



Newsletter

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*The illustration above is of 'Rosa Mundi'
by James Sagmiller. This artwork was used on
the front cover of the first issue of Rosa Mundi,
the journal of the HRF, in Autumn, 2005.*



HRF President Mike Shoup, Malcolm Manners, and Stephen Scanniello, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, June 2025.

President's Note

MIKE SHOUP

The afterglow of our conference in New York still lingers, where we had the pleasure of visiting glorious gardens and listening to evocative programs on rose preservation. What particularly struck me was the far-reaching impact rose preservation has within the international community. HRF has contributors from many countries, and learning from Inés Díaz de Licandro about her efforts in Uruguay to save their heritage roses and garden was inspiring.

We are so grateful that generous donations have allowed us to support the the Jay Heritage Center in Rye, New York and restoration of some of the roses in the Harlem Rose Project. Be sure to visit these gardens if you are in the area. We have also provided infrastructure support to the American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA, and purchased replacement heritage roses for the “4th Circle” garden. These programs promote the importance of our mission of education through public visitation.

We are so grateful for Stephen Scanniello’s dedication to HRF and wish him all the best in his retirement. His humor, expertise and presence as President will be missed. We are providing \$1500 to the Remember Me Rose Garden (Shanksville, PA) to put a stone and plaque honoring Stephen and the HRF for our contributions to their garden, along with planting additional heritage roses.

We have also donated \$2,500 to create five \$500. scholarships in honor of Dr. Malcolm Manners, who recently retired as a professor at Florida Southern College.

These scholarships will be awarded by Alpha Gamma Rho (one per year) at their Annual National Convention. The recipient will be selected with an area of study of Horticulture or closely related and who has achieved elevated levels of excellence in scholarship, leadership, citizenship, brotherhood, activities, and service as did Dr. Malcolm Manners.

And finally, on future endeavors, we are excited to announce a spring convention in Tyler, Texas, where we will share more updates on the joy of seeing roses preserved and passed on. (See more info in future newsletter, mailing and social media.) These programs are a testament to our collective efforts and dedication to our mission. I am grateful for your continued support and commitment to preserving heritage roses for future generations to enjoy. Together we can continue to spread the word around the world. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and to continue working together towards our shared goals. Thank you for all you do. 🌹



HRF Conference, New York City, 2025.

President Emeritus

ANITA CLEVENGER

In 1985, Stephen Scanniello became the curator of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden's Cranford Rose Garden. His main qualification was his willingness to take on the assignment. He was told, "Here it is—have fun!" And then, he recalls ruefully, they closed the gates behind him.

What was a young, charming rose neophyte to do? He decided to go to every possible rose event that he could. The BBG had a budget that would allow him to stay in hotels and rent cars, and he spent it. He "went to the front and met everybody." Soon, he "got to know all the people." He fell in love with the names and stories of the roses and wanted to share what he'd learned with others. He wrote rose books, led two other great public rose gardens, designed gardens, started heritage rose projects, maintained private gardens and kept on attending every heritage rose event, where people crowded to the front to meet him.

Over the years, he befriended many rose-loving celebrities, starting with Julie Andrews, who would visit the Cranford while starring on Broadway in *Victor/Victoria*. He also got to know Martha Stewart and Bette Midler. He became a celebrity in his own right, called "The

Rock Star of Roses" by the *New York Times* and recognized as a "Great Rosarian of the World."

In 1989, the HRF held their second membership meeting at the 3rd International Heritage Rose Symposium at the Huntington Gardens, California. Stephen participated in an HRF-convened committee about rose identification, which had 15 members from five countries. He remained active with the HRF, ultimately elected president in October, 2004.

A few years ago, he joked that he was "President for Life." This was an exaggeration, but just barely. Even as he steps down as president, he has assumed the well-earned title of "President Emeritus," recognizing his distinguished service and ongoing contributions. Stephen remains a member of the HRF Board of Trustees and will continue to advocate for heritage roses.

For more information about Stephen, visit his webpage, www.stephenscanniello.com, read several personal accounts from fellow rosarians in this newsletter, and enjoy a few photos that show him at some of the many rose events he attended.

Thank you, Stephen! 🌹



HRF Conference, Loseley Hall, UK, 2014.



Photo by Malcolm Manners.

Robert Mercer, Jennie Watlington, Stephen, Mrs. Lowe, Charles Walker, Mike Lowe, Judy Holly, Peter Beales, WFRS Regional Conference in Bermuda, 1987.



Photo by Malcolm Manners.

Visiting André Eve with Betty Vickers, Etienne Bouret, before HRF conference in Lyon, France, 2007.



Photo by Anita Cleverger.

Stephen with Barbara Oliva, Sacramento HRF Conference, 2012.



Photo by Malcolm Manners.

Back row: Victoria Bradshaw, Stephen, Maureen Detweiler, Odile Masquillier, Marilyn Wellan, Betty Vickers; Front row: Ann Bird, Miriam Wilkins, Barbara Worl. Mme President HRF event, 2007.



Photo courtesy of Malcolm Manners.

Girija Viraraghavan, Malcolm Manners, Dr. Wang Guoliang, Stephen, Viru Viraraghavan. Great Rosarians of the World, 2016.



Photo courtesy of Brad Jalbert.

Bette Midler, Stephen, Brad Jalbert, NYBG fundraiser, 2019.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Scammiello.

Planting bulbs at Morris Jumel Mansion in Harlem, 2021.



Photo by Malcolm Manners.

Stephen judging at Bagatelle with the Kordes and Betty Vicker, 2007.

