement—and some of their lack of hardiness.

Hybrid perpetual roses were the garden and cut-flower workhorses of the 19th century. The first varieties appeared around 1838, and the class dominated the rose industry until shortly after 1900. Though they do have repeat bloom in their makeup (their ancestry includes virtually all the classes that preceded them), labeling them "perpetual" was something of an overstatement: a massive spring show was followed by only scattered bloom (or a smaller autumn burst). The French called them *hybrides remontants* ("reblooming hybrids"), a more accurate appellation. Most bear large, lush, full-petaled flowers in colors ranging from white through all shades of pink and red to purple; husky, even rampant growth is the norm.

THE MODERN ERA BEGINS

Though many rose lovers still treasure the old garden types, the majority of roses grown and sold today belong to the modern classes.

Hybrid Tea Roses did not enter

Continued on page 21

History of the Rose Continued from page 20

the scene with bells and whistles; they crept in imperceptibly, recognized only after the fact as roses of a type different from those that had come before. Just which rose was the first of the group is a subject of some controversy; by tradition, if not consensus, the honor falls to 'La France', putting the birth of the class in the year 1867.

The original hybrid teas were the logical outcome of breeders' attempts to combine the robustness of a hybrid perpetual with the refinement of a tea rose. Their characteristics fell midway between those of the two parent types: they were more perpetual than the hybrid perpetuals but not as profusely blooming as the teas; their hardiness was variable but usually better than that of their tender tea parent. They had the color range of the hybrid perpetuals, with the addition of creamy yellow from the teas.

In 1900, however, an unusual hybrid was introduced that would dramatically broaden the color palette — and have serious consequences for plant health. After years of effort, Joseph Pernet succeeded in crossing the brilliant yellow 'Persian Yellow' (the double yellow form of *Rosa foetida*, the Austrian brier) with a purple-red hybrid perpetual. The result was 'Soleil d'Or' ("golden sun"), a repeat-flowering, reasonably hardy, yellow-orange bush rose. Though not a hybrid tea by appearance or ancestry, 'Soleil d'Or' did remarkable things when crossed with one. In two or three generations, hybrid teas appeared bearing blossoms in exciting new colors: vivid golden yellow, flame, copper, soft orange, and bicolors of yellow and almost any other color.

These exotic new hues came with a hidden price. Along with its vibrant color, the *R. foetida* parent passed along a tendency toward poorly formed blossoms and foliage which, though lustrous, was especially prone to disease. Intolerance of pruning was another legacy: if canes were cut back severely — by hard pruning or a harsh winter — the plants often died.

For a number of years, these

hybrid tea-'Soleil d'Or' crosses formed a separate subclass called Pernetianas. By the 1930s, however, they had been crossed so extensively with hybrid teas that distinctions between the two groups were slight to nonexistent. Today, the glorious Pernetiana colors have permeated all other modern rose classes; in many cases, varieties showing Pernetiana hues still have a definite resentment of pruning. Strange as it may seem, Pernetiana heritage is also responsible for most modern roses in shades of mauve, lavender, gray, tan, and brown.

One Hybrid Tea Rose has come to symbolize the victory of democracy over fascism. Combine a stunning story of intrigue and perseverance with one of the most beautiful roses in the world, and you have the Hybrid Tea "Peace." Introduced to the world on August 29, 1945, the day Berlin fell to the Allies, "Peace" was actually spirited out of Paris six years earlier via the last U.S. diplomatic pouch to leave before occupation by the Nazi's.

Polyantha and floribunda roses are something of the modern equivalent of Noisettes. The earliest polyanthas, derived from the Japanese *Rosa multiflora* and various tea roses (and their relatives, including tea-Noisettes), appeared in France at about the time the first hybrid teas did. They were short, compact plants that flowered almost constantly, bearing full but rather formless, white or pink blooms about an inch across; the blossoms were carried in clusters so large they nearly obscured the foliage. Inevitably, the polyanthas were crossed with hybrid teas, yielding plants that bloomed as profusely as the polyanthas but had better-formed flowers in a wider range of colors. It soon became clear that these new crosses needed a new designation, since their larger flowers and bulkier, bushier plants set them apart from their polyantha parents. Finally, in the 1940s, the term "floribunda" was coined.

