



'Seashell Sands' x 'Candia Meilandecor' ('Oso Easy Cherry Pie')
One of my seedlings!

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses
Volume 11, Issue 2
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From the Editor

What is up with this issue? It's time to publish and although close, I am not finished with my investigation of a rose once known as the "Nondescript Rose." More to come!

With the exception of the first four issues of the *American Rose Annual*, I have a complete collection (I have digital copies of the first four). This past spring, I began getting them out and reading them from cover to cover in preparation for resumption of a writing project that I began years ago. In the 1940 annual I discovered an article that caught my attention. The author's style was appealing, but the title . . . ! It precedes by thirty years a famous musical comedy with a similar, but somewhat presumptuous title starring ~~Charles Coburn~~ Marilyn Monroe! The author's passion for pursuing a very narrow rose-related interest resounded in the mind of this rose enthusiast - I have a similarly focused passion.

Perhaps a second justification for presenting this article is related to the idea of rose conservation. The number of sites dedicated to preserving heritage and rare rose cultivars is diminishing rapidly. The Sacramento Heritage Rose Garden has suffered from both Coronavirus restrictions on labor and poorly informed decisions on the part of local government bureaucracies. A note in the most recent issue of *The Vintage Rose* newsletter reminds us of the difficulty of maintaining large collections of roses. A partial solution may exist in the form of encouraging like-minded individuals to become niche specialists in whatever they fancy, be it single-flowered roses or yellow Hybrid Teas. The notion that this strategy is effective is proven by visionaries like Graham Stuart Thomas in Britain, Miriam Wilkins and Barbara Oliva here in the U.S. and many others across the globe. However, this proposal is not to suggest that we shouldn't have as Gertrude Jekyll admonishes, beds of roses, roses trained as pillars, growing as screens or hedges, enhancing trellises and arbors, trailing, fountaining, or generally "converting ugliness to beauty."

Admittedly, the following short feature is definitely off-topic regarding the stated purpose of this newsletter; none of the featured rose are single-flowered. However, to those rose enthusiasts that similarly love a unique subset of roses, whatever that may be, I don't think it will disappoint.



The Hershey Rose Garden, Hershey, PA

“A Gentleman Discusses Blondes” by Geoffrey G. Whitney

When I bought a book on roses, the trouble began. My initiation into rose-culture began in 1923, and included about two dozen roses, most of them selected from varieties claimed to be yellow or something approaching that color. I fear that these leads were not wholly satisfactory, because my idea of yellow was something that left nothing to the imagination, and it certainly took a good deal of imagination to keep in the yellow class some of the roses I planted.

In the years since I have not scorned other colors, and, in fact, when the first of a long series of “Tango” colors came into being, I fell for them quite heavily. While my allegiance to yellow roses never really waned, I have a certain happy tolerance for others. Buff and fawn are accepted; orange and even flame when it blends with apricot are not rejected. So, my yellow is not always yellow – certain allied colors, both lovely and important, may live in peace in my inner circle.

Yellow, however, continued to be a fetish with me, and I evolved the idea of trying to find the best yellow roses *for me*. And have I accomplished this? I have not! No sooner would I become satisfied that some particular rose was the best bet for me than along would come some unusual freak of nature and my “perfect” rose would prove only average. But what a lot of fun I have had! And what more does anyone want?

I might as well admit it right now – there isn’t any such thing as my “favorite” rose. The only intimation as to what I consider especially good is the fact that certain roses have their proud being within my inner beds. What then of my inner beds? They would be nearly perfect with ‘Souvenir de H. A. Verschuren,’ ‘Souvenir de Claudius Pernet,’ ‘Golden Ophelia,’ ‘Mme. Bardou Job,’ ‘Mrs. Beckwith,’ ‘Mrs. Calvin Coolidge,’ ‘Mrs. S. K. Rindge,’ ‘Rev. F. Page-Roberts,’ ‘Feu Joseph Looymans,’ and ‘Christine.’ Then there is ‘Roslyn,’ ‘Alice Harding,’ ‘Golden Dawn,’ and ‘Feu Pernet-Ducher.’ None of these are perfect, but they are good enough for me! Also included are ‘Mrs. Pierre S. du Pont’ and ‘Mrs. Erskine Pembroke Thom,’ of the *long names*, but they are almost standard in any garden now. ‘Soeur Thérèse’ would always have a place with me, although when fully open, it is a bit shy of petals. There are still a few bushes of ‘Eldorado,’ it is no longer included in the modern catalogs, but, nevertheless, I still love it. I also want to say a word for the much-abused ‘Soleil d’Or. I can still remember very well the thrill I experienced when it first came into bloom – I still have this bush. With me the foliage has been perfect, and although it has but one real blooming season, the flowers it does produce are so lovely and so deliciously fragrant that it is worthy of a trial in any garden.

