



'Doorenbos Selection'

Singularly **B**eautiful **R**oses

*A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
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Early 20th Century English Pillars and Climbers

In a fashion that we may be seeing reoccurring at the beginning of the 21st century, the rose world was experiencing great change as the calendar turned from 1899 to 1900. The relatively new practice of deliberate hand-pollinated hybridization was producing a myriad of diversity in the world of roses. Emerging out of this renaissance were roses that were genetically blended, having traits derived from both parents. A quote from a July 5, 1902 issue of *The Garden* gives some insight into how the world of roses was evolving; “Now with the wholesome growth of all good gardening, many new garden Roses have been produced, and now there are not only Roses for beds but Roses for bushy masses, for rambling into trees, for tumbling over banks and boulders, for crowning low walls, and Roses so various in habit that there are kinds to suit gardens that are in immediate connexion [sic] with the most refined architecture as well as those of the best cottage class.”



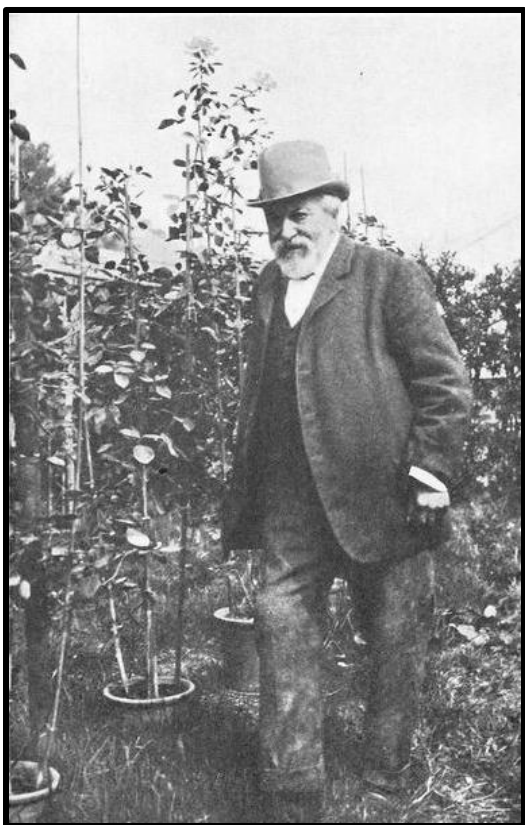
‘Paul’s Single White’
Photo by Mark of Le Rose di Piedimonte
Lazio, Italy

Accompanying this high tide of rose production was an ever-increasing number of single-flowered roses of all classes, many reflecting efforts to create remontant hybrids out of the older once-blooming types. Several classes were created in Britain’s grand rose shows that specifically called for single-flowered blooms. A number of rose firms found commercial success with these simple beauties and for a period of several decades they enjoyed a season of unparalleled popularity.

Among a number of single, remontant roses was a unique white flowered cultivar introduced by the well-known firm of Paul and Son in Cheshunt, England at the time led by George Paul, Jr. It is variously known as ‘Paul’s Single White Perpetual,’ ‘Paul’s Perpetual White,’ or ‘Paul’s Single White’ (the current approved ARS name). The following was reported, also, in the July 5, 1902 edition of the *The Garden*; “In 1883 the distribution of a seedling single Rose, ‘Paul’s Single White,’ was somewhat timidly ventured; it met with approval, and led to Mr. Paul’s sending out, at Mr. Robinson’s suggestion, ‘Paul’s Single Crimson,’ and later on ‘Carmine Pillar’ (see below).” Records show that ‘Paul’s Single White’ was used in a rose show as early as 1889 (a class calling for a Collection of

Any Other Summer-Flowering Roses, July 4, 1899 issue of the *Journal of Horticulture, Cottage Gardener, and Home Farmer*, p. 11). Another very competitive class in British rose shows in early 1900’s called for a dinner table exhibit, usually comprised of what today might be described as a modern arrangement decorating a dinner table setting. Single-flowered roses of several classifications were favored for this class - “Mrs. O. G. Orpen, who has previously shown exceedingly tasteful dinner-table decorations, won 1st prize in Class 66, which was for a decoration of cut roses for the dinner table using in this instance the beautiful variety ‘Paul’s Single White’ (July 8, 1905 issue of *The Gardener’s Chronicle*, p. 38).” Early sources labeled it a hybrid perpetual probably because it had a second season of bloom later in the growing season. Over the years it has been classified by a majority of sources as a hybrid perpetual, by some as a form of musk rose, and by William Paul, George’s uncle, a noisette perpetual. In *Modern Roses XI* its ARS horticultural classification was changed from hybrid perpetual to noisette. ‘Paul’s Single White’ is a large growing plant (6’ x 8’ when left to build up on itself) according to Graham Thomas with sweetly scented blush white single flowers. He also reiterates the belief that it is closely related to *R. moschata*.

