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World Rose News

NEWSLETTER of the WORLD FEDERATION of ROSE SOCIETIES

Toowoomba, Australia



Brisbane, Australia



Christchurch, New Zealand



Japan



Japan



Japan





President's Message – June, 2011

Dear Rosarians of the WFRS Member Countries,

In my message written in February, I commiserated with our rose friends in the many countries that have experienced disastrous problems and severe hardships and I regret to say the situation has not improved. We are concerned for our Japanese friends, who had to postpone their Heritage Convention due to devastating circumstances but all being well we look forward to their postponed convention in May, 2012. The Christchurch earthquakes continued and now there are earthquakes and tornados in the United States. The devastation experienced is of great concern and the rosarians and their families in these parts are in our thoughts.

This is the fifth electronic edition of World Rose News since the first in September, 2009 and by now I hope the Vice-Presidents are managing to distribute this publication to all the Presidents in each country in their region, who in turn I hope are making sure that ALL their members are exposed to what should be available to each one of them. When visiting WFRS countries I always ask members if they have received WRN and I ask what they enjoyed most. Those who have received it expressed an interest in what is happening in other countries and enjoy articles on rose gardens in other parts of the world. Unfortunately there are still a large number who do not know about WRN let alone receive it. Obviously there is a break down in communication somewhere. This is such an opportunity to encourage membership, giving our members an extra dimensional interest in the rose world and I appeal to all Vice Presidents to make a concerted effort to ensure that all societies in their region receive and are encouraged to pass on WRN.

I was recently in Canada and very pleased to have time with Vice-President Patrick White and other keen rosarians on Vancouver Island. I then went to Madeira to present the WFRS Garden of Excellence award to Quinta do Arco - the beautiful private garden of Miguel Albuquerque with modern and old roses in full bloom. From there I was privileged to be President of the Jury at the rose trials in the beautiful Parque del Oeste in Madrid. I am most grateful to all those who welcomed me in each of these countries.

In June I will be attending more rose trials in Europe and look forward to seeing beautiful roses and meeting rose friends from around the world.

Yours sincerely in roses,

Sheenagh Harris, Johannesburg, President WFRS 2009 - 2012

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WFRS was founded in 1968 and is registered in the United Kingdom as a company limited by guarantee and as a charity under the number 1063582. The objectives of the Society, as stated in the constitution, are:

- To encourage and facilitate the interchange of information and knowledge of the rose between national rose societies.
- To co-ordinate the holding of international conventions and exhibitions.
- To encourage and, where appropriate, sponsor research into problems concerning the rose.
- To establish common standards for judging new rose seedlings.
- To establish a uniform system of rose classification.
- To grant international honours and/or awards.
- To encourage and advance international co-operation on all other matters concerning the rose.

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Editor's Comments



It had been my intention to focus on the Heritage Roses Conference in Sakura in the June edition but we have been reminded how unpredictable and fragile our world and lives are. There seems to have been an almost unprecedented upheaval in many places around the globe, both near and far, and in a short space of time, floods, fires, volcanoes, tornadoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

There were the life-changing floods in Queensland, Australia, fires in Western Australia and the United States, devastating earthquakes in South America, New Zealand and Japan, damaging volcanoes in Iceland and Chile, horrific tornadoes in the US and the unbelievable, catastrophic tsunami in Japan. It has been a cataclysmic six months for the world, but we take hope from the many things of beauty that still exist in the world and inspire us, in human dignity and the resourcefulness to work together to fix things up and move on.

We have all come to admire the Japanese for the way they responded to their tragedy. I received an email that said it all:

1. THE CALM

Not a single visual of wild grief. Sorrow itself has been elevated.

2. THE DIGNITY

Disciplined queues for water and groceries. Not a rough word or a crude gesture.

3. THE ABILITY

The incredible architects, for instance. Buildings swayed but didn't fall.

4. THE GRACE

People bought only what they needed for the present, so everybody could get something.

5. THE ORDER

No looting in shops. No honking and no overtaking on the roads. Just understanding.

6. THE SACRIFICE

Fifty workers stayed back to pump sea water into the N-reactors. How will they ever be repaid?

7. THE TENDERNESS

Restaurants cut prices. An unguarded ATM is left alone. The strong cared for the weak.

8. THE TRAINING

The old and the children, everyone knew exactly what to do. And they did just that.

8. THE MEDIA

They showed magnificent restraint in the bulletins. No silly reporters. Only calm reporting.

We have learned that in times of need, people around the world care and provide support.

I have asked a few rosarians from Queensland, Christchurch (NZ) and Japan to give us some insights into how they responded to the events of the past six months. I thank them for taking the time to share with us.

Richard

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Reports

Toowoomba Still in Recovery Stage Rod Hultgren, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

Loss of life makes for a slow recovery and loss of property and business takes time to overcome. While all of this is taking place there is a growing demand for emotional support.

But we will get there - yes - we will get there.

There are some affected businesses that were able to bounce back in very short time, while others have taken longer. One sight and sound store has just announced its reopening - three months after the January 10 floods while our local flour mill has today announced it will not be closing but will take 18 months to rebuild.

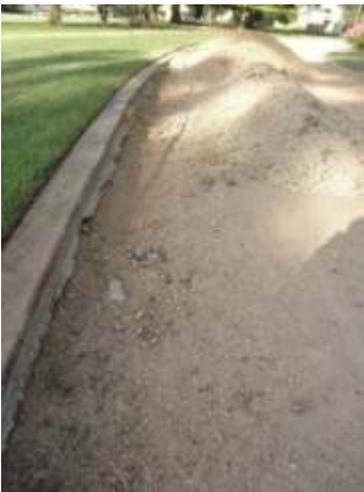
Gardens have a new look. After 10 years of drought and severe water restrictions, during which time we planted drought resistant plants, many with grey foliage and other reliable ones such as geraniums, we were compelled to make changes. However, they did poorly when the rains came and the floods invaded. These plants have since to a great extent been replaced with moisture-tolerant ones.

Dramatic images of the flooding were transmitted not only in Australia but overseas as well. This flooding came after heavy cloud-burst rain.

Toowoomba is really a corruption of Aboriginal words meaning "two swamps". One swamp was originally located in the area where the images were captured. We refer to the water quietly passing through the city as a creek, but in reality it is an open drain, a drain that just could not cope with all the water.

Under the water seen in the images are some rose beds planted with **Bordure Vive** and **Seduction** Roses. These survived without any obvious damage, even though cars and trees were swept away and damaged. However, they were only under water for a matter of hours.

Damaged path in the State Rose Garden



Rose growers in Toowoomba did not report any flood damage to their houses. However I know of one rose grower who had water through his house twice and repairs are still going on.

The roses in the Queensland State Rose Garden in Newtown Park, Toowoomba, were undamaged but some of the pathways of decomposed granite were badly scoured.

Over all, roses should stand up proudly to be counted as not only have they survived years of drought they have now come through the floods.

Floods in Toowoomba
Bonita Cattell, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

None of my rosarian friends say they have lost a significant number of roses, excepting for Shirley and Lloyd Cronk at Crows Nest. Their losses they say were not from floodwaters but from the incessant rain which caused them to lose about 200 rosemary bushes and lots of lavenders in their rose garden. They have described their rose garden as a 'mess'. Down at Boonah, my friend Louise has had floodwater through her yard which when the waters receded left the mulch from the rose beds high and dry on the prickly caned roses in particular. This has given her some work to do cleaning up the garden. Again, it seems to be the so-called 'water wise' plants which have suffered from the excess rainfall. If anything the roses have really enjoyed a huge drink after being deprived of water in the drought for so many years. It is strange to have the dam levels for months now at 100% full. In 2010, the dam levels here on January 7th were at an alarming 7%. What a difference a year can make! January 10th 2011 was the date we here in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley will never forget.



Bonita's garden in spring 2010

There has been more die-back and lots and lots of weeds for people to contend with. However, surprisingly' black spot has not been as great a problem as many of us thought it would be given the regular heavy rains. Recently a group of rose gardeners were saying how they felt the weeds and plants were peeking in the windows of the house now and growing to gigantic proportions. Certainly that is the case here. The tree dahlias and salvias are above 3 metres in height. I have attached a photo of my rear garden late Spring 2010 before the disastrous summer but after plentiful winter and spring rain.