Then there is ‘Eclipse.’ I recognize its beauty as a bud but it falls far short of “perfect” once it has passed that stage. There are a number of newer varieties in this part of the garden which seem to be “comers.” ‘Lily Pons’ is lovely, if a very pale yellow. ‘Phyllis Gold’ is outstanding in every way and should be a winner. Strangely enough, ‘Radio’ is one of my favorites, in spite of its strange mixture of rose and scarlet with the yellow. It is so crisp and upstanding and willing that I always stop in front of my bushes and tell them nice things about themselves. ‘Golden Sastago’ I am not sure of but it looks to have real merit. ‘Golden State’ is another which will bear watching. Another newcomer from the trial-beds is ‘McGredy’s Sunset.’ It is lovely and has the good qualities of ‘Radio’ and is a lovely, clear, rich yellow. ‘Goldenes Mainz’ is still another which has my special approval.

After these there are so many old favorites, such as ‘Roslandia,’ ‘Julien Potin,’ ‘Joanna Hill,’ ‘Max Krause,’ ‘Richard E. West,’ and a host of others, that I don’t know where to stop. They are all good, although in many cases outstripped by newer introductions.

One of the largest rose-growers makes a habit of dispensing, among select rose-growers, samples of his new productions, so that he may learn of their quality in various locations and conditions. Every year I receive a number of plants, generally unnamed and only designated by a number, on which I am expected to report. All these are in what I choose to call my trial beds. Of course, they receive the best of care – as I know it – and their performance is carefully noted throughout the season from year to year, until they have been either discarded by the introducer as not good enough or have been named and are in common use everywhere. In addition to the

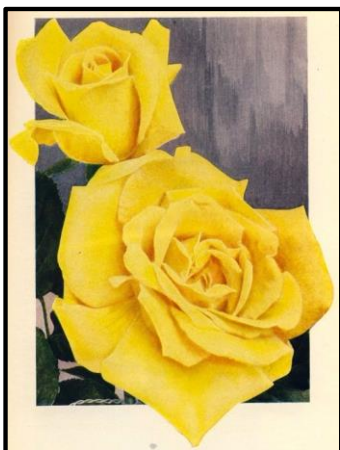
numbered “trial” roses, here you will find ‘Janet’ and ‘Franz Deegen,’ and one which I hardly dare to spell – ‘Violoncelliste Albert Fourès.’

And so, I close, with only one more thought: don’t be afraid to grow roses! The most timorous neophyte who fears to “rush in where angels fear to tread” may approach the rose-growing situation with confidence. There is nothing occult about growing roses. They will grow and bloom and give you joy and need no unusual care or knowledge or soil. You have got to respect them, of course, and I would prefer that you love them, too, but in any case, attempt them, and if you have some failures you will also have many successes and many thrills.

[Ed. note; this article is an edited consolidation of three articles authored by Geoffrey Whitney in the 1926, 1927, and 1940 volumes of the *American Rose Annual*. Mr. Whitney was a vice-president of the National Union Bank of Boston. After planting roses at his winter home, he moved them to the relatively moderate climate of his summer home in Woods Hole, a village on the southwest tip of Cape Cod. From there his collection eventually grew to over four hundred, including other colors and types. Of note; in the 1926 annual he presents flower color and plant descriptions, and bloom count for over sixty varieties, including some Teas. He adds similar descriptions of thirteen more in the 1927 annual.]

The following are all vintage illustrations. They are presented according to date of introduction.

Commented [RH1]:



‘Souvenir de Claudius Pernet’
Joseph Pernet-Ducher
1919
Sunflower yellow,
Darker center,
Long stems.
1920 Gold Medal Bagatelle



‘Rev. F. Page-Roberts’
B. R. Cant & Sons
1921
Golden yellow,
High centered,
Sweetly scented.
1920 Gold Medal NRS

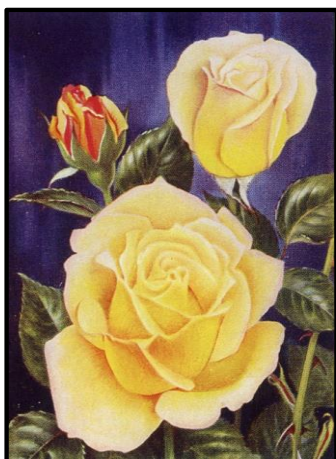


‘Mrs. Beckwith’
Joseph Pernet-Ducher
1922
Bright lemon yellow,
Good cut flower,
Vigorous.
1921 Gold Medal NRS

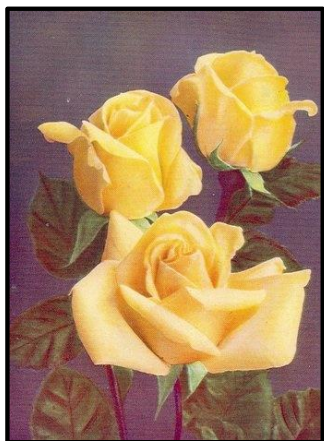


'Souvenir de H. A. Verschuren'
H. A. Verschuren
1922
Apricot yellow,
Good cut flower,
Long stems.

