



'Max Graf'
Photo by Rolf Sievers

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
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Rosa x kordesii and Family

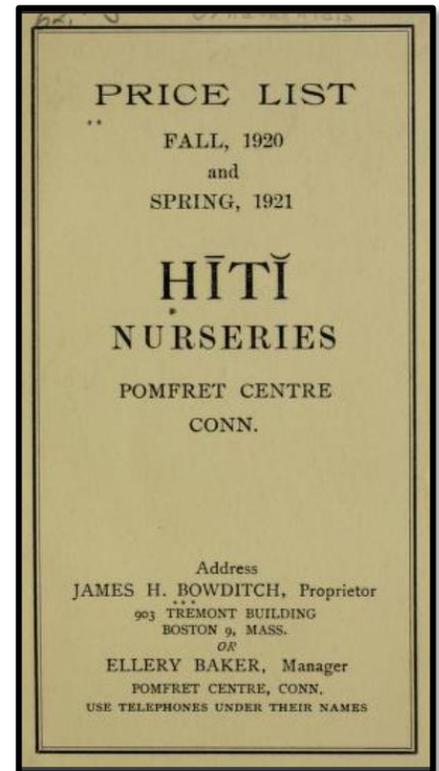
“Once in a while the energies of bird and insect join forces and a stray seed is dropped in fertile soil, producing in due time a plant that is new to the world.” So opens rose enthusiast William C. Egan’s 1920 description of a new trailing rose named ‘Max Graf.’ⁱ It had been discovered years earlier as a chance seedling in the garden of James H. Bowditch, owner of Hiti Nursery in Pomfret Center, Connecticut. Bowditch named the new rose ‘Max Graf’ in April of 1920.ⁱⁱ He described the once-blooming seedling as a “large single rose-pink abundant bloomer, handsome in bud, with very glossy beautiful foliage, strong grower.”ⁱⁱⁱ Originally thought by Mr. Bowditch to be a spontaneous hybrid of *R. rugosa* and *R. setigera*, Egan speculated that it was more likely a cross of *R. wichurana* and *R. rugosa* based on its foliage and growth habit. A measure of his rationale for this thinking was his familiarity with ‘Lady Duncan,’ a *R. wichurana* x *R. rugosa* cross, bred by Jackson Dawson in 1900 and sent to Egan for evaluation; “The leaves are nearly as glossy as Dawson’s rose – Lady Duncan - but not so large, while the flower is almost identical with those of the Dawson hybrid.”^{iv}

‘Lady Duncan’ - Photo by Roff Sievers



rebloomed, was very resistant to mildew and black spot, and produced hips with viable seeds. After crossing the surviving seedling with Hybrid Teas, Polyanthas, *R. multiflora*, and Rubiginosa hybrids, Kordes discovered the resulting offspring were extremely cold hardy, vigorous, brightly colored, and generally very healthy.

His published comments about the rose captured the attention of Dr. H. D. Wulff, professor of botany at the University in Kiel in northern Germany. Wulff undertook a lab study of ‘Max Graf,’ the new Kordes seedling (which Wulff named *Rosa kordesii*), and two seedlings raised from it. His findings were circulated in an article entitled (in English), “Max Graf and Its Progeny, with Special Reference to *Rosa kordesii* (The article



Wilhelm Kordes II obtained a plant of ‘Max Graf’ around 1925 according to German rose authority Gerd Krüssmann.^v In one account Kordes stated that based on its supposed *Rugosa* heritage he planted it on a south-facing wall, uncertain of its hardiness. Attempts to make crosses with it or to collect hips led him to believe it was sterile. However, in the fall of 1940 he unexpectedly found two self-pollinated hips on the bush. Seeds were sown in the spring of 1941 from which two seedlings were raised; one had typical shiny *Wichurana* foliage while the second displayed *Rugosa* influence. After being planted outside, the *Rugosa* type succumbed to winter temperatures (winter of ‘41-’42), but the other survived and flowered the next year (’43). Its flowers were loosely double and deep pink to rose in color, it

can be accessed at <http://bulbnrose.x10.mx/Roses/breeding/WulffKordesii1953.html> , or in the 1953 *American Rose Annual*, p. 111-122).^{vi} In addition to proposing that the parentage of *R. kordesii* was likely *R. rugosa* x *R. wichurana*, Wulff concluded that a spontaneous doubling of the chromosomes had occurred (from diploid to tetraploid) in the seedling that would successfully allow hybridization with modern reblooming roses.^{vii} [Ed. note; an article written by Dr. Volker Wissemann postulates that according to best taxonomic practice its name should be written *Rosa* x *kordesii*.^{viii}] Kordes and Sons began releasing the first hybrids in 1954 (See Table 1 for a list of the first decade of *R. x kordesii* related introductions). The following selections are described due to their enduring commercial success or because of the number of “progeny” found in their family tree.