The only roses which were seen in any of the TV footage of the 'inland tsunami' were the specimens of the **Toowoomba Rose** planted in the garden bed outside Myer. They survived the floodwaters and could clearly be seen in the foreground of the torrent with cars bobbing along behind them.

I know of one surviving family member who has expressed a wish for a memorial rose garden and I am sure that many others will turn to the rose for solace. I know from working in schools over the years that when there is a tragedy among students or staff that a rose bush is considered the plant of choice to remember the person.

Christchurch, New Zealand 2nd Earthquake 22 February 2011
Judith Mackay, Canterbury Rose Society

Our lovely garden city was changed forever on Tuesday 22nd February, and weeks later most of us are still coming to terms with so many lives lost, the devastation, and having to re-organise our daily activities. Everyone has a story to tell of where they were and what they were doing at that fateful time of 12.50pm, lunchtime in the central city. This was our second earthquake after the September 4th 2010 one, which luckily happened in the early hours of the morning with no loss of life. My husband and I were thrown to the ground and I said to him as I watched the microwave oven fall to the floor and the sounds of china and glass breaking all around us there will be loss of life this time.

Blessed Sacrament church



We had no idea what tragedy was unfolding and with communication to check on family impossible, we relied on the radio. With no power, cell phones were overloaded and it was several hours before we knew family were safe. Most people working in the city walked home because of the condition of the roads, and parking buildings had collapsed leaving many cars inside.

Where does one begin to tell of the effects on people's lives; there are roads unable to be used because of the damage and

liquefaction, which when the water drained away left piles of silt over roads, and gardens some of it 4 feet (1.2 m) deep in places and having to be shovelled into trucks; there was no power for some; some were not able to use their toilets because of the breakdown of the sewerage system, which is still out for quite a few people; lack of water was a problem. Water is one of the most precious commodities in the world and one takes it for granted that you can shower every day. It is a shock to find you are not able to do this. A lot of people have lost their beautiful homes and others' homes are badly damaged. Schools have been damaged and several schools have to transport their pupils to other schools, sharing the buildings; one school has the morning and the other the afternoon session.

The city has been under a state of emergency with the Army still here, as the Central Business District is still cordoned off, because of the danger of buildings coming down. Many are not safe and need to be demolished. Businesses have had to relocate to the outer suburbs, although there are several hundred that have nowhere to go



and consequently staff is unemployed. This applies especially to restaurants and cafés. Apparently there are still food and glasses on outdoor and indoor tables. We have lost so many of our beautiful heritage buildings.

The rose garden at Mona Vale is cordoned off and there is no access to the gardens because the Historic Homestead there is damaged. Because of the water restrictions we were not able to water our gardens, and in the two or three weeks after the earthquake the weather was very hot with high temperatures and consequently the roses suffered. Another casualty of the Earthquake was the week long Ellerslie Flower Show, which is held in Hagley Park; this would have been the third year Christchurch had held it, and it was due to open on the 9th March. Preparations for it were well under way with the large marquees erected and some of the gardens being set up. There was no way it could have been held because the infrastructure of the City could not have coped, especially with three large hotels having to be demolished and Civil Defence using the marquees as evacuation centres. Likewise the Rugby World Cup matches were transferred to other venues because of damage to the stadium.

A Report from the Japan Rose Society Takeo Nagata and Akira Ogawa

On the 11th of March, the Pacific coast of northern Japan was hit by the most powerful earthquakes and tsunami experienced for several centuries, which devastated many cities and towns near the ocean, claiming over twenty thousand human lives, and depriving 150 000 people of their homes and their jobs. In addition, these natural calamities caused severe accidents in a nuclear power station in Fukushima, which led to serious radiation leakage, spreading the fear of radioactive contamination in the areas around it. It seems it will be very difficult to solve the problem of radiation leakage in a few months, and the government announced that it will take ten years till the nuclear power plant in trouble is decommissioned.

Immediately after these natural calamities struck Japan, one e-mail after another came to the Japan Rose Society and its members from WFRS member societies and rose loving friends overseas. They expressed their sincere concern about us, and their hope for quick recovery from the damage caused by these disasters. We were deeply moved, and greatly encouraged by their kind concern about us. We have learned how strong the ties of friendship created by the common love of roses are, and realised that these ties have even been strengthened through the disasters which befell us. Let us express our sincerest gratitude to those friends of ours by using these pages.

Many countries quickly decided to offer their help to Japan in various ways: some sent their rescue teams for removing debris or for opening emergency medical centres in ruined cities and towns; some offered to donate money and the necessities of life. Please understand how grateful the Japanese citizens are for the sympathy and help sent from overseas nations. A JRS member told us that his friend, a member of the Pakistan Rose Society, had asked him to buy some roses from nurseries in Japan, but offered to donate the money he sent for the roses to the victims of the natural disasters. There must have been many other cases of kind concern and help offered to Japan to which we owe our profoundest gratitude.

The WFRS 12th International Heritage Rose Conference had been scheduled to be held in Sakura, Japan, in May this year, sponsored by the NPO Rose Culture Institute, and supported by Sakura City and the JRS. However, considering the situation in Japan after the 11th of March, we were obliged to refrain from hosting this important rose event in May this year, and asked the WFRS for permission to postpone the conference until May 2012. The WFRS generously approved our request, though 2012 is the year when the 16th World Convention is scheduled in South Africa. Again we were moved by the kind consideration of rose loving friends of the world, and are determined to do our utmost for the success of the conference next year. It will be our great pleasure if we can welcome many friends to this international heritage rose conference held for the first time in Japan.

The owner of a public rose garden known for its excellent design, which happens to be located within 10km of the nuclear power plant in trouble, was obliged to evacuate from his own home and rose garden, and to move with his family to his friend's home in another prefecture. This garden was one of the destinations of the post-conference tours on the schedule of the cancelled heritage rose conference. We regret that we are unable to guide our guests from overseas to this beautiful garden, which reflects the owner's sincere love of roses, and his superb sense of garden design cultivated on the long tradition of Japanese horticulture. We also regret that the roses in the garden will bloom as beautifully as usual, but without being admired by thousands of rose lovers who visit the garden every flowering season.

The JRS has been co-sponsoring the annual event "The International Roses and Gardening Show" held every year in May at a baseball dome in the outskirts of Tokyo. We considered the cancellation of the show this year, but finally decided on staging it, this time as an event for cheering up Japan, and for raising donations to people in the disaster-stricken areas. We are hoping that roses will also play their own beautiful roles in the reconstruction of Japan, which suffered unprecedented damage from those natural disasters.

Photo, Akira Ogawa



In concluding this report on rose-related situations in Japan after the natural calamities in March, let us express once more our heartiest gratitude to nations and people overseas, particularly to our dear rose-loving friends. The Japan Rose Society and its members are hoping that the friendship between rosarians of the world will continue forever, and that we will be able to contribute our humble share to the promotion of this precious friendship based on the common love of this wonderful flower, the rose.

The scents of roses act on our senses, our attitudes and thoughts. There is gaiety in the air, tender feelings, fresh groves, the rustling of silk taffetas and satins, the fruits of paradise, capricious moods, twilights and moonlights, a distant mirage, a promise of warm nights, and amber skin...

The International Roses and Gardening Show 2011

Akira Ogawa, photos the author

One of the biggest annual rose events in Japan, the International Roses and Gardening Show, was held in Seibu Baseball Dome in Tokorozawa, a city in the outskirts of Tokyo, from the 11th to the 16th of May this year. In the confused aftermath of the catastrophic natural disasters which hit the Pacific coast of northern Japan, and in uneasy situations brought about by the radiation leakage from a nuclear power plant destroyed by the earthquakes and tsunami, the organisers had to make a difficult decision on whether or not to go ahead with this festive event. Finally they decided to hold the show, as an event for raising funds to help the disaster-stricken areas, and in the hope that the event will help, even if only a little, to brighten the oppressive atmosphere pervading the country for the past two months.