Volunteering in Rose University

DIEGO CELIS

I met Stephen 10 years ago when I texted him to ask if I could use a picture of 'Harison's Yellow' he posted on the Heritage Rose District of NY Facebook page. He planted this rose on the Broadway corner of Trinity Cemetery, part of the former Audubon farm, resting place of both J. J. Audubon and George Harison (not to be confused with one of The Beatles, as Stephen liked to remind you in his mocking way). He proceeded to invite me to meet him and volunteer. Little did I know he'd open my eyes to a world related to roses I didn't know existed. I refer to it as Rose University. He selflessly taught those around him history, conservation, gardening tricks, and garden gossip. He introduced us to interesting people breeding new roses or saving rare ones from oblivion. Trinity Cemetery was his base camp for Hamilton Grange, the Morris Jumel mansion, Harriett Tubman Memorial, planters on the Broadway medians and community events. Through his vision I saw this part of Upper Manhattan with rose-colored glasses!

Most of my volunteer time with him was at the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden in the New York Botanical

Garden. Stephen liked to get an early start. In frigid March, he was chopping roses like there was no tomorrow. By Rose Weekend in June, everything was perfect. I volunteered there from 2015 until rules changed that ended garden volunteers in 2018. We stayed in touch, and I visited Elizabeth Park with him in Hartford, CT in 2021.

Stephen was the glue that held together so many people and places in the rose world. His smooth talk made you laugh and also made things happen. In his tenure as HRF president he volunteered countless hours as a consultant in several projects at once, asking for donations, grants and whatever it took. If he dreamed it, he could easily convince you to join him and make it a reality. The mileage on his car is proof. He never thought twice about getting behind the wheel at 5am and heading to any endeavor that attracted his attention. There was always a mission to attend and friends to meet: he summoned whoever was needed to help him accomplish it. He would drive through several state lines to get a rare rose he heard about.

His books are peppered with stories of roses he deems worthy of growing. If you can follow him into the garden where such a rose grows, the stories come to life. A living specimen, he tells you, named after the lover of an English king or a humble lady who inherited it like a family heirloom, more valuable than any gemstone because they tell stories of migration and survival. He loves to dig into the origin of 'Harison's Yellow,' explaining that it originated near Penn Station and traveled further than any of the

trains leaving it. The photo that led me to meet Stephen shows how 'Harison's Yellow' serves as the centerpiece of the historic rose district he helped create, cascading down a corner of the cemetery to remind you that it's a living piece of history we need to save. 🌹



Stephen with the author at Elizabeth Park, 2021?

'Harison's Yellow,' Trinity Cemetery, New York City.

Thoughts on Stephen Scanniello

MALCOLM MANNERS

I think I've known Stephen Scanniello for about 35 years. While there are many things I could say about this good friend, two projects stand out in my memory.

As many HRF members know, Florida Southern College has had a large collection of heritage roses, for many years, as part of our rose mosaic virus heat-therapy program. We started with a small garden of about 50 plants, then later, planted another garden with around 150 roses. In 2012, I was informed that the college planned to use that land for a different purpose, and that my rose garden would be removed. They assured me that space would be found for a replacement garden. So, we propagated the collection and had it all in large pots. Eventually, I was shown a plot of land that was proposed for the new garden, and I agreed that it would be a good place to grow roses. They suggested that I should design the garden, but I said that since FSC is known for its architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright, Nils Schweizer, and Robert Stern, they really should consider hiring a "real" garden designer and do the job right! They agreed but said they did not know of any garden designers. I said "well, I do!" and recommended that they hire Stephen for the job. On his first visit to the proposed site (a former soccer practice field), he stood in the center of it and said "so, we have an ugly parking lot to the north, Frank Lloyd Wright to the east, an out-of-place Italian renaissance garden to the south, and a building that looks like the State penitentiary to the west. And you want me to design a rose garden that ties all those together?" I said "yes!" Then Stephen said "OK, I think we can do that!" As he designed and developed what is now known as Ruth's Rose Garden, he incorporated design elements from Roseraie de L'Hay in France, the great arbor in the Orders Beds at the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, London, the gardens of the Cistercian Abbaye Royale de Chaalis, France, as well as structural elements that complemented Frank Lloyd Wright's surrounding architecture. Stephen spent many hours in the hot Florida sun, often working with our students, laying out the new garden. Stephen visited the campus multiple times during the building and planting process. While, as at most institutions, various groups and individuals tend to find fault with almost anything

that is done, in this case, I think absolutely everyone was completely delighted with the result! Ruth's Rose Garden, with its nearly 300 roses, is surely a highlight of the campus, and contributed greatly to FSC twice winning the "Most Beautiful Campus in America" award.

The other aspect of my long friendship with Stephen, for which I will always be grateful, is his getting FSC and my students involved in the New York Heritage Rose District. From the beginning of that project, he encouraged us to propagate and provide heritage roses for planting in various gardens throughout Harlem, and to bring groups of students each spring to plant, prune, weed, mulch, and otherwise maintain those gardens. It was a wonderful service-learning experience for our students, and the gardens turned out beautifully. In the process, they gained great respect for Stephen and his horticultural and design knowledge. Many of our students were members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, the social and professional fraternity of agriculture. Some of them suggested that it would be appropriate to make Stephen an honorary brother, and so on one of his visits to the campus, he was initiated into AGR.

I will always appreciate Stephen's dedication to the Heritage Rose Foundation and its purpose in preserving heritage roses. His leadership has carried us along well for many years. As he "retires" from his role as HRF president, I want to thank him for that great service. 🌹



The author with Stephen at FSC, 2020.

Stephen Scanniello—The Generous Gardener

PAM SMITH

As a newbie to the rose world, I met Stephen when he came to Farmers Branch for Rose Dango sometime around 2010. Although it now sounds improbable, I only kind of knew who he was. I was into collecting rose books and his name was on several that had found my way to my bookshelf. I was running the event, so there was not much time to get to know each other, although I observed he was constantly surrounded by rose enthusiasts. No surprise—he had me involved in the Heritage Rose Foundation in a short time.