‘Hamburger Phoenix’ (‘Hamburger Phönix’), introduced in 1954, is a cross of *R. x kordesii* and an unnamed seedling. Herr Kordes named it to celebrate the resurgence of the city of Hamburg years after the devastating Allied bombing of 1943. Its rich crimson, semi-double flowers appear in Floribunda-like clusters and are nicely contrasted by dark green glossy foliage. It will grow to roughly 8’ or more in height depending on pruning. It won the hearts of German rose growers and quickly replaced old favorites. Sam McGredy would use it to produce the red Floribunda ‘Maxi’ which in turn figured prominently in the creation of his hand-painted roses. Helpmefind.com/roses lists nine generations of offspring.

Kordes used the Brownell rose ‘Golden Glow’ as the pollen parent to produce ‘Leverkusen,’ a lemon yellow climbing rose also released in 1954. Its informal double flowers, often having ruffled edges, are said to have a sweet fragrance. A rose descended from ‘Leverkusen’ that has a nice following here in Georgia and Florida is named ‘Edith Schurr’ – a heavily petaled yellow blend Shrub rose with great fragrance. Although ‘Leverkusen’ is available in the U.S. it is more widely available in Europe.

In 1955 the very well known ‘Dortmund’ was introduced. In this instance, *R. x kordesii* was the pollen parent rather than seed parent. A vintage *Roses of Yesterday and Today* catalog description bears repeating, “A profusion of very large sprays of 3 inch single flowers on strong stems are luminous, brilliant red with a touch of white at the center and have a pungent, delightful fragrance.”^{ix} The very shiny, thick textured foliage has a holly-like appearance. Its vigor is well-documented – ‘Dortmund’ can cover an 8’ x 8’ section of lattice in short order. In my early days as a rose grower, specimens of this variety were exhibited at every rose show I attended. Much confusion ensued when novice rose enthusiasts were told it wasn’t a climber! Some regular dead-heading will keep ‘Dortmund’ blooming continuously throughout the season unless one desires a rose-hip bush! It has been a prolific parent – HMF lists multiple generations of descendants. Ralph Moore used it to create a number of intriguing roses, perhaps most notably ‘Shadow Dancer,’



Top: *R. x kordesii*
 Photo by Robert Rippetoe
 Middle: ‘Hamburger Phoenix’
 Courtesy of ruze.wi.cz
 Bottom: ‘Leverkusen’
 Photo by Vera Dousova



a vigorous climber with rose-pink lightly double flowers splashed and striped in light pink and white. Another variety out of 'Dortmund' that has caught my attention recently is 'Dancing Pink.' Its deep pink semi-double flowers appear in large sprays all through the growing season on a plant that grows to 3-4'. Lovers of Floribundas may want to keep an eye out for this variety. Mike Shoup, of the Antique Rose Emporium, has introduced 'Fires of Alamo,' a single Hybrid Tea. Everything about it is reminiscent of 'Dortmund' with the exception of its 3-4' height. Of interest locally is a self-pollinated 'Dortmund' seedling raised by Malcolm Manners, Professor of Horticultural Science at Florida Southern College and trustee of the Heritage Rose Foundation. Noting the lack of rose names beginning with the letter "x", Malcolm named his seedling 'Xiuhoatl' (the mythological fire serpent of Aztec culture). Its single flowers are a blend of pinks with a white eye and are produced abundantly throughout the growing season. The habit of growth is slightly more restrained, more like a small climber. It has produced a more exuberantly growing darker pink sport which he named 'Lois Manners.'

'Parkdirektor Riggers' was released in 1957, a cross of *R. x kordesii* and the dark red Floribunda 'Our Princess.' Velvety crimson semi-double flowers borne in large clusters adorn this vigorous rose. One grower praises it for its "abundance of brilliant red blooms that don't fade, don't get blue, don't get sunburned, and don't in the least react to rain or thunderstorms. [They] just flash their redness for weeks, and then there's more, and then there's more, and it goes on like that until the frost freezes over the last blooms." 'Parkdirektor Riggers' is upright growing, perhaps more suited for pillar than

Top: 'Edith Schurr' - Photo by Al Whitcomb

Middle: 'Dortmund' - Courtesy of Roozita

Bottom: 'Shadow Dancer' - Photo unattributed

Above: 'Dancing Pink'
Photo by Cindy Dale



'Fires of Alamo' - Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Xuhcoatl' - Photo by Malcom Manners



*'Parkdirektor Riggers'
Photo by David Austin Roses*



*'Dusky Moon'
Photo by Rose Ceruti*

pergola. Its leathery dark green foliage is relatively healthy. Because the Hybrid Tea 'Silver Jubilee' appears in its family tree, 'Parkdirektor Riggers' influence can be found in eleven generations of roses. A random selection of distant relatives includes 'Stadt den Helder,' 'Lady of the Dawn,' 'Livin' Easy,' 'Blue For You,' and 2020 Best Australian Bred Rose – 'Dusky Moon.'