Bonsai roses



I visited the show on the first day, and was surprised to find that despite the rainy weather, hundreds of people were standing in queues, waiting for the entrances to open—a usual scene we see outside the baseball dome on the opening day of the show. Entering the dome, and looking over the baseball field, I saw many display gardens filled with roses and other flowers, shelves surrounding the field for carrying potted roses, and over a hundred booths of rose-related organisations, including the Japan Rose Society, to display materials for promoting their activities, and for rose nurseries

and other businesses for selling potted plants and horticultural goods. People were crowded around those gardens, admiring their beautiful designs and the flowers planted there, taking photos of their families and friends in front of the gardens. Many of them visited the booths of rose nurseries and were looking for the roses they saw in those gardens – again usual scenes we see at the show



Fortune's Double Yellow in a pot



The Grand Prix Roses at the contest on the first day

every year. One special thing we found at the show this year was, on the reception desks of many booths, boxes for collecting funds for people who suffered damage in the unprecedented natural calamities, and for those who were evacuated from their homes in the areas contaminated with radioactivity from the troubled power plant. Though it was less than half an hour after the show had opened, I saw dozens of

banknotes piling up in transparent collection boxes. Those who made a donation were given a seal with the design of a rose flower, with the logo: “Roses for Love – Let’s send our love to disaster-stricken areas!” I felt happy to see that the rose had been selected as the flower symbolising universal love and compassion for our friends in distress.

One theme of the garden displays this year was the impressionists’ gardens. There was a

Monet’s garden



garden designed after the model of Claude Monet’s famous garden in Giverny, France. A Japanese artist who admires Monet painted a picture representing the impression he gained when he visited the garden in Giverny, and a woman gardener designed a display garden based on this picture. It was a beautiful garden well representing Monet’s love of roses and other flowers, and must have awakened in many people the desire to visit the original garden of Monet some day. Mr. Jim Keeling, a noted garden designer and ceramic artist from the UK,

was invited to this show. He designed a garden with a golden cypress three metres high in the centre and with dozens of terra cotta pots, large and small, filled with climbing roses and other flowers arranged on both sides. It was designed to remind us of Vincent van Gogh’s famous painting of the Road with Cypresses, and it certainly did so most effectively!



Gough’s cypress

Another theme of the rose display this year was the fragrance of roses. Both garden displays and booths of rose nurseries seemed to place a lot of emphasis on fragrant roses. David Austin Roses, Japan, for example, displayed a garden entitled “Five Fragrance Trails” designed by Mr. Michael Marriott, which features David Austin roses with five different types of fragrance. This garden attracted a large number of visitors who enjoyed beautiful flowers on the trails and their excellent fragrances with delicate differences.

Fragrant rose avenue



Another display, close to the entrance, was named the “Fragrant Rose Avenue”. It was a corridor with fragrant French roses, mostly raised by Meilland Roses, planted on both sides, and visitors moved step by step enjoying the intense fragrances of those different varieties, wrapped in an atmosphere of sunny southern France.

In most areas of Japan, cold weather lasted

long into March and April. Amateur rose lovers who hoped to enter their roses in cut flower contests or to display roses in pots must have had difficulty in collecting adequately open flowers. The number of flowers on the contest tables seemed to be smaller than usual. However, many of them, particularly those which won prizes, looked almost impeccable, displaying their fullest beauty and reflecting their growers' tender loving care. Besides the contests of HT, FI, and Min. cut flowers, there was also a display of works by Mr. Akira Atomi, the master of bonsai roses, and of huge weeping standards by Mr. Tsuyoshi Ishii, both features of the show every year. These items always surprise their viewers. I remember that when our guests from abroad visited this show in 2006 on their post-convention tour of the 14th WFRS world held in Osaka, they were totally fascinated by those rare works of the master rosarians in Japan, and were pointing their cameras at them from all angles.

This year's show, though it was held in the midst of such an unusual situation, achieved outstanding success, impressing every visitor with the versatile beauty of roses and other flowers, and with their power to cheer up the spirits of people affected by the disasters. The rose, among others, was taken up in this show as the flower which carries love to people who met with terrible misfortune. In the train on my way home, I remembered that since the tragedy on September 11, 2001, the American Rose Society has been encouraging its members to send a rose to their friends on the same day as a sign to remember the victims and to celebrate their life, liberty and freedom. I was reminded of the power of this flower which is playing a similar role in Japan, and hope that it will combine the love of many people to be sent to the victims of the misfortunes and contribute its share to the reconstruction of this country.

**Regional Vice-President
Takamasa Tsuge, Photos the author**

On 11th March at 2:46 in the afternoon, I was on the Metro just arriving at Shinjuku station when the vehicle swung heavily making me feel very concerned and uncomfortable. I got off the train and stood on the platform to wait and see; a few minutes later, another strong quake came. I was scared to death. Then I was told there would be no more Metro services for the day. I eventually stayed overnight at the gymnasium of a high-school nearby with a couple of "Snickers" and a bottle of water.



Since then, news papers reported everyday the present situation of the damage, death toll, the missing and the evacuees and leakage of radiation from the crippled reactors.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko expressed their deepest sympathy to the people affected by the unprecedented devastation.

Nevertheless, the Spring came around as usual.



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko also paid a visit to give the evacuees comfort in Miyagi



In early April, cherry blossoms in full bloom



And in May, roses began blooming and cheerful rosarians gathered here and there. They enjoyed visiting rose shows and rose gardens. However, there was a feeling of sorrow.

The Rose Garden in the City of Buenos Aires

Valentina Casucci

The land that now belongs to Tres de Febrero Park was, when Buenos Aires was founded in 1580, used for cultivation. In 1830, the governor of Buenos Aires province, Juan Manuel de Rosas, had his house built on what is now Avenida del Libertador and Sarmiento, surrounded by gardens and cultivated land.

After he was overthrown in 1852, President Domingo Faustino Sarmiento converted the site into a public park and it was inaugurated in November 11, 1875 with the name of Parque Tres de Febrero.

The project included the building of nurseries, conservatories, space for agricultural shows, dairies and other amenities. In 1891 the post of Director General of parks and other public spaces was given to a Frenchman, Carlos Thays, a landscape architect, who promoted public education so they could value art and ornamentation. He was undoubtedly a very important influence on the development of the park.

The Rose garden

The mayor of the city of Buenos Aires, Joaquin S. Anchorena made possible, during his time in office (1910-1914), the implementation of the reforms proposed by Thays and gave impulse to the creation of the Rose Garden. Mr. Anchorena thought that a city as big and as modern as Buenos Aires should have, following the example of other great cities, a park that would show its culture, where the focus would be on roses and that it would be enhanced by architectural works of art, like fountains, pergolas, benches and a magnificent 'Patio Andaluz'.

In 1914 Benito Carrasco, an Agricultural Engineer, took over the direction of the parks. The place selected for the Rose Garden was the second section of the Parque Tres de Febrero. The works started on the May 5, 1914 and were finished on November 24' 1914, when it was inaugurated. At the beginning, the Rose Garden, which occupied an area of 34 040 square metres, was planted with 14 000 rose bushes on borders, pergolas and parterres: Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Climbing Roses, Miniatures, Shrubs and those marvellous Old Garden Roses were included.

In 1994 YPF was in charge of its reconstruction, Meilland gave us a donation of 2 000 rose bushes of 'Paris de Yves Saint Laurent'. In that same year the International Competition of New Roses was created at the park. In a few years the Park became an emblematic site of the City, the historical garden of Buenos Aires. "The historical garden is an architectural composition that is essentially vegetative, and so it is living, perishable and replaceable": A letter from Florencia, The International Committee of Historical Gardens.

As time went by it started to deteriorate slowly, and it came a time where the damage was such that everything had to be rebuilt, not only the Park, but the Rose Garden also.

Reconstruction

After a complete appraisal of the state the roses were in or what was left of them, it was evident that all the soil of the borders had to be changed, new drainage was necessary, the provision of good neutral water without salt in it was needed and a watering system by trickle irrigation was installed; the roses that had deteriorated too much to be restored had to be replaced, and the good ones kept until the works were completed. There was an attempt to maintain the original form of the borders, and where possible the same rose varieties.

Copying the original design of the garden all the elements were restored such as the statues in the Poets' Garden, the 130 metre long Pergola, the small Temple, the Pier, the Greek Bridge, pergolas, urns, flower pots, benches, lights, the aviary and the Patio Andaluz.

All this was attributed to the advice and collaboration given by the Architect Marcello Macadan and Dr. Sonia Berjman.

As for the rose bushes, the original design of each of the borders was followed, and the rose bushes had to be in a colour and variety as similar to those that had been there originally as possible.