As I was building up the garden in Farmers Branch, he was reaching out and guiding me in the selection of old heritage roses. I would come to the American Rose Center in Shreveport, LA, to learn how to prune heritage roses there. We would eat pie at Strawns in Shreveport,

and he introduced me to other great people in the horticultural world. I would join him and others to plant roses in Harlem. We did programs together at Wyck in Philadelphia. He even got me on the judging team for the International Bagatelle Rose Trials in Paris. He mentored me professionally and helped me to spread the word on the Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch. His generosity was so valued. I know many have experienced this same generosity.

I am also blessed to call him a friend. We have shared meals from coast to coast. We have celebrated our grandparenting moments. We have mourned the loss of a dear friend. We laugh together. And yes, we tell our stories. The generosity of his friendship is the real gift, and I know it will continue to grow through the years to come. 🌹



The author, Stephen, Liz Druitt and Connie Hilker at Peaceable Kingdom Retreat, Texas HRF meeting, 2017.

Learning from an Expert

ANITA CLEVENGER

Climbing roses were a highlight of the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. Nearly 40 different varieties clambered up trees, trailed along the wrought-iron perimeter fence and grew over rebar tripods, arches and domes. Climbing roses can be vigorous to a fault and overwhelm a garden and the people who care for it. How best to train and prune them? In 2015, the volunteers decided to ask Stephen Scanniello, author



Stephen in pruning regalia.

of a book about climbing roses, to conduct a pruning workshop for the cemetery volunteers and other rose enthusiasts. This started a six-year tradition that was the rose lover's equivalent of a circus coming to town. We had fun and learned how to get the most out of our roses.

One thing led to another. Rose societies throughout Northern California clamored for the opportunity to have a world-renowned expert and entertaining speaker come to their meetings. The Woodland Public Library Rose Garden Society is dedicated to an award-winning garden, so he began to conduct workshops there, too. We added a second cemetery workshop about pruning heritage roses, since not everybody grew climbers. One year, he devoted a day to training an Americorps team to prune roses. The young people, many of whom had never before touched pruning shears, boldly snipped away under his encouraging supervision. He sold and autographed books and came to riotous after-parties.

Many people returned to the workshops year after year to hear his stories and learn more. Even though he repeated many stories, we didn't mind. After all, a raconteur's stories don't get old. Every year, we heard about his aunt pruning her one climbing rose and dabbing

bright red lipstick onto the cut canes, and we always laughed. He would wiggle his hands to show us how he cut off the fingers of rose gloves in order to tie roses in place, and sternly insist that only jute twine should be used. A roll of such twine was kept in a back pocket with the end extending from the front of his shirt so that he could readily trim off the right length with his Joyce Chen poultry scissors. He showed us his ripstop shirt and an important accessory, his reading glasses. He worked hard and never stopped talking.

One year, we all winced to see him limp, suffering from a badly deteriorated hip from years of climbing ladders and working on his feet. We couldn't keep him off the ladder or make him rest and were greatly relieved when he returned the next year with a new hip.

January weather in Sacramento can be unpredictable, but Stephen was glad to be away from the frigid East Coast. Although storms threatened, rain stayed away. We bundled up in the chilly mist and basked in his energy and wit.

When he began working on a rose, he would exhort us to first "clear out the clutter." Like Edward Scissorhands, the trimmings would fly until you could see the rose's structure. His goal was to have enough space between

canes for his hand to fit through. He pruned for maximum bloom, so he left many mature primary canes and shortened secondary (lateral) ones. His pruned plants were beautiful, even bereft of leaves and flowers.

Stephen's experience in public gardens led him to tightly prune climbing roses to ensure that they stayed neatly on their structures. We didn't always agree with the results. The "Peggy Martin Rose" produces cascades of flowers on long secondary canes, but not under Stephen's discipline. "You have to take a firm hand with Peggy," he proclaimed. We cemetery volunteers missed its trailing flowers and conspired to steer him away from pruning it on subsequent visits. It was easy to distract him, fortunately, although he'd often plaintively say at the end of the day, "we never got around to Peggy!" We'd assure him that was OK.

Stephen's last Sacramento pruning workshop was

in 2020, as the pandemic closed in and the city staff took over from the volunteers. They removed all structures in the name of historical accuracy and safety, cut the labels off the roses, took some roses out altogether, and pruned the rest like shrubs without regard to their class or structure. It's now simply a historic cemetery, not a garden, even though many of the roses survive and still bloom.

Those who attended his workshops now prune their roses confidently and have taught others. They gained more than skills. They remain inspired. Stephen's enthusiasm and knowledge was infectious, and his love of the cemetery garden, its roses and its volunteers still warms our hearts. 🌹

ANITA CLEVINGER was the curator of the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden.



"Phillips & Rix Pink China Climber" before pruning.



Spacing out canes on "Phillips & Rix Pink China Climber".



Connie Hilker under "Phillips & Rix Pink China Climber" in bloom after pruning.

Photos by Anita Clevenger.



Stephen with workshop group at Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, 2016.

Photo by David Roberts



Volunteers pruning "Barfield White Rambler"



"Barfield White Rambler" after pruning.



"Barfield White Rambler" in bloom after pruning.



Americorps volunteers pruning "Baretta Street Amber."



Stephen on a ladder.



Pruning workshop afterparty.

Photos by Amit Clevenger except as noted.



Lauranceana in Le Bourdet, France.