'Sympathie' was introduced in 1964, a cross of 'Wilhelm Hansmann,' and 'Don Juan.' It is sweetly scented and has twenty to twenty-five velvety dark red petals that are said to be very rain resistant. In 1966 'Sympathie' was selected as an ADR winner for its better than average black spot resistance and great resistance to powdery mildew. Comments suggest it performs better in full sun and will grow to 10' or more. Its profusion of bloom and robust habit account for its enduring commercial success.



Left:
'Lady of the Dawn'
Photo by
Ray & Paula Martin



Right:
'Sympathie'
Photo by
Kordes & Sons

Austrian born Felicitas Svejda is also known for her work with *R. x kordesii* to create hardy, disease-resistant roses for the Canadian market. Initially working with cereal crops upon moving to Ottawa, Dr. Svejda began work with roses in 1965. Although she first utilized the diploid Hybrid Rugosas in her hybridization program she quickly began working with the tetraploid *R. x kordesii* and several seedlings bred by Robert Simonet (perhaps most notably 'Red Dawn' x 'Suzanne'). Circa 1970 Dr. Svejda, against all odds, raised an open-pollinated tetraploid seedling from 'Max Graf,' similar to that discovered by Wilhelm Kordes, which she named G12. Among the named roses raised by Dr. Svejda, eighteen are classed as Hybrid Kordesii. Some are characterized by a climbing habit of growth much like the Kordes introductions and some have a more contained shrub-like appearance (See Table 2 for a comprehensive list). As with the Kordes roses, descriptions of some of the more commercially successful follow in order of introduction. A side note – some are not widely available or are only available in limited quantities.

'Champlain,' introduced in 1982, was named for Samuel Champlain, a French explorer that in 1608 founded the settlement that would become Quebec. It has dark red, lightly double flowers and is a prolific bloomer with good repeat. 'Champlain' is one of the more compact of the Explorer Roses and is reported to be hardy to zone 4 with some protection. Evaluations of disease resistance vary based on climate, but are generally favorable. It has been used fairly widely in breeding programs; Dr. Svejda used it to produce two other Explorers – 'Louis Jolliet' and 'George Vancouver.' It can also be found in the family tree of the very black spot resistant variety, 'Cape Diamond,' bred by Christian Bédard, and in David Zlesak's Proven Winners selection 'Oso Easy Petit Pink.'



Above: 'Champlain' - Photo by Paul Zimmerman

Below: 'Cape Diamond' - Photo by Weeks Roses



The 1984 introduction 'Henry Kelsey,' was named for a young English explorer known for his travels to the mid-west provinces of Canada. This cultivar is a vigorous climbing type with fragrant bright crimson semi-double blossoms featuring prominent golden stamens – one grower calls it a “traffic stopper.” Although resistant to powdery mildew, it may need black spot prevention in some regions. Expect some winterkill in zones two and three. Although not widely used as a parent, it deserves mention for its role in the creation of William Radler’s ‘Ramblin’ Red.’



The rich pink 'Frontenac' was released in 1992. It is a complex hybrid that has a strong dose of *R. x kordesii*, *R. spinosissima*, and *R. laxa* in its genetic background. About it Dr. Svejda wrote, “‘Frontenac’ combines the attributes I had aimed for: hardiness with a long flowering season and high flower production, and resistance to powdery mildew and blackspot. It compares well to 'Champlain' in flowering attributes but is improved in hardiness and disease resistance. It is a bush rose with semi-double pink flowers; it should be more popular than it is, but a pink rose does not seem to have the appeal of a red rose.”^x 'Frontenac' is one of the bush types that will grow to about four feet and is reported hardy to zone 2b. As a parent it has produced a number of very black spot resistant offspring including, 'Canadian Shield,' 'Campfire,' 'Never Alone,' 'Oscar Peterson,' and 'Simon Fraser.' An article entitled “Locking the Doors to Rose Black Spot,” co-authored by Dr. David Zlesak, points out that 'Frontenac' contains a gene that possesses unique resistance to a nine out of thirteen races of black spot thus making it a desirable parent in the effort to breed black spot resistant roses.^{xi}



'George Vancouver,' introduced in 1994, has both *R. x kordesii* genes, those of Dr. Svejda's G12, and those from Simonet's cross of 'Red Dawn and 'Suzanne.' Named for the English explorer that charted the Pacific coastline of North America, its lightly fragrant double flowers are red to rose-pink and appear throughout the growing season on a plant that will grow three to four feet in height and width. Dr. Zlesak's research notes that 'George Vancouver' has the same black spot resistance gene found in 'Frontenac.' 'Oso Easy Petit Pink,' a 2019 American Rose Trials for Sustainability (A.R.T.S.) Master Arts awardee (and 2012 Proven Winners selection, is a second generation descendant of 'George Vancouver.'