Around each of the pergola columns Old Garden Roses and white Jasmine and lilac coloured Verbenas were planted in the flower pots. On the pier, the climbing yellow rose **Rimosa** and in the small Temple **Pierre de Ronsard** were planted.

Other things were restored like the illumination along the trails, the lamp posts were painted and the glass in the lamps replaced, keeping everything as near to the original as possible.

The plants in the rose garden had degenerated so they were revitalised by pruning and the trees and shrubs that were nearly dead were replaced.

All the paths were covered by red ceramic screening to ameliorate their durability and at the same time provide a contrast with its surroundings.

All the signs were changed and so was the visitors information; a new information system for each group of rose bushes was incorporated with the name, variety, and the name of the hybridiser.

140 people were involved in the reconstruction; it meant that the park had to be closed to the public for about six months. 2 600 cubic metres of earth were moved in the process.

7 500 roses and 10 000 square metres of grass were planted with two varieties, Bermuda and Ray Grass.

! 300 drainage holes were dug and 250 cubic metres of wood chips were used.

250 information signs were made, of which 100 were for the roses.

It was a lot of work, but it gave us great satisfaction every day to see how the task advanced and how the rose garden retrieve its lost splendour.
!AVE ROSA!

News from the Immediate Past President
Dr Gérald Meylan, Switzerland, Photos the author

BREEDERS CLUB

Six members of the Breeders Club are participating in an experiment in the City of Shenzhen (China) with respect to the behaviour of different varieties of garden roses. This experiment has been set up, thanks to the support of the Municipality of the City of Shenzhen, together with the excellent collaboration of Mr Wang Hui.

85 varieties of roses are being tested over a period of three years. Twenty plants of each variety have been cultivated in open ground and 10 in containers. Observations will be carried out regularly on the rhythm and intensity of flowering and their natural resistance to the development of pests and diseases. A report will be drawn up three times a year.

Members of the Breeders Club would very much appreciate if all organising committees of international rose trials would apply the same rules and criteria when judging varieties. Also they consider roses should be allocated to their different categories in a more standardised way (HT, Floribunda, etc). Breeders explicitly request that cultivation techniques should be made known and if possible standardised (fertilisers, pest management, etc.) It is most certainly the only way to compare results between the different trials and learn lessons about the behaviour of plants.



New rules are being drawn up, which, based on yearly results, should enable the rose which has obtained the most awards in European trials, to be designated “The European Rose of the Year”. Organisers of trials and breeders will be consulted and, after taking into consideration their remarks and comments, a decision will be made by the end of 2011.

85 roses planted in pots for 3 months to allow them to adapt to the climate.

CONVENTION LIAISON

International Heritage Rose Conference, Sakura, Japan

Due to the tragic earthquake, this conference has been postponed until May 2012. Under the leadership of Mr Katsuhiko Maebara, the organising committee has already started working on the conference for next year in order for us to meet under excellent conditions.

ROSAFRICA 2012

Our President, Mrs Sheenagh Harris, who is also Convention Convenor for ROSAFRICA 2012, is working with her team to produce an excellent world convention for us next year. Please visit their website regularly <www.rosafrika2012.co.za> in order to be aware of the latest information on the convention. It is also important to ask all rosarian friends to do the same, so that many of us will meet in South Africa in October 2012 to celebrate our favourite flower – THE ROSE.

LYON 2015

The organising committee is already holding regular meetings in order to present during ROSAFRICA 2012 a programme which will mark the 17th World Convention of the WFRS.

INTERNATIONAL ROSE TRIALS

Barcelona – 6 May 2011

The 11th International Rose Trials took place in the beautiful Cervantes Park, which received an Award of Garden Excellence in Vancouver in 2009. The vegetation was first class and the flowers were in perfect bloom for the trials, which allowed the international judging panel to work under excellent conditions. The weather also could not have been better. The awards were presented by the Secretary of the trials, Mr Lluís Abad, and the results have been placed on the WFRS website. The new variety SB 06.107 from the French breeder, Bernard Sauvageot, received the award of the City of Barcelona.



International judging panel at work



Perfume appreciated by two specialists



Variety SB 06.107

Huis Ten Bosch – 21 May 2011

The 1st International Rose Trials of Huis Ten Bosch were held near Nagasaki, Japan. 400 000 trees and bushes and over 300 000 flowers have been planted in this huge park of 152 hectares. The weather was perfect for the trials, which took place on the occasion of a week's event dedicated to the rose. 65 varieties in commerce for less than five years were presented by 15 breeders from 5 countries. The best variety of landscape roses was awarded a special prize and the winner was **Candia Meidiland** (Alain Meilland, France). The results have been placed on the website of the WFRS.



View of Huis Ten Bosch Park



Huis Ten Bosch Rose Garden



Beautiful rose bed



Candia Meidiland – Golden Rose and Special award for landscape roses



Floral decoration in a hotel on the occasion of Rose Week



Judging panel of the 1st International Rose Trials of Huis Ten Bosch

Monza – 27 May 2011

It is always a great pleasure to meet in the beautiful rose garden of Monza, which received a Garden Award in 2003 and is dedicated to Niso Fumagalli, founder of the International Rose Trials of Monza. The many members of the international judging panel came from different parts of the world - Belgium, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Uruguay. The panel had the pleasure of judging the new varieties of roses with the president of the day, Mrs Isa Maria Bozzolo from Chile, former WFRS Vice-President for South America.



**Above left: Niso Fumagalli Rose Garden and its beautiful orangerie
Centre: View of the trials
Right: International judging panel
Left: Silvano Fumagalli, President of the Italian Rose Society and the Monza Rose Trials with Isa Maria Bozzolo, President of the 2011 judging panel**

EXHIBITION

San Feliu – 6-8 May 2011

The extremely dynamic Rose Society of Sant Feliu, a small Spanish town situated near Barcelona, organised, with outstanding success, the 53rd National Exhibition of Roses. The whole concept was set up and carried out by amateur rosarians and is a wonderful example for every rose society interested in attracting the general public. The famous roses of Pere Dot, a well known breeder from Catalonia, were particularly shown to their advantage.

The Rose Society of Sant Feliu is in the process of working on a very interesting project creating a “rose road” which will pass through Europe ending up in Sant Feliu. We will certainly have the opportunity to hear more about this initiative in the future.



Dynamic team of the San Feliu committee



View of the exhibition



Flower Show

Reviews

Book Review

A Life With Roses – David Ruston – Rosenberg 2011



In 2007 David Ruston’s home town of Renmark in South Australia mooted the idea that a sculpture be erected in the town to honour his achievements and skills. As a result, a magnificent tribute to David was unveiled on October 16, 2010, by the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Sheenagh Harris, during Renmark Rose Week.

Because of David’s knowledge and creativity, it seemed appropriate that he commit to paper some of the highlights of his life, with special reference to the arrangements he has made over the years in support of local, national and international communities and organisations. Thus *A Life With Roses* came into being. This book is a fascinating insight into the mind of a man whose life’s passion has been the love of flowers, and in particular the rose.



John and I (left) at our our seventieth birthday celebrations.

David was born and brought up in Renmark in Australia's Riverland, eventually becoming one of the world's most respected rosarians. His story is illustrated with photographs and descriptions of some of the flamboyant and unusual flower arrangements that he has made in most continents of the world, over a period of many years.

His father's 500 rose plantings were extended to the eventual 50 000 bushes covering eleven hectares, and this largest private collection of roses in the southern hemisphere was eventually recognised as "The National Collection of Roses".

David has held the positions of President of the National Rose Society of Australia (1986), President of the World Federation of Rose Societies (1991-1994), foundation President of Heritage Rose in Australia (1919-1993), President of the Renmark Garden Club (for an incredible total of 32 year), foundation President of the Chaffey Branch of the Rose Society of South Australia (1996) and has held the position of Chairman of the WFRS Heritage Rose Committee since 2008. He was elected President Emeritus of the WFRS in 2009, a particularly big honour, and one which recognises his status in the world of roses.

There are chapters on his history, the history of flower arranging, conferences attended, gardens he has remembered, the many people met and befriended, articles he has written and huge numbers of photos to illustrate the above. One can only be impressed with his phenomenal memory of the events. His anecdotes are at times humorous and at other times impress with the incredible effort he has made to present his art.