Photo by Cyrille Albert

The Lawranceanas—Miniature Chinas

STEPHEN HOY

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article is an update of an earlier version published Fall 2015 in the Singularly Beautiful newsletter, Vol. 6, Issue 1. It was the basis for Stephen Hoy's lecture at the Heritage Rose Foundation Conference, June 2025.*

The Lawranceanas—essentially miniature Chinas—are forerunners of today's modern Miniature roses. The origin of these Lilliputians of the rose world is a mystery. China roses are characterized by repeat flowering plants often of compact, twiggy habit, with slender flower buds, blooms that deepen in color with age, few prickles, and shiny pointed foliage. A variety of Latinized species names appear in rose literature in reference to the China roses including *indica*, *sempreflorens*, *sinica*, *bengalensis*, and *nankinensis*. The

preferred classification is *Rosa chinensis*.

Various reports indicate that a pale pink miniature rose having *R. chinensis* characteristics existed in gardens in England and France in the first decade of the 19th century. My interpretation of those accounts is arranged in the following sequence.

London nurseryman James Colville, sometimes spelled Colvill, secured a plant of 'Parson's Pink China,' now officially known as 'Old Blush' from Kew Gardens in or around 1793 (*The Old Shrub Roses*, p. 77). He in turn began selling it to nurserymen in France and America. Dr. C. C. Hurst, quoted by Graham Thomas in the above volume, stated that, among others, Pierre Joseph Redouté and Claude Antoine Thory began raising seedlings from 'Parson's Pink' as early as 1798 (p. 77). In 1805 Colville successfully raised a dwarf pink seedling he named



Rosa Indica Pumila by Redouté.

‘Pumila’ (dwarf) from ‘Parson’s Pink China’ which he shared with French rosarian Louis Noisette. In France, the tiny double-flowered pink rose was renamed ‘Bengale Pompon’ and was easily rooted from cuttings.

An 1815 edition of *Curtis’ Botanical Magazine*, edited by Englishman John Sims, presented the earliest illustration and description of a small rose classified as *Rosa semperflorens minima*, dubbed “Miss Lawrance’s Rose.” The illustration showed a single-flowered rose, but Sims’ comments mention that “several varieties...differing in size, color, and scent, have, within these few years, found their way into different collections about town,” and that he believed that they had been raised from seed (Vol. 42, plate 1762). Its common name was an English tribute to the loved painter and teacher of horticultural art Mary Lawrance whose work, *A Collection of Roses from Nature*, had just begun appearing in print in 1796 [Author’s note: the book does not have an illustration of her namesake rose since its publication predated the rose’s appearance in England]. The attention drawn to the rose post-publication in the horticultural periodical prompted English botanist Robert Sweet to state that it had been imported to

London from Mauritius in 1810 coinciding with the British overthrow of French governance of Mauritius that same year. A nod seemingly confirming Sweet’s version of its provenance appears in the conclusion of the brief horticultural entry stating that the plant from which the illustration was made had been given to him by a “Mr. Hudson from the war-office.” Additionally, a rose fitting Sims’ description, identified as *Rosa pusilla* (“minute/miniature”) or in French, *Rosier nain de l’Inde*, is listed in an 1816 catalog of exotic plants cultivated on Mauritius, hinting strongly that a miniature China rose, perhaps single-flowered, was familiar to gardeners on the island.

The third account of a pink miniature China’s early appearance in continental Europe also has a ring of truth. In *History of the Rose*, Roy Shepherd states that Swiss botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (1778–1841) secured a plant from Mauritius prior to its first appearance in England (p. 63), possibly during French rule of the island. De Candolle arrived in Paris in 1796 where he established himself as a highly regarded botanist, co-authoring a number of horticultural works. He is reported to have planted a specimen of *Rosa indica humilis* (“dwarf”) in a garden he established in the Champagne region of France. From there, a plant of the diminutive pink China found its way to the botanical gardens in Bern, Switzerland (possibly brought by de Candolle upon his return to his Swiss homeland in 1816?). Its presence in Bern was documented by another Swiss botanist strongly influenced by de Candolle, Nicolas Seringe, in his botanical work *Mélanges Botaniques* (a work describing five groupings of roses grown in Switzerland published in 1818); “All the characteristics of *R. indica* in miniature” (p. 44).

A fourth source appears in the writing of German historian and author Johann Christian van Stramberg. In a massive thirty-nine volume work entitled *Nützlicher und Rheinischer Antiquarius* (1854), detailing the history and geography surrounding the Rhine River, van Stramberg refers to a garden of roses located at the Stolzenfels Castle near Koblenz. In it a mention is made of ‘Rosa Lawrenceana,’ stating that it had arrived in France via Calcutta circa 1804. Van Stramberg describes it as single and rose-colored and goes on to say that in the decades since its arrival numerous miniature offspring had been raised, including Colville’s seedling ‘Pumila.’ Casting a shadow of doubt upon the accuracy of at least some

measure of his account is his incorrect statement that it was described and pictured by Miss Lawrance.

Wherever the truth lies regarding their introduction to Europe, by the middle of the 19th century rose hybridizers had introduced three to four dozen miniature China seedlings generally referred to as Lawrenceanas. [Editor's note: Over time Miss Lawrance's name has been misspelled so frequently that the incorrect spelling has become the norm.] Although some were given formal names, many were merely distinguished by color or as single or double-flowered. It was during this era that the term "Fairy Roses" began to be associated with them, likely coined by English nurseryman Thomas Rivers.

Meanwhile—American nurserymen were importing everything "new and improved" from the booming European rose trade. The Prince family was one of the preeminent New World horticultural dynasties, operating a commercial nursery in Flushing, New York, established in 1738. William Prince, son of the founder, remained well connected to numerous European horticulturists in England, France, Holland, and Italy. To promote his vast enterprise, he published *A Short Treatise on Horticulture* in 1828, one of the earliest American books on the subject. In it he mentions that his collection of roses had recently grown to as many six hundred different cultivars. Among the roses of "China and India" Prince includes the "Dwarf," or "Pomponne Rose," admired for its very small flowers, almost certainly a reference to the Colville/Noisette 'Bengale Pompon'. Distinguished from it is the "Lawrencia Rose," "the most diminutive [rose] known, both in leaf and flower" (p. 148). When his son's *Manual of Roses* was posthumously published in 1846, thirteen varieties of Lawrenceanas were listed.