Top: 'Henry Kelsey' - Photo by High Country Gardens

Middle: 'Frontenac' - Photo by G. Shellrude

Bottom: 'George Vancouver' - High Country Gardens

1994 was also the year 'Quadra' was released. The pairing of the release of 'George Vancouver' and 'Quadra' in the same year was not coincidental. Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra was a Peruvian-born explorer for the Spanish government. As a junior officer he had been part of an expedition that mapped the Pacific coast of Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska in 1775. After spending years in Peru and Spain Quadra was made commandant of the Spanish settlement at Nootka in 1791 after a series of incidents between Spain, Great Britain, and the United States over territorial rights. Upon English Captain George Vancouver's arrival in 1792 the two became friends and joined one another in several expeditions. Nootka Island was near a larger island, which Vancouver proposed naming the Island of Quadra and Vancouver. As the Spanish presence declined the island's name was shortened to Vancouver Island. The rose named for the Spanish explorer is a rich red in color with sixty plus petals. Both *R. x kordesii* and Simonet's 'Red Dawn' x 'Suzanne' appear in its family tree. It has a climbing habit of growth and has outstanding resistance to fungal diseases, having the same gene found in 'Frontenac' and 'George Vancouver.' Although no registered offspring are listed it has been used by several amateur hybridizers and appears to have potential as a parent.

'William Booth,' named for the founder of the Salvation Army, was introduced in 1999. The single-flowered blooms, appearing in clusters, begin a rich rose-red before fading to pink. It has a climbing/sprawling habit of growth and is well armed with prickles. *R. x kordesii*, Dr. Svejda's G12, and Dr. Griffith Buck's 'Applejack' can be found in its ancestry accounting for its zone 2b hardiness. Its glossy foliage is disease resistant due to the presence of the previously mentioned gene mapped by Dr. Zlesak. A number of unregistered seedlings are listed on HMF along with the newly introduced 'Cherry Frost,' a Biltmore and A.R.T.S. award winner.

'Felix LeClerc,' bred by Dr. Svejda, was not introduced until 2007 well after her retirement. The cross was made in 1977 and was evaluated for a few years but due to lack of interest the variety was set aside. In addition to *R. x kordesii*, the cultivar has a triple dose of Simonet's 'Red Dawn' x 'Suzanne.' It was finally released from the Agricultural Canada Research Station in L'Acadie, Quebec as part of the Canadian Artist Series. Named for a Canadian songwriter, 'Felix LeClerc' is a lightly fragrant double pink cultivar with a climbing habit of growth. The matte green, holly-like foliage is very resistant to black spot and the plant is reported to be hardy to zone 3b. Several roses with outstanding resistance to black spot that are descended from 'Felix Leclerc' include the above mentioned 'Frontenac' and 'Quadra,' and their offspring.



Top: 'Quadra'

Courtesy Pepiniere Cramer

Middle: 'William Booth'

Photo unattributed

Bottom: 'Felix LeClerc'

Courtesy landscapeOntario.com

A breeding program for hardy roses was begun in Balsgård, Sweden in 1985. Plants of Dr. Svejda's L83 (see Table 2 for parentage) were obtained to incorporate more winter-hardiness, recurrence, and resistance to fungal diseases in roses appropriate for Swedish garden conditions. Four roses were released in 2000 bred by Dr. Ulrika Carlson-Nilsson.^{xii} 'Anna' and 'Irma' are both crosses of 'Sunsprite' x L83 and were named for the hybridizer's grandmothers. 'Anna' is a very double pink to salmon-pink climbing variety reported to be very resistant to powdery mildew and rust. 'Irma' has a bushier habit of growth with very fragrant light pink blooms densely packed with petals. 'Balder' is a bright red almost single-flowered rose with bright yellow stamens. It is very recurrent and is reported to be the hardiest of the four. A cross of 'Nina Weibull' and L83 it bears the name of a Norse god. Also named for a Norse god, 'Freja' is a rich pink semi-double flowered climber with excellent resistance to powdery mildew and rust. It resulted from a cross of 'Sympathie' x L83.