David's accepting nature and welcoming personality set him apart. He has a way of making everyone feel special and it is hard not to warm to him. Congratulations, David, on this celebration of roses and your experiences with them. May there be many more chapters written about your wonderful "life with roses".

Rose Database DG Richard Walsh

Rosarians who are interested in studying their roses for whatever reason have a number of resources available to them.

Many people are aware of the on-line version of *Modern Roses 12*, a database which allows us to search in many categories and this makes my task as an amateur breeder trying to keep track of the origins of the roses I breed easier. I like being able to research not only the obvious like the parents of a rose, but find particular types of roses, the roses of a chosen

breeder or the roses bred from a particular rose as either seed or pollen parent. Sometimes it is disappointing to find a rose has not been registered or its parents have not been given.

Some of us may also have used the also on-line *HelpMeFind*. <http://www.helpmefind.com/roses/> will also give much of the information you desire about roses, nurseries, gardens, rosarians, organisations and events. These are all helpful references for the rosarian who wishes to be informed about his/her passion for roses and all things related.

You can never have too many resources when researching the rose, and I am happy to report there is now another resource available, which like the others is dynamic and being constantly updated. *Rose Database DG* contains references to over 4 800 roses with over 2 500 images of more than 1 750 varieties. There are over 400 word descriptions of the best roses including breeder, era, type, colour and lineage etc. It is self contained on a DVD and operates on Mac OS or Windows. The cost is \$49.50 AUD and information is available from Doug Gregory, email: dgregory24@bigpond.com for details.

Articles

Give Us Greenness And Roses

Daniel Boulens, Lyon, France, Photos the author

Like the ancient Romans who demanded “bread and circuses,” I would like to use my somewhat provocative title to introduce you to an evolution in our way of considering gardens and green areas.



Today, no one denies the importance of nature and the environment for the equilibrium of our planet. And as actors in the domain of parks, gardens and recreational areas, we are convinced that they are also keys to the vital equilibrium of human beings. Currently, more than one out of every two inhabitants on the planet lives in a city or city suburb. At the international summits of Rio, Kyoto, Bali and Copenhagen, major country leaders have become aware of the risks that our unbridled economic growth represents for the earth. One of the major consequences of the industrial

production of consumer goods is the production of greenhouse gases that lead to global warming. People are becoming increasingly aware of this issue, and in many countries actions have been organised to reduce these emissions and promote greater respect of the planet and its limited resources.

In this context, and on a smaller and more human scale, outdoor areas, parks and gardens take on new importance, providing fresh appeal for the inhabitants of our cities and constituting a key political strategy for a number of governments.

By developing and creating new parks and gardens, by “vegetising” roof terraces and building walls made of plants, we seek to balance the ratio of vegetable to mineral in our cities. We are truly committed to these new goals. As professionals of landscapes, parks and gardens, we are obviously happy with these new orientations. However, we must follow the new ways of appreciating the environment by being aware that our former habits were not very protective of natural surroundings. Unfortunately, beyond a mere “greening” effect, they had a major negative impact on the environment. We used massive amounts of pesticides and poured on irrational amounts of water for irrigation; we consumed major amounts of energy for maintenance material, produced tons of waste for treatment, made a racket with our equipment and used up fossil resources like peat...the list is long!



International Rose Garden, Parc de la Tête d'Or

Now we must take a new look at our way of managing our green areas, parks and gardens. We must take into account new parameters; we must limit what we put into and what we take out of each new area. This means limiting or eliminating pesticides, reducing our energy consumption, producing less waste, using water in a more rational way by recycling it or choosing vegetation adapted to the region, by adapting our maintenance methods to the locality, and by many other actions.

Starting in the eighties, here in France we developed methods that we called “differentiated management.” This consisted of defining cartography of the green areas for a given territory, with a different level of maintenance according to the amount of use. It was possible to find areas in the city centre maintained in a sophisticated horticultural manner and areas on the outskirts that were only minimally and naturally maintained. However, this differentiation did not necessarily take into consideration the environmental criteria mentioned above.

With the new millennium, we have begun to take the environmental dimension into account. We have added an awareness of environmental criteria to the geographical division of maintenance areas. We have also added an important new factor, biodiversity. We call this new method “sustainable evolving management,” since it links differentiated management to sustainable development.

Here in Lyon, France’s third most populous city, we have developed this concept successfully since 2001. We have adopted this approach and measured our progress. In 2005, the city of Lyon’s Department of Parks and Gardens was the first municipal

governmental department to obtain ISO 14001 certification. This international certification applies to a system of environmental management based on the principle of continued improvement.

Since 2005, we no longer use pesticides in public parks and gardens. We have very significantly reduced the amount of green waste by transforming it into compost or by modifying our maintenance methods. We have implemented systems for controlling irrigation and have adapted our plantings so that they use less water. We prefer organic fertilisers and use them in a rational way. We try to promote methods with less energy pollution, such as electric vehicles, work animals (horses for pulling, sheep for clearing land) or the return to manual methods. The list of changes in method is long!

By participating in the LivCom Awards ⁽¹⁾ competition in Westminster in 2007, we attempted to make these practices better known to the public at large. We won a Golden Award second prize in the category of cities with 250 000 to 700 000 inhabitants and above all, we obtained the Enhancement of the Landscape prize for cities of all sizes. This latter award was given for a magnificent project completed in 2006 focusing on the transformation of the banks of the Rhône into public areas.

We are extremely proud of these results, which demonstrate a real evolution in the appreciation of parks and gardens in the city, and especially in their maintenance methods. Now, as you stroll through Lyon, will you find yourself in the heart of a city where nature has reclaimed its rights, where wild grass and poppies grow at the foot of buildings and where we have forgotten the methods handed down to us from illustrious French gardeners like Le Nôtre, Edouard André and Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier?

Well no, you won't! We have tried to maintain a subtle balance between our environment and horticultural methods while attempting to respect our environment as much as possible. Without a doubt, the theme of the rose is the most beautiful example of this.

This "queen of flowers" has been lauded for its beauty, for its colours ranging from pure white to deep purple – by way of clear yellow and all the intermediate tones – and for its incomparable fragrance by poets and writers since antiquity. The rose is found in almost every garden. As the queen of gardens, it represents both the painstaking work of selection from wild origins to today's flower and demanding horticultural care.

Although the rose is surely the world's most cultivated flower, its cultivation methods are often criticised because of their harmful impact, both on the environment and on the persons who care for the flower. Recent television documentaries have shown us the horrendous work conditions behind rose cultivation in Kenya, Ecuador or Colombia. The use of pesticides has been identified as a serious factor in damaging both human health and the environment.

But must we banish the queen of flowers from our gardens for environmental reasons? In Lyon, we say no! We must find ways to cultivate and maintain our gardens while protecting

our environment. This is what we have done in the context of our approach to ISO 14001 environmental certification.

We wanted to keep the rose in our gardens as a prestigious symbol, as well as along our major avenues and near housing areas. This is because the rose is not only beautiful, it is part of the history of our city.

The first French rose garden we know of belonged to King Childebert, and the first conservatory rose garden was created by Joséphine de Beauharnais in the park at Malmaison (in the Paris area) at the beginning of the 19th century. In Lyon, the first rose garden was created at the Lyon Botanical Gardens (Jardin des Plantes) in 1805 after Joséphine de Beauharnais donated her collection. This gift stimulated the growth of rose gardens in Lyon.

The rose gardeners of Lyon had an impact on the worldwide history of the rose, with a golden age covering the period from 1850 to 1930. During this period, two famous rose gardeners, J. B. Guillot and Joseph Pernet-Ducher were outstanding and influenced a large number of rose creators. The most notable of these were: Bernaix, Bonnaire, Chambard, Dubreuil, Ducher, Lacharme, Levet, Liabaud, Schwartz and Meilland. We could add many other names to this list, since there were no less than seventy rose specialists in Lyon at the end of the 19th century.

These rose gardeners contributed to making Lyon a dominant influence in the world of roses. The descendants of many of these families are currently well-known creators. The saga continues today, particularly as concerns Meilland Richardier.

The major reasons behind the development of roses in the Lyon region are, on the one hand, the refinement of grafting on the crown of a wild rose seedling and the creation of **La France**, the first tea hybrid, by the son of J. B. Guillot (1967) and **Soleil d'Or**, the first yellow tea hybrid, by J. Pernet Ducher (1900).