Several other single or nearly single roses from Paul and Son and generally classified as hybrid perpetuals include three that have disappeared from commerce, the aforementioned ‘Paul’s Single Crimson’ (1883), ‘Cheshunt Scarlet’ (1889), which was “among the best roses from 1874 to 1902” according to William Paul, and ‘Royal Scarlet’ (1899), a seedling from ‘Cheshunt Scarlet.’



George Paul, Jr.
from 1922 ARS Annual, p. 136.

A number of other hybrids give evidence of the trend to attempt crosses between disparate rose families. In 1895 Paul and Son introduced 'Carmine Pillar,' a tall growing seedling of the dark red hybrid perpetual 'Gloire de Margottin.' It is assumed by many to have *R. multiflora* genes in it based on its vigorous habit of growth (10' – 12'), but is variously classed as a climbing hybrid tea, a hybrid china, or a hybrid multiflora. It flowers early in the season with little to no repeat. The nearly single large cherry red flowers have a small white eye and although it is rare in commerce 'Carmine Pillar' can be found in some gardens in Europe. Another Paul and Son introduction, the hybrid canina, 'Una,' (1898) followed shortly on 'Carmine Pillar's' heels representing another unique pairing of roses. Most consider it a cross between *R. canina* and a tea, perhaps 'Gloire de Dijon,' an apricot/pink and yellow tea noisette. Its buds are yellow, opening to creamy white single or almost single flowers three to four inches in diameter. Some scattered rebloom can be expected on a mature plant. Like 'Carmine Pillar' and the other roses mentioned above it was often grown as a pillar rose although it could form a wide, sprawling thicket if left to grow without trellis or pillar support. 'Una' found its way into Britain's rose shows, appearing in collections that called for multiple specimens of single-flowered roses.



'Una'
Photo by Ursula Tretowska



'Carmine Pillar'
Photo by Lili Rose

That George Paul, Jr. found some success with his single-flowered introductions can be seen in the continued release of many unique hybrids, including: 'Dawn' (1898), cl. tea/bourbon; 'Atropurpurea' (1899), rugosa/damask; 'Miss Willmott' (1899), a rare single-flowered tea/?; 'The Lion' (1901), multiflora/tea; 'The Wallflower' (1901), multiflora/tea; 'Ariel' (< 1910), cl. tea; 'Alexandra Zarifi' (< 1910), tea/hybrid tea; 'Mrs. A. Kingsmill' (1911), laevigata/?; and 'Paul's Himalayica' (1916), brunonii/musk.

The firm of B. R. Cant and Sons, located in Colchester, recognized the growing popularity of single-flowered roses and introduced their first such hybrid in 1904, 'Maharajah,' a deep velvety crimson ten petalled hybrid perpetual. The flowers of this National Rose Society Award of Merit winner were quite large for a single-flowered rose, sometimes five inches in diameter, and were born in trusses of three to a stem. Its vigorous habit of growth made it a good candidate to be treated as a pillar rose. A September 24, 1904 issue of *The Gardener's Chronicle* (p. 397) reported that 'Maharajah' was beautifully exhibited at a fall show in London in a class for autumn flowering roses. Unfortunately, it has been lost to commerce.

Another cultivar introduced by the Cant family was 'Mrs. O. G. Orpen,' a summer flowering damask or macrantha hybrid. The bloom on this tall growing variety were wonderfully described in a 1906 issue of *Gardening Illustrated*; "The flowers are large, each fully 4 inches across, and of a bright rosy-pink colour. There are two rows of petals, therefore one cannot call it a single Rose. The blossoms are produced in clusters of seven to twenty, and as they expand irregularly the season of flowering is considerably prolonged. The rich golden anthers give the flower a still greater attraction. It is a charming sort to use for table decoration, and has frequently been so employed by the lady whose name it bears (p. 523)." The Orpens were a very successful husband and wife team of amateur rose exhibitors also from Colchester (her name appears quite frequently in rose show reports as seen in paragraph three above) and great friends of the Cant family. Mr. Orpen is credited with hybridizing the rose and bringing it to the Cants for commercial introduction. Although it was thought to be lost to commerce the Rogers website reports that it has recently been rediscovered growing in New Zealand.