Upper left: 'Anna' - Photo by rosensdag.org

Upper right: 'Irma' - Photo by Kajsa Sjödin

Lower left: 'Balder' - Photo by Flora Linnea

Lower right: 'Freja' - Photo by Flora Linnea

A number of hybridizers believe that the Kordes and Explorer *Rosa kordesii* cultivars still have a lot of breeding potential. Canadian hybridizer Paul Oleson suggests that “hybridizing cultivars of the two types within themselves could potentially obtain more variation in the progeny.” In particular hybrids utilizing Dr. Svejda’s L83 seem to offer progress in cold hardiness and disease resistance. Although L83 may be difficult to obtain, hybrids having it as a parent or grandparent are commercially available. A short list includes: ‘Canadian Shield,’ ‘Cape Diamond,’ ‘Cherry Frost,’ ‘Felix Leclerc,’ ‘Frontenac,’ ‘Louis Jolliet,’ ‘Marie-Victorin,’ ‘Prairie Celebration,’ ‘William Booth,’ and ‘George Vancouver.’



‘Morning Blush’
Photo by Rolf Sievers
‘Maiden’s Blush’ x
‘Hamburger Phoenix’



‘Northern Yellow’
Photo by Rolf Sievers
‘Morgengruss’ x
‘Morgengruss’ x *R. gallica splendens*



‘Red Blush’
Photo by Rolf Sievers
‘Maiden’s Blush’ x
‘Hamburger Phoenix’



‘Rosarium Uetersen’ - Photo by Anastasia Safronova; ‘Karlsruhe’ x unnamed seedling

Table 1: First Decade of Kordes & Sons' Hybrid *Kordesii*

Cultivar Name	Year	Parents	Comments/Notable Offspring
'Hamburger Phoenix'	1954	<i>R. kordesii</i> x seedling	9 generations in family tree!!
'Leverkusen'	1954	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Golden Glow'	'Edith Schurr'
'Wilhelm Hansmann'	1955	<i>R. kordesii</i> x Polyantha	'Sympathie'
'Flammentanz'	1955	<i>R. eglantheria</i> seedling x <i>R. kordesii</i>	Not widely used
'Dortmund'	1955	Seedling x <i>R. kordesii</i>	7 generations in family tree!
'Zweibrucken'	1955	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Independence'	No offspring listed
'Aurora'	1956	<i>R. kordesii</i> x seedling	No offspring listed
'Koln an Rhen'	1956	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Golden Glow'	No offspring listed
'Bengt M. Schalin'	1956	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Eos'	No offspring listed
'Ilse Krohn'	1957	'Golden Glow' x <i>R. kordesii</i>	Not widely used
'Karlsruhe'	1957	<i>R. kordesii</i> x seedling	'Rosarium Uetersen'
'Parkdirektor Riggers'	1957	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Our Princess'	11 generations in family tree!
'Bad Neuenahr'	1958	<i>R. kordesii</i> x seedling	'Silver Jubilee'
'Norwich Pink'	1958	Listed as a <i>Kordesii</i> , but w/o parentage	No offspring listed
'Norwich Salmon'	1958	Listed as a <i>Kordesii</i> , but w/o parentage	Not widely used
'Ritter von Barmestede'	1959	<i>R. kordesii</i> x seedling	No offspring listed
'Raymond Chenault'	1960	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Montezuma'	No offspring listed
'Alexander von Humboldt'	1960	<i>R. kordesii</i> x 'Cleopatra'	No offspring, name reused
'Illusion'	1961	<i>R. kordesii</i> x seedling	Used some by Canadian hybridizers
'Morgengruss'	1962	'Cleopatra' x <i>R. kordesii</i> or reverse	3 generations in family tree
'Gruss an Koblenz'	1963	? <i>R. kordesii</i> x <i>R. eglantheria</i> seedling	4 generations in family tree
'Munchener Fasching'	1963	Listed as a <i>Kordesii</i> , but w/o parentage	No offspring listed
'Ilse Krohn Superior'	1964	Reblooming sport of 'Ilse Krohn'	Not widely used
'Sympathie'	1964	'Wilhelm Hansmann' x 'Don Juan'	7 generations in family tree!