Over 3000 rose varieties were born in Lyon and later commercialised. More than a hundred contain the word "Lyon" in their name, including **Belle Lyonnaise** (Lacharme 1854), **Merveille de Lyon** (Pernet Sr. 1882), **Prestige de Lyon** (Meilland 1994) and **Bijou de Lyon** (Schwartz 1882).

With a history like this, it is easy to understand why we want to preserve our heritage!

Spread over more than 100 hectares, the Tête d'Or Park is one of France's largest city parks. Designed in 1856, it features the first municipal botanical garden in France, a zoological garden renovated in 2006, and not less than three outstanding rose gardens:

- The large international rose garden, created in 1964 and inaugurated by Princess Grace of Monaco; this landscaped rose garden includes nearly 35 000 rose bushes.
- The Botanical Garden rose collection, with over 700 different varieties, shows the history of the rose from the first wild roses to modern roses. It offers a real trip through time with, of course, a nod to the famous rose gardeners of Lyon.

- The competition rose garden, where an international competition centred on the development of new roses has been held since 1937.

Lyon features other rose gardens, most notably on Fourvière Hill high above the city and in the eighth arrondissement, which was the favourite spot for rose gardeners in the 19th century, before urbanisation took over the area.

Lyon is justifiably proud of its heritage. Of course, our city is rich in historical districts classified as World Patrimony by UNESCO ⁽²⁾, but roses are also a part of this heritage.

The people of Lyon are proud of their city and of their traditions. Lyon is home to two national associations specialising in roses: the French Society of Roses and Old Roses of France. Since 1937, the French Society of Roses has organised a competition for the development of new roses. This competition pits new roses from around the world against each other and enables us to ascertain the best varieties according to different criteria: the flower itself, of course, but also the leaves and quantity of blossoms, as well as another key element: resistance to disease. The Old Roses of France association was created in 1995 by Odile Masquelier, who is known around the globe for her lectures on roses and her marvelous garden, "La Bonne Maison."

International Rose Garden, Parc de la Tête d'Or



These associations are part of a worldwide group, the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) ⁽³⁾. During its convention at Osaka in 2006, this federation awarded the Garden of Excellence label to the Park's international rose garden, ranking it as one of the world's 25 most beautiful rose gardens!

This is proof that a rose garden which has been maintained in a way that respects the environment can be of the highest quality and can provide pleasure for three million visitors a year through the beauty, magic and splendor of roses in a healthy, protected environment!

Following the advice of the president of WFRS, Gérard Collomb, the mayor of Lyon, accepted to propose the city, and more generally France, as a candidate to host the world congress of this prestigious federation, which counts over 100 000 rose enthusiasts among its member associations.

Thus, when we participated in the latest WFRS world congress in Vancouver on June 18 and 25, 2009, we presented Lyon as a candidate for organising a future meeting. This proposition was unanimously validated by the WFRS Executive Committee. After the next

world congress in South Africa in 2012, it will be Lyon's turn to welcome rose lovers from around the world in 2015.

Lyon and its roses have been exported to China in April and May 2010, where we participated first in a meeting organised by the Chinese Rose Society at Changzhou ⁽⁴⁾, then in the Universal Exhibition at Shanghai ⁽⁵⁾. We presented a garden featuring ancient and modern roses at the entrance to the French and Rhône-Alpes Region Pavilion. This exhibition, which hopes to welcome over 100 million visitors during six months, has as its theme: "A Better City, A Better Life", and centres on sustainable development.

"A Better City, A Better Life": what a beautiful showcase for roses in general and for Lyon roses in particular!

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125th Anniversary of birth of Pere Dot

Pilar López Rodríguez

**President of the Association Friends of the Roses
Sant Feliu de Llobregat, *city of roses*, January 2011**

Throughout the ages, the Mediterranean climate and the characteristics of its land have been key features for growing most plants and flowers here. These may be some of the reasons why a new profession –the rose breeder- arose in the late 18th Century and especially during the 19th.

In Spain, those who grew and bred rose bushes gathered together mainly on the outskirts of Barcelona and Valencia. Since the beginning of the 20th Century the most renowned rose breeders were Joaquim Aldrofeu, Francesc Bofill, Joan Bordas, Cebrià Camprubí and his children, Pere Dot and his children and grandchildren, Pilar Mata, Blas Munné and his children, Josep Pedrosa and Llorenç Pahissa - an amateur who was very successful in researching new rose varieties. All of them developed their activities in Catalonia, near Barcelona. In Valencia, the best known breeders were Francisco Ferrer and his daughter Matilde along with Vicente Muñoz. In Madrid, Angel Esteban, an amateur who stopped breeding just recently, and in Bilbao, Eugenio Fojo, a rose breeder for a store called La Florida, were also well known.



Pere Dot's Nevada with Roserie de l'Hay – photo the editor

All these people were renowned for obtaining new rose varieties. Out of all of them, Pere Dot i Martínez, born on 28 March 1885 in Torreblanca House, in Sant Feliu de Llobregat (Barcelona), was the one who achieved the greatest international recognition. From a very early age he showed an interest in the rose world, and by means of his research work he obtained very difficult crosses including those using *R. moyesii*. He also worked with Pernetiana Roses and Moss Roses to create a rainbow of colours never seen before. He was a pioneer in obtaining

miniature rosebushes and managed to get the **Si** rosebush, the smallest so far. In conclusion, he was a pioneer in creating shapes, colours and scents. Pere Dot created 176 varieties and won awards in different international contests on many occasions.

2010 was the 125th Anniversary of the birth of Pere Dot and the Association Friends of the Roses of Sant Feliu de Llobregat wanted to celebrate it. Therefore we set up a project which basically aimed to remember and keep alive the person and work of this rose breeder, to learn more about him and his research results, as well as to spread the information we gained to recognise him worldwide.

Following these aims, several activities were carried out throughout 2010. The most notable ones were as follows:

- To improve our acknowledgement of who Pere Dot was and what his research meant, we organised a national symposium called “Roses in Autumn” last November along with several conferences throughout the whole year. We designed and held some exhibitions; we created an award honouring Pere Dot for some Spanish Rose Contests (Madrid, Barcelona, Sant Feliu, Reus, Calella and Vendrell); we created graphic material such as posters, magazines, postcards and stamps honouring the Dot anniversary; and we defined and started the Rose Route in Sant Feliu, of which Pere Dot is the main character.
- In order to retrieve Dot's cultural and plant heritage, we contacted many national and international entities. We achieved remarkable collaboration agreements with the Rose Garden *Carla Fineschi* in Italy and the *Europa Rosarium of Sargerhausen* in Germany, as well as with several Spanish Rose Gardens, to obtain the plant material we needed to recover rose varieties nowadays only available in a few private and public collections. In 2010 we started this process of gathering Dot's varieties. We received 21 rose varieties from the *Europa Rosarium* which had already been grafted and which will be

planted in the *Dot and Camprubí Rose Garden* in Sant Feliu de Llobregat. These will increase our collection dedicated to Pere Dot and some samples will be also donated to other parks. Following this agreement, the Association Friends of the Roses sent back to the German park 15 varieties of rose bushes created by Pere Dot's children and grandchildren. During 2011 we expect to receive more plants from Germany as well as from other collections such as the Carla Fineschi one. In 2010 we also started the research into graphic and text documents such as catalogues, publications and mailing including Pere Dot's work.

- We worked to improve our acknowledgment about this rose breeder on a local level. We managed to get more citizens and individuals from Sant Feliu and other Spanish cities involved in our project and in Sant Feliu's rose tradition, pioneered by Pere Dot. Many people in Sant Feliu actively participated in the activities organised by the Association Friends of the Roses: they included Pere Dot in their special reports, they signed our manifesto of support and they committed themselves to sponsor the return of roses to our city. These are all activities aimed to regain Dot's plant heritage.
- We set up a documentary about the most remarkable features of Pere Dot and his creations, as well as the techniques he employed to obtain and grow rose varieties. During the making of this video, which will be shown for the first time next March, many people who had met him became involved. Besides, individuals and figures belonging to the worlds of art, culture and civic-mindedness expressed their opinions about the importance of Dot's heritage and message and its impact as an identity tool. This is another of our planned actions included in our project to spread the knowledge of the person of Pere Dot and to update his work. Following this aim, we also established a database with all the Spanish rose varieties, including of course those of Pere Dot and his heirs. So far this database includes around 450 varieties and it keeps on growing as a result of our research.