Through repeated breeding with hybrid teas, floribundas have continued to evolve beyond the original semidouble types. Many of today's floribundas offer the best hybrid tea flower form and the full range of hybrid tea

colors; in fact, some depart from hybrid teas only in their cluster-flowering habit.

Grandiflora roses represent the near-total absorption of floribunda into hybrid tea. Like "floribunda," the name "grandiflora" was devised as a marketing label, but it is well chosen. Grandifloras usually are larger and more vigorous than the average hybrid tea; their flowers may be as large as those of hybrid teas, but they come in few-flowered clusters on fairly long stems. The class itself was created specifically for a famed cultivar: Queen Elizabeth, introduced in 1954. She is a large bush, growing six feet-plus, with beautiful pink flowers of both cupped and pointed form. There have been other Grandifloras, but none have ever matched the majesty of Her Majesty.

Shrub roses constitute "everything else" — one reason why the name is not an entirely accurate description of the class. Adventurous breeders aiming for disease-resistant, vigorous plants that flower repeatedly, bear shapely blossoms, and withstand harsh winters with scant or no protection have produced an immensely varied, very useful, rapidly expanding group of flowering shrubs. Some, however, are more like small climbers than shrubs, while the truly lax-caned among them are actual ground covers.

And in between is — well, everything else you can imagine. Nostalgia and reverence for the past are reflected in the English roses, repeat-flowering shrubs with blossoms of old European style and scent in the full range of hybrid tea colors. Midwestern and Canadian breeders are widening the range of tough-as-nails plants that can stand up to northern and prairie winters. Unusual or untried species have been added to the melting pot; hybrids with a species that may not even be a rose (*Hulthemia* — or *Rosa-persica*) are pointing the way to who knows where.

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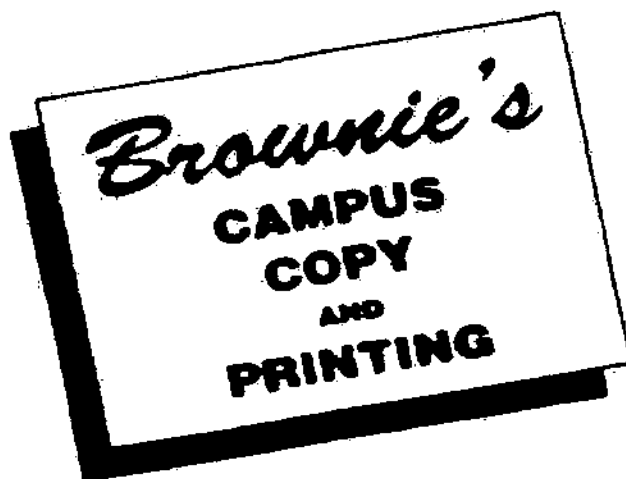
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If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact John Kurtz, WAHA Membership Chair, at 323/732-2990

WAHA June-July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	June		13 Community Outreach Committee	14	15	16 Holiday Tour Committee
17	18 Zoning & Planning/ Preservation Committee	19 Newsletter Committee	20	21	22	23 Religious Architecture Tour
24 WAHA Garden Meeting	25	26	27 Membership Committee	28 Board Meeting	29	30
July	2	3	4 4th of July Picnic	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Community Outreach Committee	12	13	14
15	16 Zoning & Planning/ Preservation Committee	17 Newsletter Committee	18	19	20	21

The WAHA Newsletter is a publication of the West Adams Heritage Association. Members and supporters of WAHA are invited to submit articles to the Newsletter. Letters will be published subject to space constraints and will be cut for length if necessary. Articles will be published subject to acceptance by the editors of the WAHA Board. Advertising is subject to the approval of the publishers. Although the Association appreciates its many fine advertisers, the Association does not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers. Services and products are not tested and appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by the West Adams Heritage Association. Copyright 2001. All rights for graphic and written material appearing in the newsletter are reserved. Contact Director of Publications for permissions.

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