Table 2: Dr. Svejda's Cultivars With *Kordesii* Influence

Name	Intro	Year of Cross/Parents	Comments/Notable Offspring
'John Cabot'	1978	'69/ <i>R. kordesii</i> x D14	4 seedlings reported
'Champlain'	1982	'73/L02 x D08	Widely used; 'Louis Jolliet,' 'George Vancouver,' 'Cape Diamond,' 'Petit Pink'
'William Baffin'	1983	'74/(<i>R. kordesii</i> x D15) x op	Limited registered offspring; 'Friend's Forever'
'Henry Kelsey'	1984	'71/ <i>R. kordesii</i> x D24	Limited registered offspring; 'Ramblin' Red.'
'John Davis'	1986	'77/OP seedling out of <i>R. kordesii</i> x D08	Not widely used. 'Lambert Close'
'Captain Samuel Holland'	1990	'81/(<i>R. kordesii</i> x D15) x 'Felix Leclerc'	No listed descendants
'Louis Jolliet'	1990	'83/L83 x E12	'Cape Diamond'
'Frontenac'	1992	'81/B08 x 'Felix Leclerc'	Widely used. 'Canadian Shield,' 'Campfire,' 'Never Alone,' 'Oscar Peterson,' 'Simon Fraser'
'Simon Fraser'	1992	'86/B04 x 'Frontenac'	No listed descendants
'George Vancouver'	1994	'83/L83 x E10	'Petit Pink'
'Quadra'	1994	'81/B08 x 'Felix Leclerc'	Lots of new interest
'Lambert Close'	1995	'83/'Arthur Bell' x 'John Davis'	No listed descendants
'Nicolas'	1996	'83/B08 x L03	No listed descendants
'Royal Edward'	1996	'82/ <i>R. kordesii</i> x [<i>R. kordesii</i> x (S45 x 'Zeus')]	No registered descendants
'De Montarville'	1997	'82/(A15 x L76) x op	No listed descendants
'Marie Victorin'	1998	'84/'Arthur Bell' x L83	'Cape Diamond,' 'Party Hardy'
'William Booth'	1999	'84/L83 x A72	'Cherry Frost'
'Felix Leclerc'	2007	'77/L25 x D25	Widely used. 'Captain Samuel Holland,' 'Frontenac,' 'Quadra,' 'Campfire,' 'Canadian Shield,' 'Oscar Peterson,' 'Simon Fraser'

Key to Parents:

A15 is 'Queen Elizabeth' x 'Arthur Bell'

A72 is 'Arthur Bell' x 'Applejack'

B04 is 'Bonanza' x ('Arthur Bell' x D15)

B08 is A15 x ("Double Red Simonet" x 'Von Scharnhorst')

D07 is a unique OP seedling out of S45 - 'Red Dawn' x 'Suzanne'

D08 is a unique OP seedling out of S45 - 'Red Dawn' x 'Suzanne'

D09 is a unique OP seedling out of S44 - 'Red Pinocchio' x ('Joanna Hill' x *R. spinosissima* 'Altaica') bred by Robert Simonet

D14 is a unique OP seedling out of S42 - 'Masquerade' x *R. laxa*; bred by Robert Simonet

D15 is an OP seedling out of D07

D24 is an OP seedling out of D09

D25 is an OP seedling out of D07
 D36 is S67 x 'Von Scharnhorst'
 E10 is a unique seedling out of L15 x 'Champlain'
 E12 is a unique seedling out of L15 x 'Champlain'
 G12 is Dr. Svejda's proprietary tetraploid OP 'Max Graf' seedling.
 G43 is an OP seedling out of G12
 G49 is ('Max Graf' x OP) x OP
 L02 is *R. kordesii* x G12
 L03AgCan is an OP seedling out of L78/*R. kordesii* x 'Applejack'
 L15 is a unique seedling out of *R. kordesii* x D07
 L25 is a unique seedling out of *R. kordesii* x D07
 L76 is *R. kordesii* x D24
 L78 is *R. kordesii* x 'Applejack'
 L83 is *R. kordesii* x G43
 S42 is 'Masquerade' x *R. laxa*; bred by Robert Simonet
 S44 is 'Red Pinocchio' x ('Joanna Hill' x *R. spinosissima* 'Altaica') bred by Robert Simonet
 S45 is 'Red Dawn' x 'Suzanne' bred by Robert Simonet
 S67 is "Double Red Simonet"



'Rosy Vision'
 Photo by Dr. Neville Arnold
 L83 x 'Dornröschen'

"To live with people or roses happily, we must do something for them. Let's learn to love to do those necessary things."

- Mrs. P. D. Fulwood, 1949 ARS annual, p. 13



'Morgengruss'
 Photo by Josef Babij
R. kordesii x 'Kleopatra'



'Morning Love'
 Photo by Andrea Braun
 'Morgengruss' x 'Baby Love'

The Fighting Temeraire

David Austin's penchant for naming roses after characters from British literature, eminent British citizens, architectural features, and friends and family is well-known. In 2011 a new rose introduction was named by David Austin Roses, LTD for a celebrated British painting of a legendary 19th century British naval vessel, HMS *Temeraire*.