Though we consider the outcome of the activities held in 2010 as very positive, we are also aware of the fact that so far we have just laid the foundations of a potential project for learning, recognising, retrieving and spreading Pere Dot's persona and work. He was a rose breeder renowned worldwide for his discoveries and achievements in hybridising new rose varieties, as well as for his capacity to connect and communicate within the rose world of the 19th Century.

We would like to thank the World Federation the Roses Societies for the opportunity we were given to briefly explain our project in memory of Pere Dot. We would also like to thank its President, Mrs. Sheenagh Harris, who last May visited our city on the occasion of the National Rose Exhibition along with the President of the Spanish Rose Association, Mrs. Matilde Ferrer, and a delegation of judges of the Barcelona International Contest of New Roses. We would also like to use this bulletin as a tool to send a message to all rose lovers and ask those who may have information about this rose breeder, whether they would please be willing to share it with us by email amicsdelesroses@santfeliu.net. Our aim is to share our ongoing research work once it is finished.

The Great Redouté Sale - December 2010

Charles Quest-Ritson, England

English rose-lovers are a fairly phlegmatic bunch, but the sale of 52 original Redouté watercolours at Sotheby's, London, in December created a wave of excitement among the members of the Historic Roses Group of the Royal National Rose Society.

It was generally believed among rose-historians that the original 170 watercolours from which Redouté's famous lithographs were made had all been destroyed when the Tuileries Palace was burned to the ground during the Paris Commune in 1871. So our first surprise was to learn that any of them had survived through to 2010. Sotheby's historical research was impeccable, and they were able to put together the whole story of how it was that these important masterpieces had escaped destruction by passing out of the collections of the French royal family much earlier in the 19th century.

Redouté's *Les Roses* was printed in three volumes between 1817 and 1824. He had hoped to retain the original watercolours for himself, but was forced to sell them in straightened circumstances in 1828. They were bought by the French King, Charles X, as a present for his widowed daughter-in-law, Marie Caroline, Duchesse de Berry. After the July Revolution of 1830, the Duchesse fled to England, taking her paintings with her, and all 170 were offered for sale in the auction house of a Mr. Evans in Pall Mall in March 1831. The top bid of £420 came from a Major Thompson (who was thought to be a relation of Pierre Daninos) but did not meet the reserve, so the paintings were withdrawn and returned to the Duchesse. She retained them at her house in Venice, where she lived in exile, until she sold them to her sister, the Empress Teresa Cristina of Brazil, in 1854. After her death, they passed by descent to the Empress's daughter Isabel, Princess Imperial of Brazil, and her grandson Prince Pierre d'Orléans-Bragance. When he died in 1940 – or possibly after the death of his widow Princess Elisabeth in 1951 – the paintings were sold to the 2nd Lord Hesketh, and it was his trustees who sent them to Sotheby's in December.

The Historic Roses Group got involved rather by chance. I was asked by Sotheby's to help them to write their catalogue by commenting on the individual paintings and setting them in the more general context of rose growing at the time. I told them that the great expert on the period was Professor François Joyaux – I thought he was much better qualified to write about Redouté's roses than I was – but Sotheby's said that they wanted an English consultant, so I agreed to help out and duly delivered a 2 000-word essay on the background to Redouté's success as a painter of roses. I also studied the individual paintings at Sotheby's offices in London and later on a hi-res CD of them all. This was a fascinating exercise; the quality of the paintings was in general even higher than the well-known prints, though some were better done than others. I noticed, for example, that they all have a high degree of botanical accuracy and realism – the leaves, stems and prickles are always exquisite – but the quality of the flowers is variable; not all stamens have filaments and not all filaments lead to an anther. And sometimes the flowers lack depth. Some of the single flowered species were quite stunningly beautiful, though not as attractive horticulturally or commercially as better known cultivars with flowers full of petals. I also noted that all the paintings carried pin marks at their corners where they had been held on a board for lithographing.

And all of them were held within two immensely handsome Morocco folders embossed in gold with the royal arms of the Duchesse de Berry. I asked if I could give a short presentation at the Historic Roses Group Conference in October – which was readily agreed because my wife, Brigid, is the chairman and shared my excitement at being involved in the rediscovery of Redouté’s paintings. She had already invited Professor Joyaux to be the key speaker at the conference and he kindly agreed, in addition to his presentation on roses of Parmentier, to lead a question-and-answer session about Redouté and his roses. Gradually the Redouté watercolours grew to become one of the major themes of the conference. Bryony Kirby came from Sotheby’s – she had been responsible for compiling the catalogue – and Ursula Buchan came from *The Daily Telegraph* and wrote a most elegant piece about the paintings for *The Spectator*. One of our members mentioned that she also had two Redouté watercolours, bought at auction some 20 years ago. It was the first intimation we had that more of the 170 originals might somewhere still be safe in private hands. She said she would be interested to see what sort of prices the Hesketh paintings raised in December.



Several other members of the Historic Roses Group attended the auction in London. They, too, wondered what sort of prices the watercolours would fetch, bearing in mind that the auction also listed some highly desirable printed books, including Audubon’s *Birds of America* and a first folio edition of Shakespeare’s plays. In the event, there seemed to be two serious bidders for Redouté’s watercolours, and they were joined on occasions by a third. Almost all the lots exceeded their estimates but it was noticeable that the prettier paintings went for higher prices than the more botanical single-flowered ones. Some of these were sold in pairs and it was here, relatively speaking, that a bargain might be found.

The highest bid was £265 250 for **Quatre Saisons** but the presence of a persistent underbidder meant that the total price raised for the 52 paintings was £2.7m, against a high estimate before the auction of £1.9m – Sotheby’s were thrilled. But the surprise was to learn that, in the event, all the paintings, together with the fine leather folders, had been bought by the same person. Obviously Sotheby’s cannot tell us his name, but rumours on the sale-room floor suggested that he was neither European nor American, and so we assume that he comes from the Middle or Far East.

We hope that the success of this sale may serve to flush out more of Redouté’s paintings and that our members will have the pleasure of seeing them in the great auction rooms before they are offered for sale. Meanwhile, our member with two more Redouté rose-paintings is pondering their future.

Rose Sayings

Seeing things through rose coloured spectacles...a rose by any other name would smell as sweet...take time to smell the roses along the way...a rose between two thorns.

Tributes

Malcolm Watson

Jacqueline Humery

Mrs Jacqueline Humery passed away on Monday 4th April 2011.



Jacqueline was a horticultural journalist, Vice-President and member of the Publications Committee of the Society of the Val-de-Marne Rose Garden (L'Hay-les-Roses), member of the permanent judging panel at Bagatelle, Paris, and member of many international panels. She also represented the French Rose Society at meetings of the WFRS.

Jacqueline had a great many friends in the field of roses and was well known for her enthusiasm, joy of living and passion for this flower which unites us all. She wrote numerous articles concerning rose breeders throughout the world. Jacqueline received the World Rose Award in 2003 and celebrated her 90th birthday with friends last year on the day of the French rose trials in Bagatelle.

She will be remembered by her rosarian friends around the world.

Joseph Sieber

Professor Dr. Josef Sieber of Germany passed away during January – he was 90 years of age. Dr Sieber represented West Germany at the WFRS Council meeting in Oxford in July 1976, and was involved with the organising of the WFRS World Rose Convention in Baden-Baden in 1983 to coincide with the centenary of the German Rose Society. He attended WFRS World Rose Conferences in Jerusalem 1981, Toronto 1985, Sydney 1988, Belfast 1991 and Christchurch 1994.

Prof Sieber was elected as a Vice-President Europe (1) in Toronto and served in that capacity for 9 years. He was very involved as a member of the Classification and Registration Committee's working party and his Paper on the "Use of Roses in the 'Public Green', Streets, Parks etc." was tabled in Christchurch. For service to the WFRS he was awarded the Rose Pin in 1994.

Our condolences go to his family.

Myrtle Trimper

Mrs Myrtle Trimper passed away on Tuesday night, 26th April 2011.

Myrtle was well known in Australian rose circles for her work with the rose and constant support she gave her husband, the late Eric Trimper. Myrtle was a recipient of the Australian

Rose Award in 2004. Myrtle was the mother of Vice-President Kelvin Trimper and loved matriarch of this rose family. World rosarians offer their condolences to the family on their loss.