Another New York family, the Parsons, became similarly engaged in the horticulture business in Flushing and were quite active in importing a broad spectrum of plants from Europe. The founder's son, Samuel Bowne Parsons, Sr. (1819–1906), published the first of two important rose books, *The Rose: Its History, Poetry, Culture and Classification*, in 1847. He references "R. Lawrenceana" or "Lawrence's China Rose," noting that, "The beautiful little plants called fairy roses are nearly all varieties of R. Lawrenceana; and they are all worthy of culture, from their extreme dwarfness" (p. 231). Among a partial list of recommended China hybrids he draws attention to two

named Lawrenceana cultivars, 'Caprice des Dames' and 'Retour du Printemps.' Despite a note assuring readers that a complete list of varieties would be inserted at the end of the text, publication deadlines forced him to forego its inclusion.

Attention should also be focused on a third American nurseryman with a strong rose interest—Philadelphian Robert Buist. Partnering with Thomas Hibbert, a thriving florist business was opened in 1830. After Hibbert's death in 1837, Buist transformed the establishment into a retail seed store, nursery, and greenhouse enterprise. Although offering a wide variety of plants, he took special interest in roses, traveling frequently to Europe to bring back new cultivars. In 1844 Buist published the highly respected work, *The Rose Manual*, intended to provide minute detail on the culture of roses in America and accurate descriptions of recommended varieties. The book contains a brief chapter dedicated to the Lawrenceanas mentioning but a few: 'La Miniature,' 'Gloire,' 'Bijou,' and uniquely, two American originated seedlings, 'Pretty American'



"Miss Lawrance's Rose." *The Botanical Register*, plate 538.



Rosa Indica Pumila Simplicifolia by Redouté.

(introduced in 1837 by New York nurseryman Daniel Boll) and ‘Master Burke’ (introduced circa 1830 by Samuel Feast of Baltimore). An account first appearing in *Hovey’s Magazine of Horticulture* dated March 20, 1837, states that the latter variety, “after seven or eight years had not attained two inches in height” and that “half of a common hen’s egg-shell would have covered the whole bush without touching it” (p. 129). The report was generally considered a Paul Bunyan-esque tall tale; however, an earlier narrative appears to lend some credence to the story’s truthfulness. Describing an exhibit of “plants of horticultural interest” at a Maryland Horticultural Society meeting in May of 1833, *The New England Farmer and Horticultural Journal*, Vol. XI, No. 11 reports:

“The...Rose, likewise obtained from seed by Mr. Feast, is the most curious Rose perhaps ever produced. It is a dwarf and so completely does it vindicate its title to that appellation that it has now reached its third year, the bush is not quite two inches in height! It is a sturdy little affair, well furnished with branches and

clothed with leaves of surprising neatness.

The blooms are quite as extraordinary; they are double, of a beautiful color [light rose] and very well formed, and of little more than half the diameter of a five cent piece!” (p. 331).

Farther south, the port city of Charleston, South Carolina was a rich horticultural center. John Champneys and Philippe Noisette are just two of the many nurserymen and rose enthusiasts who lived and worked there. Champneys had a long-standing business relationship with William Prince, Jr. and an extensive garden of roses. Although he died in 1820, most likely too early to have seen or raised any Lawranceanas, he was a close associate of Philippe Noisette.

Along with Champneys, Philippe dabbled in raising new varieties of roses from open-pollinated seeds, contributing to the origin of the class of roses known as the Noisettes. Seeds, cuttings, and plants exchanged hands between him and his brother Louis in France and were likewise imported from Europe and other regions.

As a result of the huge influx of horticulture during this period there is reason to believe that some members of the Lawranceana class began to populate the gardens of Charleston. One documented link is found in the history of a family that relocated from Charleston to Florida in the 1850’s. Phillip Benjamin Harvey “P.B.H.” Dudley and family made several trips to the area before purchasing farmland in 1859 just west of modern-day Gainesville, Florida. Capt. Dudley (who served in a Florida regiment during the Civil War) made numerous trips to Charleston to sell cotton and other crops raised on his Florida farm. They transported numerous roses from Charleston to their new homestead over the course of several decades.

Among the many that would have been commercially available in Charleston— ‘Champneys’ Pink Cluster’, the ‘Green



“Dolly Dudley”

Photo by Stephen Hoy.



Photo by Stephen Hoy

“The Abbott and Burns Family Rose.”

Rose, Old Blush, etc.—was a miniature pink China hybrid whose given name is lost to commerce. Family members recall that Dudley purchased the diminutive rose around the time of the birth of his first granddaughter Dolly (Catherine “Dolly” Dudley, b. 1878). In my garden, “Dolly Dudley” has dime-sized medium pink blooms of about 20–25 petals and grows in a container about 12–15” in height and width.

The chronicle of the westward journey of many old rose varieties is told in Thomas Christopher’s wonderful book *In Search of Lost Roses*. However, despite the mention of many a China rose, not one account is told of a Lawrenceana type. As with “Dolly Dudley”, family history opens our eyes to the preservation and relocation of another historic “found” rose. In 1857 several families banded together to depart from their Arkansas homes and travel west to California. The Abbott, Burns, and Epperson expedition encountered many hardships and endured the loss of family members, livestock, and personal possessions. Suggesting something of its intrinsic value, a tiny pink China rose was among the belongings that survived the arduous journey. One of the Abbott daughters, Catherine, married young Jesse Burns the day after their arrival in Copperopolis, California. The little rose, an Abbott family keepsake, survives to this day, growing in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, where it is known as the “Abbott and Burns Family Rose.” In my garden the little semi-double to double pink blossoms

continue to remind one of the significance of plants as family heirlooms.