The 98-gun ship was launched in 1798 and commissioned one year later. She served during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars primarily on blockade or escort duty in the English Channel. At the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805, *Temeraire* went into action immediately astern of Admiral Horatio Nelson's flagship, HMS *Victory*. During the battle the ship and its crew came to the rescue of the beleaguered *Victory*, and fought and captured two French ships, winning much heralded acclaim in Britain as "The Fighting Temeraire." After repairs, she continued operations in support of the Royal Navy for another dozen or so years. No longer considered seaworthy the ship was moored and used for a variety of in-port functions. In 1838 the *Temeraire* was towed up the Thames River to be sold for scrap.

This last event was memorialized in a painting by well-known British artist J. M. W. Turner (1775-1851). He began exhibiting watercolor landscapes at the Royal Academy in 1790 and was soon recognized as a prodigy. After receiving a number of commissions, Turner was able to open a studio in London. Having lived on the banks of the Thames River as a child his naturalistic landscapes often featured marine scenes. In 1838 Turner was witness to the well-publicized scene of the *Temeraire* being towed up the Thames. The resulting painting, first exhibited in 1839, was celebrated as "an elegy for the passing age of sail," as a "grand image of the last days of one of Britain's bulwarks," and "as grand a picture as ever figured on the walls of any academy, or came from the easel of any painter". Its sunset is a brilliant fanfare of honor. The *Temeraire* appears in white and gold, a rapturous icon. Turner named the painting, "The Fighting Temeraire, tugged to her last berth to be broken up, 1838." During its exhibition it was accompanied by a line of text, liberally



'Fighting Temeraire'
Photo by David Austin Roses



The Fighting Temeraire by J. M. W. Turner

“borrowed” from *Ye Mariners of England* by Thomas Campbell, “The flag which braved battle and breeze, no longer owns her.”

Although offered vast sums Turner never sold the painting, keeping it in his studio until his death in 1851. In his will he bequeathed the work to his homeland of Britain. The painting is currently housed in London’s National Gallery notably located in Trafalgar Square. In a 2005 BBC poll it was voted the nation’s favorite painting.

The rose, ‘Fighting Temeraire,’ is among a very small group of English roses that are single or semi-double. Its color is a luscious blend of apricot, yellow, and pink. The eight to twelve petaled blooms frequently exceed five inches (12.7 cm) in diameter and have a delightful, fruity fragrance. The glossy, medium green foliage is reasonably resistant to black spot and the plant has an arching habit of growth reaching 5’ x 5’ (1.5 m x 1.5 m) or more. No parentage is given for the cultivar.

Although probably not a cut flower variety, the T-Rex sized blooms really make ‘Fighting Temeraire’ a 98-gun splash in the garden. I have started a new English border featuring species roses, heritage roses, perennials, flowering shrubs with colorful foliage, bulbs, herbs, and annuals; ‘Fighting Temeraire’ should fit in quite nicely.



In 2020 Turner’s portrait and his famous painting were featured on the Bank of England’s £20 note.

From the Editor

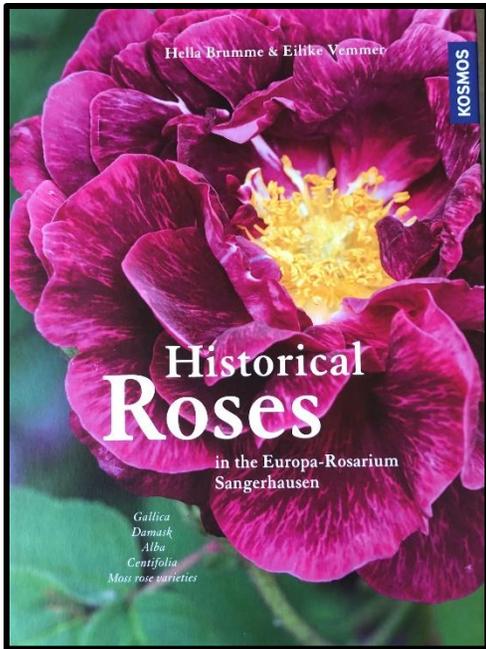
Another rose season has begun here in Middle Georgia. The *R. banksiae* family has been spectacular, *R. laevigata* and *R. fortuniana* are in bloom and the Spinosissimas are awakening. Surprisingly, some modern hybrids are also showing color.

Seedlings harvested last fall are beginning to bloom. One particular cross involving ‘Prairie Celebration’ and a seedling out of ‘My Wild Irish Rose’ is proving to be extremely fertile - I will begin making designed crosses with it this year. Tentatively named “Watermelon Man” after the Herbie Hancock jazz/rock classic, it is very resistant to black spot. Hopefully offspring will also demonstrate this trait.