John Ruston

John Ruston, twin brother of our President Emeritus, David, passed away on Sunday 15th May 2011. All of us in the rose world value our friendship with David and our thoughts are with him in his loss.

Dates to Remember and Special Events

12th International Heritage Rose Conference – Sakura, Japan, May 2012

Details will be given in future editions and on the website when plans have been finalised.

maebara@heritgeroses.jp, www.heritageroses.jp/conference-sakura2011



16th World Rose Convention – Sandton, South Africa, October 10-18 2012



16th WORLD ROSE CONVENTION SANDTON, SOUTH AFRICA OCTOBER 11 TO 18, 2012

With only 16 months to go, progress on ROSAFRICA 2012 is accelerating at a great pace and we have pleasure in updating you on the following aspects of the Convention that have been finalised:

- ❖ The Convention venue, Rosebank Union, is gearing up for the event and the extensive gardens have had a wonderful facelift. Ludwig Taschner has planted 800 roses in the entrance gardens and the first blooming was very colourful. In October 2012 the roses will give a spectacular display welcoming delegates from around the world to the Convention.
- ❖ Each of the convention days will comprise of morning lectures followed by afternoon garden visits. Greater Johannesburg is well known for its beautiful private gardens and we are privileged to have an entrée to some of the best, including the Mayfair Mosque with 1 000 roses. Each visit will have its own personal touch organised and arranged by our very able gardening team. Some of these gardens will be featured in a South African Rose Garden Calendar to be sold at the convention 'rose shop'.

❖ To date eight international speakers have accepted our invitation to give presentations at the Convention. All experts in their particular fields, we are honoured to have Dale Akerstrom (Canada), Marcus Brunsing (Germany), Breda Copi (Slovenia), Gwen Fagan (South Africa), Hayden Foulds (New Zealand), Gerald Meylan (Switzerland), Melanie Trimper (Australia) together with Michael Marriott (United Kingdom). By the next communication we will have a more extensive list of speakers to share with you, which will include many other countries.

Your Convention Convenors are currently hard at work on finalising costings in order to keep prices as affordable as possible. Please consult the website www.rosafrica2012.co.za on a regular basis for further information

**World Federation of Rose Societies Regional Convention –
Palmerston North, New Zealand, November 22 – 28, 2013,**

For regular updates on the information for the convention, go to www.nzroses.org.nz

17th World Rose Convention – Lyon, France, June 3-9, 2015

Hosted by the Société Française des Roses 'Les Amis des Roses'

For more information, please contact [Maurice Jay](mailto:maurice.jay@free.fr), email: maurice.jay@free.fr

Special Report

**WFRS Garden of Excellence Award
Roseiral da Quinta do Arco – St. Jorge – Madeira
Sheenagh Harris – Photos Tony Alves**



Miguel Albuquerque's beautiful garden of old and modern roses on the island of Madeira, Portugal, was awarded the WFRS Garden of Excellence during the World Convention held in Vancouver in 2009. It contains the largest collection of roses in Portugal with 17 000 plants. There is an enormous collection of modern roses planted in beds arranged according to the breeders of which there are many from all over the world. There are climbers and ramblers over trellises,

up and over arches and around obelisks making a spectacular sight as one enters this walled garden with a wooded hill behind and the tranquil sea below.



As well as the many modern roses there is a large collection of old roses which are Miguel's favourite, and one of which any rose lover would be proud. At the entrance to the rose garden is an information board where the many types of roses are described creating an interest for all visitors and those eager to learn more about roses.

On Wednesday 18 May, a damp overcast day – the type of day when the many colours of the roses are at their best, a crowd of dignitaries congregated at the Roseiral da Quinta do Arco for the unveiling of the prestigious WFRS Garden of Excellence Award. In the presence of

the very proud owner Miguel Albuquerque with his charming wife Sophia, the Mayor of St Jorge, the Director of Agriculture and many others, I had the honour of unveiling the plaque for this special garden in front of a battery of journalists, TV cameramen and radio recorders. It was a happy and proud moment for the people of the local community and one which will help to foster the love of the rose amongst them.



Unveiling the Plaque



Sheenagh and Miguel in the garden near Bella Rosa

the very proud owner Miguel Albuquerque with his charming wife Sophia, the Mayor of St Jorge, the Director of Agriculture and many others, I had the honour of unveiling the plaque for this special garden in front of a battery of journalists, TV cameramen and radio recorders. It was a happy and proud moment for the people of the local community and one which will help to foster the love of the rose amongst them.



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Member Societies

The World Federation of Rose Societies is the international organisation for 40 National Rose Societies around the world representing more than 100 000 individuals who share a love of the rose.

Argentina	<i>Rose Society of Argentina</i>
Australia	<i>National Rose Society of Australia</i>
Austria	<i>Österreichische Rosenfreunde in der Österreichischen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft</i>
Bangladesh (Inactive)	<i>Bangladesh National Rose Society</i>
Belgium	<i>Société Royale Nationale 'Les Amis de la Rose'/Koninklijke Nationale Maatschappij "De Vrienden van de Roos"</i>
Bermuda	<i>Bermuda Rose Society</i>
Canada	<i>Canadian Rose Society</i>
Chile	<i>Asociación Chilena de la Rosa</i>
China	<i>Chinese Rose Society</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Czech Rosa Club</i>
Denmark	<i>Det Danske Rosenselskab</i>
Finland	<i>Suomen Ruususeura R.Y. – Finska Rosensällskapet R.F.</i>
France	<i>Société Française des Roses</i>
Germany	<i>Gesellschaft Deutscher Rosenfreunde E.V.</i>
Greece	<i>Hellenic Rose Society</i>
Hungary	<i>Hungarian Rose Society</i>
Iceland	<i>Icelandic Rose Society (IRS)</i>
India	<i>Indian Rose Federation</i>
Israel	<i>The Jerusalem Foundation</i>
Italy	<i>Associazione Italiana della Rosa</i>
Japan	<i>Japan Rose Society</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Lëtzeburger Rousefrënn/Association Grand-Ducale des Amis de la Rose</i>
Netherlands	<i>De Nederlandse Rozenvereniging</i>
New Zealand	<i>New Zealand Rose Society Inc.</i>
Northern Ireland	<i>Rose Society of Northern Ireland</i>
Norway	<i>Norwegian Rose Society</i>
Pakistan	<i>Pakistan National Rose Society</i>
Poland (Inactive)	<i>Polish Society of Rose Fanciers</i>
Romania	<i>Asociația Amicii Rozelor din România</i>
Russia	<i>Russian Association of Rosarians</i>
Serbia	<i>Royal Serbian Rose Society (Kraljevsko Udruzenje Ljubitelja Ruza Srbije)</i>
Slovakia	<i>Rosa Klub</i>
Slovenia	<i>Društvo Ljubiteljev Vrtnic Slovenije (Slovenian Rose Society)</i>
South Africa	<i>Federation of Rose Societies of South Africa</i>
Spain	<i>Asociación Española de la Rosa</i>
Sweden	<i>Svenska Rosensällskapet</i>
Switzerland	<i>Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Rosenfreunde</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Royal National Rose Society</i>
United States of America	<i>American Rose Society</i>
Uruguay	<i>Asociación Uruguaya de la Rosa</i>

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For contact details, see [The Rose Directory 2010](#)

Australian Rose Breeders Association
 Heritage Roses in Australia Inc
 Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos – Vlaamse Overheid (Agency for Nature and Forrest – Flemish Government)
 Royal Society for Agriculture and Botany
 Shanghai Botanical Garden
 Changzhou Gardening and Greening Management Bureau
 Shenzhen Remin Park & Shenzhen Rose Centre
 Taicang Rose Society
 Les Amis de la Roseraie du Val de Marne à L'Hay-Les-Roses
 Rosa Gallica Association (Inactive)
 Roses Anciennes en France
 Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France
 Fondazione Roseto Botanico "Carla Fineschi" di Cavriglia
 La Tacita S.R.L.
 "Hana no Miyako Gifu" Centre for Promotion of Flowers and Greenery
 The Rose Culture Institute
 Associació Amics de les Roses de Sant Feliu de Llobregat
 Quinta do Arco Rose Garden
 Scottish Sweet Pea, Rose & Carnation Society
 Ashdown Roses Ltd. (Inactive)

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