First appearing in the Cant catalog in 1915 was a once-blooming climber/pillar named 'Cupid.' A National Rose Society Award of Merit winner, its rather large four to five inch crepe-textured flesh-pink flowers arrive early in spring and are followed by a crop of enormous hips. No information was released about its parentage, but it was labeled a climbing hybrid tea. Additionally, the firm of B. R. Cant and Sons, under the leadership of son Cecil, would go on to introduce quite a few single-flowered hybrid teas - a story for another article.

At the same time George Paul, Jr. was discovering the commercial potential of single-flowered rose hybrids throughout Britain, his cousin Arthur William Paul was establishing his own name as a preminent rosarian. Through the mid 1920's he would be responsible for the introduction of a number of historically significant roses, most notably 'Ophelia' in 1912. Mr. Paul also experimented with a number of



(Above) 'Mrs. O. G. Orpen'
Photo from *Roses and Rose*
Growing by Rose Kingsley

(Below) 'Cupid'



crosses of vastly different roses. One of his early efforts was a multiflora or wichuriana hybrid named 'Buttercup' (1909), a tall growing, summer flowering rose with large clusters of smallish yellow single blooms. It would seem to hint that Mr. Paul had an idea in mind regarding a repeat flowering yellow climbing rose.

Although he would also release a dozen or more single or nearly single flowered hybrid teas through the first two decades of the twentieth century none would attain the lasting heritage of his cross of *R. bracteata* and an unknown double yellow tea rose. The unlikely pairing produced around a dozen seedlings one of which was a soft primrose yellow almost evergreen surprisingly remontant climber. It was named 'Mermaid' and after receiving Gold Medal honors from the National Rose Society in 1917 the rose quickly gained immense popularity despite its tender nature. Jack Harkness records an account of a visit made by then Secretary of the National Rose Society, Mr. Courtney

Page, and hybridizer Sam McGredy (II) to the Paul business in 1919; "Unexpectedly we came upon a large breadth of cutbacks of 'Mermaid', and what a sight it was! The sun had only recently broken through the autumn mist, and the beautiful shining foliage was still wet with dew. There were blooms by the thousand, enormous ones, too, many being five or six inches across. We stood admiring them for some considerable time, when suddenly Mr. McGredy turned to Mr. Paul and said "I have seen the sight of my life, it's simply magnificent. I would not have missed it on any account (*Roses*, p. 45)." (Editor's note: the two following photographs generously shared by Sylvana Erbice of Lombardy, Italy hint at the

garden-eating habit of growth that 'Mermaid' possesses.)



'Buttercup'

Photo by Mia Grondahl



'Mermaid'
after 1 year's
growth



'Mermaid'
after 2 years

One cannot talk about this rose without mentioning how noticeably the golden yellow stamens enhance the softer yellow color of its blooms or without mentioning its superior resistance to black spot. Despite these desirable traits, it will most likely create frustration for gardeners outside climate zones 7a and warmer. Furthermore, it would be to one's advantage to wear appropriately armored clothing when working around it.

In today's rose world most of the roses mentioned above exist only in collections where space and historical purpose allow them to be grown. New-and-improved roses have taken their place. However, a look backwards provides unique insight into the amazing way that roses have and will continue to delight and enrich our lives.

Who's who in the Paul family: The original **Paul & Son** nursery business was opened in 1806 by Adam Paul, in Cheshunt, England. His sons, George Sr. and William kept the firm going after his death in 1847. William left the firm and opened his own nursery **Wm. Paul and Son** in nearby Waltham Cross in 1860. William Paul distinguished himself as a well-known author and book collector as well as an important rosarian. Upon his death in 1905 his son Arthur William Paul assumed leadership of **Wm. Paul and Son**. George Paul, Jr. continued to run **Paul & Son** until his death in 1921. Arthur William Paul sold the **Wm. Paul and Son** business to the Chaplin Brothers in the early 1920s.

There's a Pink Flamingo in My Yard!

I assume that we all on occasion have a new favorite rose. It's happened to me this growing season – again. As with 'Mutabilis,' a rose I wrote about several issues ago, this rose is one that I'd seen randomly advertised in various catalogs but had never gotten around to purchasing. At this moment I can't remember when or where I first became familiar with it, but last fall I was browsing through an on-line rose catalog and there it was. Several weeks later it traveled cross-county and arrived in my Georgia garden.

My new favorite rose is 'Flamingo.' Many may remember a hybrid tea with the same name that was all the rage a number of years ago that had to be exhibited as 'Herfla' - this isn't it. My 'Flamingo' was introduced in 1956 by Wayside Gardens. It was hybridized by Fred Howard, the Howard portion of the famous California nursery Howard and Smith, and is a cross of *R. rugosa* 'Thunb.' and the single hybrid tea 'White Wings.'