The story continues, shaped to some extent by America’s Civil War. As conflicts over the issues of slavery and states’ rights became prominent, a push to establish a “Southern” approach to things agricultural and horticultural arose in the 1840s and ‘50s. Danish immigrant Robert Nelson moved to Macon, Georgia in 1847 and created Troup Hill Nursery, offering hundreds of different types of fruit trees and over one hundred and fifty varieties of roses—all sold own-root. Among the many Teas, Noisettes, and Chinas he sold were “Lawrenceana.”

Scottish horticulturist Thomas Affleck immigrated to the United States in 1832, living in New York, Pennsylvania, and Indiana before moving to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1839. There he assumed the post of editor of the *Western Farmer and Gardner*. In 1842 he resettled near Natchez, Mississippi, taking over the management of his second wife’s plantation and establishing one of the earliest commercial nurseries in the Deep South. He purchased and introduced to southerners a vast number of plants from a variety of American and European nurserymen. Beginning in 1845 and continuing to 1865 he published and edited *Affleck’s Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation Garden Book*, addressing an extremely broad variety of agricultural and horticultural topics. An 1851 edition includes comments on numerous classes of roses recommended for the South and available from his nursery. The following brief statement appears, “The Miniature China Roses (*Rosa Lawrenceana*) are pretty little gems, of many colours and shades” (p. 63). Affleck credits the English firm of Thomas Rivers as the original source of all his rose offerings, in effect a commercial “stamp of approval” as to their quality.

Affleck was very connected to New Orleans culture through his publishing interests and through business contacts. At least one Lawrenceana-type, possibly introduced to commerce through Affleck, has strong ties to The Big Easy. Some measure of its connection can be found in the writing of Mississippi native Georgia Torrey Drennan, later a resident of New Orleans.

The youthful Georgia, daughter of a wealthy plantation owner, married young lawyer and judge William Drennan at the outbreak of the Civil War. Ms. Drennan would go on to become a horticulturist of note.

Articles written by the well-educated author on a variety of subjects, including poinsettias, hyacinths, water lilies, and peppers, appeared in numerous “Southern” home and garden related publications. Her most enduring effort, however, was dedicated to roses, particularly the still-new repeat-flowering roses highly suited for growing in the Deep South and Gulf Coast. Published in 1912, *Drennan’s Everblooming Roses for the Outdoor Garden of the Amateur*, remains a classic rose book flowing with passion and devotion to life in the garden. It encapsulates her knowledge of and familiarity with the Tea, Noisette, and China rose families, the Hybrid Remontants (Hybrid Perpetuals), Polyanthas, Hybrid Rugosas, as well as “old” once-blooming favorites from her family’s Round Hill Plantation gardens north of Jackson, MS, the garden she and husband William established in nearby Lexington, MS, and the New Orleans garden she created in 1895.

Among the many varieties of roses included in her book is a very brief mention of the “Lawrienciana or Picayune” rose. From the text, one concludes that it is a singular cultivar, pink in color, eminently everblooming “with undiminished vigor” (p. 122). She comments that it “makes an ornament for the garden so striking that the wonder is that it has ever fallen out of popular favor and is not seen elsewhere than in old gardens with other old-fashioned plants that are still there simply because they are

naturally hardy and long-lived” (p.122). Ms. Drennan also explains the use of the term “Picayune”—a reference to a small Spanish coin common in New Orleans culture. About the size of a dime, they were demonetized in 1857, becoming essentially worthless. Although in today’s parlance the term has come to mean “of little value” or “insignificant,” its association with the Lawranceanas is tied



“Picayune.”

Photo by Stephen Hoy.



‘Pompon de Paris’

Photo from Wikipedia Commons.

to the size of the coin, not its value.

Two “Picayune” roses—Lawranceana types—with traces to late 19th/early 20th century New Orleans heritage remain with us. Whether they are/were named varieties or seedlings is a mystery unlikely to be solved. Ms. Drennan’s medium pink double-flowered Lawranceana may well have been passed along in New Orleans’ gardens in the fashion of many other roses. One Helpmefind member, Sarah Jumel, relates that for decades several relatives living in New Orleans grew what they knew as “Henrietta’s Pink Picayune,” most likely purchased from a local nursery. This same rose was discovered growing along old U.S. Highway 290, near Brenham, TX, near Mike Shoup’s Antique Rose Emporium, coincidentally near the location of nurseryman Thomas Affleck’s second Texas-based business. Now given the found rose name “Highway 290 Pink Buttons,” it has been speculated that it and ‘Henrietta’s Pink Picayune’ are very similar to if not actually ‘Rouletii’. A second rose, primarily white with just a blush of pink, is simply identified as ‘Picayune’. The earliest mention I have found so far is in *Modern Roses 1*. There it is tentatively classed as a Polyantha, “Possibly an old variety from France, still grown in the South,” and is characterized as “light pink, opening white” (p. 296). Corroboration that white-colored “Picayune” roses were known as far back as the late 1800’s was found in an 1894 edition of *The Mid-Continent Magazine* (formerly *The Southern Magazine*) that advertised dolls with “faces made of white Picayune



“Plate-Bande.”

Photo by Judy Hillier

roses” (Vol. 3, p. 404). The provenance of the cultivar I grow as ‘Picayune’ can be traced to South Carolina nursery Roses Unlimited. Co-owners Pat Henry and Bill Patterson have had the variety in the RU catalog for over three decades listed as a China. Pat informed me she got the plant from a friend’s garden in Charlotte, NC. An old *Combined Rose List* shows that it was

available at one time from OGR enthusiast Mike Lowe.

Let’s detour back across the Atlantic Ocean.