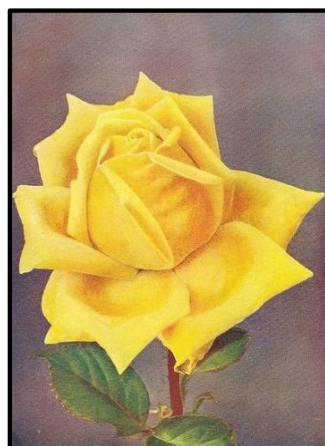
'Golden Dawn'
Patrick Grant
1929
Lemon yellow,
Very double,
Strong fragrance.'



'Richard E. West'
Alexander Dickson II
1924
Pale yellow,
Strong fragrance.

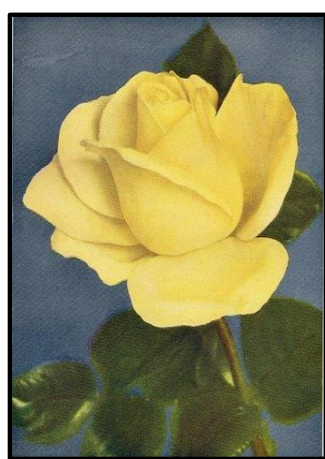


'Max Krause'
Max Krause - 1932
Golden yellow w/orange highlights,
High centered,
Long stems.



'Julien Potin'
Joseph Pernet-Ducher
1929
Deep yellow to pale yellow,
Honey-scented.
1929 Gold Medal Portland

'Phyllis Gold'
Herbert Robinson
1935
Deep buttercup yellow,
Good form,
Long stems.





'Feu Pernet-Ducher'
Charles Mallerin
1936
Yellow, outer petals lighter,
Very double,
Strong fragrance,
1936 Gold Medal Portland



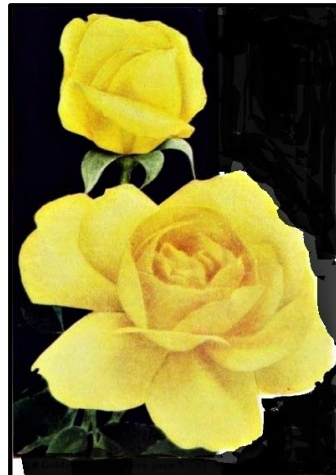
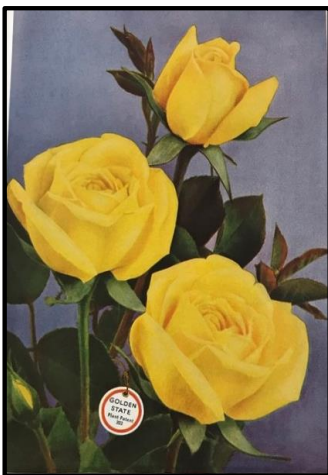
'Radio' - sport of 'Condesa de Sastago'
Pedro Dot
1937
Yellow with rose stripes,
Spicy fragrance.

'McGredy's Sunset'
Sam McGredy III
1936
Chrome yellow,
Upright growing.



'Golden State'
Francis Meiland
1937
Lemon yellow,
1937 Gold Medal Bagatelle

'Golden Sastago' - sport of 'Condesa de Sastago' - Pedro Dot
1938
Light yellow,
Tea fragrance.



Sources

- 'Eclipse' – Rogue Valley Roses, Roses Unlimited, France, Germany, Italy
- 'Feu Joseph Looymans' (aka Looijmans) – Germany, was formerly sold by Vintage Gardens
- 'Feu Pernet-Ducher' – Australia, France, Germany
- 'Golden Dawn' – Britain, France, Germany
- 'Goldenes Mainz' – France, Germany
- 'Golden Ophelia' – Rose Petals Nursery, Australia, Japan
- 'Julien Potin' – France, Germany
- 'Lily Pons' – Foundation Plant Services, Interstate Nurseries, J. W. Jung Seed
- 'McGredy's Sunset' – Britain, Germany
- 'Mrs. Pierre S. DuPont' – Foundation Plant Services, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland
- 'Radio' – Australia, ?Spain
- 'Rev. F. Page-Roberts' – Burlington Nursery, Britain, Germany
- 'Soeur Thérèse' – Foundation Plant Services, Belgium, France, Germany
- 'Soleil d'Or' – Burlington Nursery, Greenmantle, Rogue Valley Roses, Austria, Britain, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland
- 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet' – Burlington Nursery, Rogue Valley Roses, Germany, Sweden, France

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'Yellow Brick Road'

Ping Lim

2007

Photo by Stephen Hoy