If possible I always like to discover if there is a back-story behind the roses I write about. This one proved a mystery. Mr. Howard was an extraordinary horticulturist. At the age of 17, in 1890, he opened a nursery business with George Smith in what would now be downtown Los Angeles. They moved the business, which specialized in cannas, dahlias, carnations, and geraniums to nearby Montebello in 1905. Always a hybridizer, he began to turn his attention to roses in the early decades of the 20th century. The 1916 ARS Annual identified him as one of the up and coming rose pioneers of America (p. 45). Just two years later, in 1918, his hybrid tea, 'Los Angeles,' won a Gold Medal in the Paris competition at Bagatelle. Over the next thirty years he introduced over one hundred roses, almost all hybrid teas. Of his roses still in commerce (+/- 15), all are hybrid teas with the exception of one – 'Flamingo.' How does a hybrid *rugosa* fit into this picture?

After doing some higher order deductive reasoning that would have made Sherlock Holmes proud I recalled that Howard and Smith had commercially introduced 'White Wings' in 1945. The hybridizer of 'White Wings' was Alfred Krebs who lived and owned a nursery in Montebello, California. Voila! Alfred Krebs and Fred Howard were nurserymen and rosarians living in the same community. Apparently the unique contrast of 'White Wing's' crisp white petals and burgundy red stamens inspired Mr. Howard to breed for a hybrid with similarly colored stamens. Or, perhaps he sought to create a seedling with the tantalizing fragrance of *R. rugosa*.

Whatever his goals, a seedling resulted that is bright pink, has its pollen parent's burgundy stamens and is deliciously scented. The single-flowered blooms are large and arrive singly and in small clusters. Author and *rugosa* authority Suzanne Verrier has described it as "a flamingo pink version of 'White Wings' (*Rosa Rugosa*, p. 21)." My own root plant grew to 3' in a #3 gallon container in just one growing season and one contributor to HMF/Roses recommends that it should be given plenty of space to grow. Its matt green foliage has proven to be relatively disease resistant if not quite as healthy as the other *rugosa* hybrids in my garden. Anyone for some pink flamingo yard art?



'Flamingo'
September
2012



Sally Sells Seashells Down by the Seashore

In the last issue of Singularly Beautiful Roses I wrote about 2 new shrub roses with outstanding black spot resistance – ‘Thrive’ and ‘Miracle on the Hudson.’ I would like to highlight another similarly terrific cultivar that has proven to be equal if not superior in that same regard. ‘Seashell Sands’ arrived in my garden almost three years ago as a young plant grafted on fortuniana root-stock. It was hybridized by Mike Athy of New Zealand in 1996. Bud wood was given to Paul Zimmerman who in turn passed it on to Geoff and Debbie Coolidge of Cool Roses in West Palm Beach,

Florida. A visit to Mike Athy’s website will reveal photographs of some enticing new varieties of roses – hybrid teas, shrubs, floribundas, and patio roses. Mike has been breeding roses for nearly twenty years in Gisborne, a community on the east coast of New Zealand’s north island. One of his stated goals is to produce trouble free garden roses that serve as prolific flowering landscape plants.

‘Seashell Sands’ resulted from a cross of a seedling of ‘Flower Carpet ® Pink’ and ‘Knockout.’ Its five petals are an intense, bright pink with a small white blotch at the base. The 2½” blooms arrive singly and in large clusters, and the plant is almost perpetually in flower. New foliage is bright shiny green with red margins and turns to a rich dark green shade. The leaves appear even more beautiful by virtue of the conspicuous absence of black spots – no diplocarpon, cercospera, or anthracnose. Expect it to grow 3’-4’ in height and width although I anticipate that my plant grafted on fortuniana will grow larger. In an email Mike commented that ‘Seashell Sands’ requires next to no care and blooms ten months out of the year. Paul Zimmerman was responsible for choosing the very apropos name and for getting it registered in 2011. Sorry, I couldn’t resist the tongue twister.

‘Seashell
Sands’



From the Editor:

Here in Georgia the growing season is winding down, but I will still have some beautiful blooms – last year my ‘Alister Stella Gray’ was still flowering on Thanksgiving day. Here in zone 8b the arrival of the first frost is quite unpredictable. I’ve been collecting hips and harvesting seeds and also trying to get this year’s seedlings ready for colder weather. I’m also doing some shovel pruning, evaluating what stays, and deciding how to make room for a few new purchases.