Significant in the history of the Lawranceanas and in the evolution of today’s modern Miniature roses was the introduction of *Rosa multiflora* ‘Polyantha’ into Europe in the early 1860’s. From it, Jean-Baptiste Andre Guillot raised a number of second generation seedlings out of which he selected for introduction in 1875 what is considered to be the earliest Polyantha rose, ‘Pâquerette’. While hybridizers were introducing new Polyantha cultivars, seedsman Leonard Lille of Lyon developed a strain of dwarf, remontant roses derived from *R. multiflora* that could be grown quite easily from seed. Marketed as ‘Plate Bande’ or ‘Polyantha nana perpetua,’ the seedlings were reblooming with double flowers of white and varying shades of pink. Several years later, a second strain appeared in catalogs sold as ‘Multiflora Nana,’ generally producing a greater number of single or nearly single miniature roses also in whites and pinks. It should be noted that once again the term “Fairy Roses” was often used in conjunction with the introduction of these seedling strains. The more hardy character of *R. multiflora* redirected hybridizing efforts away from the Lawranceanas and towards the new Polyantha class.

The history-line of the Lawranceanas was essentially given new life with the “discovery” in 1917 of one of today’s most prominent Lawranceanas—*Rosa Rouletii*

or simply ‘Rouletii’. An officer and surgeon in the Swiss Army Reserves during World War I, Dr. Andre Roulet wrote his friend, Swiss horticulturist, nurseryman, and alpine specialist Henri Corrévon, that he had noticed a diminutive potted rose bush on the windowsill of a home in the resort village of Mauborget. It was a mere two inches tall and was reported to have been growing in the container for over 100 years, blooming throughout the growing season. When Corrévon visited the town he reported that fire damage prevented him from collecting cuttings or a plant. To his relief, a villager informed him that a woman in the nearby town of Onnens had a plant of the same variety. Sometime later he and Dr. Roulet called on the rose’s owner and obtained a small slip. From that minuscule beginning a brief revival of interest was born. By 1922 Corrévon reported big numbers of the little novelty rose, now named for his friend, were being sold in England, France, and America. He went on to further study his “discovery,” contrasting it with the single-flowered “Miss Lawrance’s Rose” which he already had growing in his extensive garden.

‘Rouletii’ was quickly compared and contrasted with a rose that had been marketed as ‘Pompon de Paris’ since about 1839. Margaret Pinney’s *Book of the Miniature Rose* informs us that the latter was most likely a “flower market” name rather than a cultivar name and could very possibly have been Colville’s/Noisette’s ‘Bengal Pompon’. Laboratory research has shown that the one specimen marketed as ‘Rouletii’ is identical to ‘Pompon de Paris’ or vice versa. Furthermore, what has been evaluated has been shown to be a dwarf sport of ‘Old Blush’ (Soules, *Analysis of Genetic Diversity in the China Rose Group*, 2009, 36).

There is speculation that multiple variants/ accessions of ‘Rouletii’/‘Pompon de Paris’ exist. In addition to the above-mentioned candidates are “Mableton Rouletii” and “Serna House Rouletii.” Fred Boutin, a California botanist and rose rustler, suggested that the latter might indeed



“Mableton Rouletii.”

Photo by Connie Hillier

be Colville's 'Pumila'. Planted side-by-side in the former Sacramento Historic Rose Garden, they appeared identical.

A novel rose was discovered in a garden in England in the early 1930's. Miniature rose enthusiast Margaret Pinney, quoting miniature tree and shrub expert Anne Ashberry, wrote that rose breeder C. R. Bloom procured a plant or cuttings from an elderly lady near Oakington in Cambridgeshire who reportedly had it for nearly 60 years. It was given to her by the gardener of the Bishop of Ely Cathedral. The variety was given the name "Oakington Ruby." Ms. Pinney noted in her invaluable Book of the Miniature Rose that Mr. Coyne, the rose propagator of the old New Jersey firm Bobbink and Atkins, told her that it and 'Gloire de Lawrencianas' were "evidently the same" (p. 133).

In the mid-1990s, Pat Toolan found a red China rose with very small leaves, compared to the flower size, on graves in two cemeteries in the Barossa Valley in Australia. They were named "Ebenezer Cemetery Mini-China" and "Habermann Cemetery Mini-China" and have tentatively been declared to be the same rose. The graves were dated from 1886 to 1905. She related that she found two plants of what is now thought to be the same rose in a former midwife's garden in Hahndorf and gave it the study name "Hahndorf

Midwife's Mini-China."

An exchange between Pat, Margaret Furness, and Paul Barden has suggested it may be 'Oakington Ruby'.

Three more Lawranceana candidates bear mention before concluding the article. One's origin is tied again to California, one to the U.S. Virgin Islands, and one to France.

California rosarian Sherri Berglund encountered a miniature China-like rose at the Red Bluff Oakhill Cemetery years



"Hahndorf Midwife's Mini-China."

ago. It has very double, half inch medium pink blooms and has been given the study name "Sherri Berglund's Pink China." California growers have seen the plant get a little larger than is likely in other geographic locations.

Well-known rosarian Ruth Knopf is credited with observing a smallish rose with China attributes growing on the island of St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands). Although having fairly long stems, the pink blooms are quite diminutive, rarely exceeding three quarters of an inch. She shared it with now retired professor Dr. Malcolm Manners, who has in turn made it available to several retail outlets.

Shortly after my first article about the Lawranceanas was published, a French rose grower, Cyrille Albert, reached out to me to share photos of a rose he had come across in a cemetery in Le Bourdet, France. A light-to-medium pink China having the appearance of a Lawranceana sits at the foot of an older memorial, bearing witness to its durability.

Brent Dickerson's recently updated third edition of *The Old Rose Advisor: Book I Damask Perpetuals, Teas, and Chinas* has an invaluable section on the Lawranceanas with bibliographical sources and an exhaustive list of cultivars.