I continue to browse old *American Rose* annuals. An article co-authored by Raymond Fisher and Dr. Dennison Morey in the 1963 annual discusses broadening the gene pool in garden roses by incorporating species roses. Several comments are especially relevant in the ongoing breeding of more cold-tolerant, remontant roses. “. . . the only feasible chance of reaching this stage is by arousing the interest of enough amateurs to produce species derivatives with essential characteristics (160).” And, “Liaison between all interested persons and groups will dictate the eventual nature and development of the pool (165).” The significance of these prophetic words is heightened in light of the difficulties faced by commercial rose businesses.

For lovers of the Old Garden Roses a newly available book is an outstanding resource. Entitled *Historical Roses in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen*, the book represents extensive research done by Hella Brummer and Eilike Vemmer focused on the Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia, and Moss classes. The photos





and descriptions are excellent. English translation was done by Past President of the World Federation of Roses Societies, Helga Brichet. My copy came from Europe and took awhile to arrive, but it was well worth the wait.

North American Sources (Retail & Mail Order)

With the advent of the new Kordes roses, the older Hybrid Kordesii types from Kordes are getting harder to find (other than 'Dortmund!'). 'Rosarium Uetersen' has a nice following here in the Deep South. Dr. Malcolm Manners' roses are available from several warm climate rose specialists. The Canadian hybrids with *R. kordesii* influence are becoming more available. The Swedish varieties don't appear to be available in North America.

Antique Rose Emporium – www.antiqueroseemporium.com – has 'Rosarium Uetersen'
Corn Hill Nursery – www.cornhillnursery.com – has Canadian & cold climate roses in limited quantities
Heirloom Roses – www.heirloomroses.com – a go-to nursery with a broad variety of roses
High Country Roses – www.highcountryroses.com – a great selection of Canadian bred roses
Hortico Roses – www.hortico.com/roses - got great plants this year
Palatine Roses – www.palatineroses.com – great budded plants, great selection
Rogue Valley Roses – www.roguevalleyroses.com – has some hard-to-find varieties
Rose Petals Nursery – www.rosepetalsnursery.com – has 'Rosarium Uetersen' & Malcolm's roses
Roses Unlimited – www.roseunlimitedsc.com – has 'Rosarium Uetersen'



'Morden Centennial' x 'John Davis'
Hybridized by Paul Olsen



'Prairie Princess' x 'Henry Kelsey'
Hybridized by Paul Olsen



'Prairie Celebration'
'Orangeade' x '83
Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Aurora Borealis'
complex hybrid with 'Frontenac' influence
Photo by Jeffries Nurseries

Singularly Beautiful Roses

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Endnotes for *Rosa x kordesii* and Family

- ⁱ Egan, Walter C., "The New Trailing Rose, Max Graf," *The American Rose Annual*, Harrisburg: American Rose Society, PA, 1920, 55-56.
- ⁱⁱ Ibid, 166. Mr. Egan notes that "Mr. Graf" was the foreman of the nursery, however, Bowditch doesn't give credit to Mr. Graf for discovering it. He only states that it originated at his nursery. Efforts to trace Max Graf through ancestry.com have not provided much insight.
- ⁱⁱⁱ *Hiti Nursery Catalog*, 1920, 9.
- ^{iv} Egan, 55.
- ^v Krüssmann, Gerd, *The Complete Book of Roses*, Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1981, 97.
- ^{vi} Wulff, Dr. H. D., , "Max Graf and Its Progeny, with Special Reference to *Rosa Kordesii*," *The American Rose Annual*, Harrisburg: American Rose Society, 1953. The German version, "*Rosa kordesii*, ene neue amphdiplode Rose," was published in *Die Züchter*, 21, 1951, 123-132.
- ^{vii} Ibid, 121.
- ^{viii} Wissemann, Volkner, www.unidiesen.de/cms/fb2/fb08/Inst/botanik/spezbot/mitarbeiter/vowi1.
- ^{ix} *Roses of Yesterday and Today*, 1982, 18.
- ^x Svejda, Felicitas, *The Canadian Explorer Roses*, London, Ontario: National-Roses-Canada, 2008, 31.
- ^{xi} Zlesak, David, Zurn, Jason, Hokanson, Stan, Bassil, Nahla, and Bradeen, Jim, "Locking the Doors to Rose Black Spot," *The American Rose*, September/October, Vol. XLVI, No. 11, Shreveport: American Rose Society, 2020, 75-81.
- ^{xii} Carlson-Nilsson, Ulrika, "Four Novel Swedish Rose Cultivars," *HortScience*, Vol. 39, Issue 1, 2004, 198-200.