Once again I want to say thank you to a number of folks who generously shared photographs with me: Ursula Tretowska of Mazowieckie, Poland; Mia Grondahl of Sweden; Lili Rose of Central Bohemia, Czech Republic; Mark, owner of Le Rose di Piedimonte in Lazio, Italy; and Silvana Erbice of Lombardy, Italy (credits listed with photos). As I believe outstanding photos are the backbone of this newsletter I cannot express the full extent of my appreciation. Their generosity speaks volumes about how roses draw people together despite our diversity.

For those wondering, “Why an article about early 20th century pillars and climbers?,” I’m expecting a plant of ‘Paul’s Single White’ from Vintage in the next year. Also, I just got ‘Mermaid,’ although I haven’t decided where to put it yet. When I began writing the article it was entitled “Single-Flowered Hybrid Perpetuals”, but as I got deeper into my research and discovered that ‘Paul’s Single White’ isn’t officially classed as a HP I changed directions. I was also going to write about Alister Clark’s ‘Sunday Best’ (a single CIHP) but it’s possible that the plant I have may be misidentified. Oh well – Serenity Now.

In conclusion, please consider supporting HMF - its value as a resource is incalculable.

Sources:

‘Paul’s Single White’

Vintage Gardens: vintagegardens.com

‘Una,’ ‘Carmine Pillar,’ ‘Buttercup’

Not available in the U.S.

‘Mrs. O. G. Orpen’

Recently thought to have been rediscovered in New Zealand

‘Cupid’

Greenmantle Nursery: greenmantlenursery.com; Rogue Valley Roses: roguevalleyroses.com; Vintage Gardens: vintagegardens.com

‘Mermaid’

Angel Gardens: angelgardens.com; Antique Rose Emporium: antiqueroseemporium.com; Countryside Roses: countrysiderose.com; David Austin Roses: davidaustrinrose.com; Greenmantle Nursery: greenmantlenursery.com; Heirloom Roses: heirloomroses.com; Rogue Valley Roses: roguevalleyroses.com; Roses Unlimited: roseunlimiteddownroot.com; Vintage Gardens: vintagegardens.com

‘Flamingo’

Rogue Valley Roses: roguevalleyroses.com; Vintage Gardens: vintagegardens.com

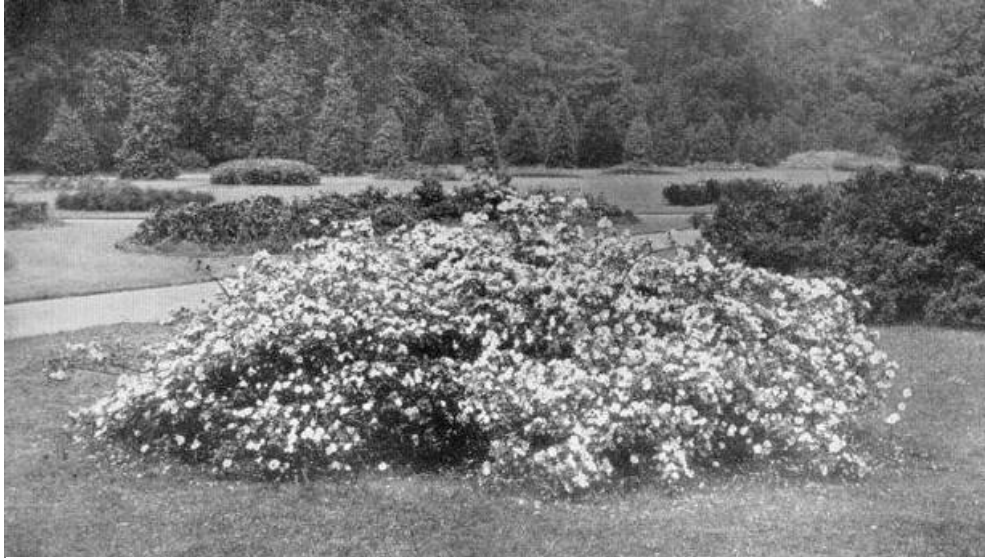
‘Seashell Sands’

Cool Roses: coolroses.com

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Please feel free to share this newsletter! Photos by Stephen Hoy unless otherwise noted. B & W photos used with permission.



(Above) Photo of a bed of 'Una' grown at Key Gardens
from 1912 NRS Annual

(Below) Photo of 'Paul's White Single'
from *Roses for English Gardens* by Gertrude Jekyll and Edward Mawley, p. 10.