Is there a future for this more-or-less overlooked class of dwarf China roses? Are they just a steppingstone leading to a forgotten destination? Have they joined other classes of roses supplanted by the newest catalog offerings? For this rose lover...the Lawranceanas are roses that simply bring wonder into the garden, a feeling summed up nicely in the words of poet Amos Bronson Alcott:

"Who loves a garden still his Eden keeps, Perennial pleasures plants, and wholesome harvest reaps." 🌹



"Oakington Ruby."

Meet Your Trustees

SHAUNA MOORE



Trustee Shauna Moore.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a trustee for the Heritage Rose Foundation. I was born and lived most of my life in Minneapolis, MN. I have always loved roses for their beauty and cultural significance and grew many roses at my south Minneapolis home, limited by zone 3-4 hardiness. Most modern hybrids, which I also adore, required the “Minnesota Tip” for successful overwintering, but I consider all roses worth growing despite the extra care and labor involved. In Minneapolis. I grew many more of the old shrubs, hybrid rugosas, and Old Garden Roses which required less from me and gave me so much in return. No doubt, I have always preferred the Old Garden Roses, for their history but mostly for their fragrance. In my personal garden I will never be without ‘Stanwell Perpetual,’ ‘Königin von Dänemark,’ ‘Celsiana,’ and ‘La Reine’—and also ‘Lillian Gibson,’ a hybrid blanda that

has deep sentimental value for me.

In 2013, after almost twenty years of working in Horticulture at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, I uprooted, sold my home, and packed my bags for New Jersey in pursuit of tending the roses at the Leonard J. Buck Garden and Colonial Park Gardens at the Somerset County Park Commission. In my time there, I was honored to receive—as the Rosarian—the World Federation of Rose Garden Societies 2015 Garden of Excellence Award, on behalf of the Rudolf W. Van der Goot Rose Garden. Living in the Mid-Atlantic, I have come to appreciate the versatility of gardening in zone 7 and 7B and I have never looked back. More recently, I find myself as director of Horticulture at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, home of the Cranford Rose Garden, which I deeply admired from a

distance, having first met Stephen Scanniello through mutual horticulture friends in Minnesota many years ago. Throughout my career I followed Stephen’s work and also the evolution of the Cranford, but I never thought that I would one day be so directly associated with it and responsible for its care.

I attended my first HRF conference in 2018 at the Antique Rose Emporium and the following year in Elizabeth Park. What a joy to have met so many wonderful like-minded people—my rose tribe—through this organization! I am honored to be a part of it.

When I am not at Brooklyn Botanic Garden I am in my own garden in Lambertville, NJ where I live with my loving and supportive husband, James Flemming, and three silly dogs. If I’m not there, I’m probably on the tennis courts. Cheers! 🍷

Jay Heritage Center Given Funds

ANITA CLEVENGER

During the recent HRF conference in New York City, the Heritage Rose Foundation presented a \$2500 gift to Suzanne Clary, Executive Director of the Jay Heritage Center (JHC) in Rye, New York. The JHC is dedicated to transforming the 23-acre Jay Estate into a vibrant educational campus. The Estate was home to many families in its rich history, most notably, founding father, John Jay. As part of their mission statement, the JHC endeavors to inspire and encourage stewards of our fragile and natural resources. The generations of families calling the Estate home have a rich heritage of gardening, a source of food and beauty. The gift will be used to incorporate heritage roses into the gardens.

Just as many “new” gardens are now incorporating ornamental plants to create edible gardens, the JHC will incorporate heritage roses into the vegetable garden. Their inspiration, however, was from the research that

documented this practice in the history of the Estate.

The Heritage Rose Foundation is pleased to continue to build a relationship with the Estate, which started two years ago when President Emeritus Stephen Scanniello conducted a free rose workshop about the lore & allure of the rose, with practical knowledge for garden experts and novices alike. He returned to train JHC volunteers how to prune and care for the ‘New Dawn’ roses that extend along a 100-foot arbor which was constructed based on historical documents. Stephen presented the newly rediscovered heritage rose, ‘Arnold’, named after the Arnold Arboretum where Mary Rutherford Jay studied. Stephen and members of the HRF will select additional specimens and work to expand the JHC’s public horticultural programming about the sustainable attributes of heritage roses.

www.jayheritagecenter.org



Photos by Malcolm Manners.

Publicity and Instagram Update

We have formed a publicity committee to increase the Heritage Rose Foundation's visibility. In addition to our updated website and our long-standing Facebook page, Holly Hagy has established an Instagram account. Please send her your heritage rose photos, with details, at heritagerosefoundationig@gmail.com. Closeups of flowers or whole plants and gardens—whatever you would like to share! We want to excite and educate people about heritage roses! 🌹



Heritage Roses in Uruguay

ANITA CLEVENGER



Inés receiving WFRS Literary Award.

If you missed the opportunity to purchase Inés Díaz de Licandro's award-winning book, *Heritage Roses in Uruguay*, you may contact her at inesdiazrial@gmail.com. Her detailed analysis and photographs set a standard for documenting and identifying found heritage roses, and the book is beautiful and inspiring, as all rose books should be. 🌹



Mission Statement

THE HERITAGE ROSE FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT FOUNDATION WITH THIS MISSION:

- 🌹 To collect and preserve heritage roses and promote their culture.
- 🌹 To establish one or more gardens where heritage roses may be grown and displayed.
- 🌹 To conduct and contract to conduct investigations and research in heritage roses.
- 🌹 To publish and disseminate information and research about heritage roses.
- 🌹 To establish and maintain a library to facilitate investigations and research in heritage roses.
- 🌹 To foster public knowledge and appreciation of heritage roses and their preservation.

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