



*'Floranje'* - Photo by Stephen Hoy

# Singularly Beautiful Roses

*A Publication Dedicated to Single, Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses*

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## All I Need Is A Miracle

The following trio of roses was bred by hybridizer Robert Rippetoe of Rancho Mirage, California. Robert specializes in species crosses, using *R. banksia*, *bracteata*, *gigantea*, *hulthemia*, and *filipes*, species that are evergreen in temperate climates. I first became familiar with his work after reading an article he authored in the April 2006 *American Rose Magazine* entitled, "Banksia Hybrids – A New Beginning." His persistent work with *R. banksia* produced re-blooming hybrids with the elongated, narrow foliage typical of the *R. banksia* variants.

'Miracle on the Hudson' is an example of another of his breeding goals – strong resistance to fungus diseases like black spot, powdery mildew, and rust. It resulted from a cross of 'Lyn Griffith' (a very clean semi-double seedling from Robert's breeding program) x 'Home Run.' Its five to eight petals are fluorescent crimson red with darker accents, a color spectacularly accented by glowing golden yellow stamens. Blooms arrive singularly and in small clusters. The foliage is dark green with burgundy margins and has been immune to black spot in my Georgia garden. Its resistance to powdery mildew and rust has been confirmed by California growers as well. Robert tentatively named the rose "Bartholomew" in honor of the appointment of Bartholomew I as archbishop of the Eastern Orthodox church in 2009. Robert sent this seedling to Pat Henry and Bill Patterson of Roses Unlimited. Pat thought so highly of the velvety, bright red flowers that appeared on the new plant that she suggested the name 'Miracle On The Hudson' to honor the miraculous survival of all the passengers of US Airways Flight 1549 after Captain "Sully" Sullenberger successfully landed the plane on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009.



*'Miracle On The Hudson'*

Photo by Stephen Hoy



Pat recommended the variety to me in the fall of 2011 and within a year I was touting its black spot resistance to rose friends here in the southeast. 'Miracle on the Hudson' was entered into the Biltmore trials and after two years of evaluation it essentially swept the 2014 trials. The awards given to 'Miracle on the Hudson' include the William Cecil Award for Best Growth Habit, the Chauncey Biddle Award for Best Shrub, the Lord Burleigh Award for Most Disease Resistant, and the George and Edith Vanderbilt Award for Most Outstanding Rose. Quite a record! From a personal perspective this rose has some qualities in the way of substance and stem length (cut flower potential) missing in varieties like 'Knock Out' or 'Home Run.'

*'Miracle On The Hudson'*

Photo by Andre Carl showing darker tints

In 2021 two new roses, 'Pink Miracle' and 'Coral Miracle,' were released by Certified Roses. 'Pink Miracle' is a ten petaled hot pink cultivar. The filaments arise from a dark red base, a feature that I find quite appealing. Several characteristics distinguish it from other single-flowered pink floribundas and shrubs - no fade and no white eye. In its first year in my garden the blooms generally arrived one per stem and had a slightly more upright habit of growth than 'Coral Miracle' or 'Miracle On The Hudson.' The dark green semi-glossy foliage is very black spot resistant; maroon tinted new growth provides an attractive foil to the neon colored blooms.



'Pink Miracle' - Photo by Stephen Hoy



'Coral Miracle' - Photo by Stephen Hoy

'Coral Miracle's petals are a uniquely colored pastel coral-orange on the surface contrasted by a lighter reverse. Golden yellow stamens brighten the blooms up even further. Most blooms generally have at least fifteen petals and arrive both one-per-stem and in small clusters. One reviewer states that it has a more pronounced fragrance than the other "Miracles," although that feature has escaped my notice. The matt foliage is olive green and has been quite black spot resistant in my long Georgia growing season. 'Coral Miracle' has a bushy habit, much like 'Miracle On The Hudson.'

Considering their vibrant colors, disease resistance, and great plant architecture this trio should make a secure "three point landing" in your garden!

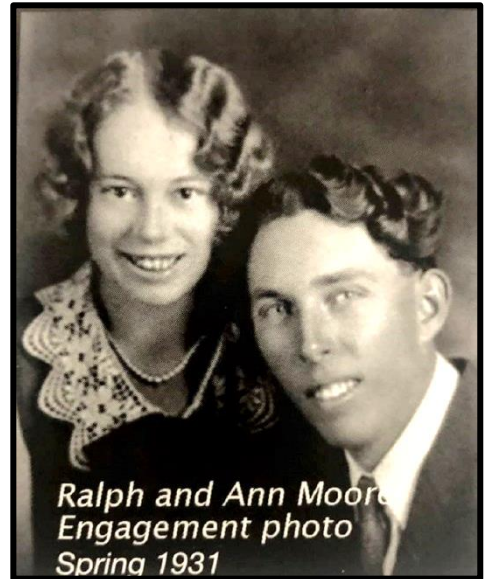
"The important thing is to really enjoy your rose growing as a hobby. Never let it become a burden where you are obsessed with its laborious aspects. Be as scientific or as casual as you like. Look for the fun and beauty!"

Dr. Arthur H. Norton, 1946 *American Rose Annual*

## Your Halo is Showing

The story of Ralph Moore (1907-2009), the “Father of the Modern Miniature Rose,” has been told on numerous occasions. His importance as a contributor to the development of numerous classes of roses, particularly miniatures, can be found in an article published by Texas A&M’s Department of Horticultural Sciences. It suggests that 75% of all miniature roses have a Ralph Moore rose in their genetic heritage!

In the early ‘90’s Sequoia Nursery began marketing a new series of Halo roses. The vision that sparked their creation lay in Ralph’s interest in working with *Rosa persica* and the early hybrids created by Jack Harkness from 1970-1980 and released in the ‘80’s. [Ed. note: ‘Xerxes,’ ‘Tigris,’ ‘Nigel Hawthorne,’ and ‘Euphrates’ were the only four introduced out of hundreds of seedlings.] However, he had neither access to plants or seeds.



Ralph and Ann Moore  
Engagement photo  
Spring 1931

2007 Sequoia Nursery Catalog



Ralph noticed that the Sam McGredy miniature, ‘Anytime,’ a semi-single salmon-orange colored rose, possessed a faint purple eye or halo at the base of the petals. He surmised that it could be used to produce roses with something similar to the red blotch found in *R. persica*.

Left: ‘Anytime’

Photo by Sean McCann in -

*Miniature Roses: Their Care and Cultivation*

In 1981 ‘Anytime’ was crossed with ‘Angel Face,’ anticipating seedlings that would have a larger flower and a larger purple halo. A resulting mauve blend seedling was given the name Eyelav. Although it didn’t have the desired halo, he used it in a cross with the Meiland floribunda ‘Gold Badge’ to produce ‘Peach Halo,’ which showed a reddish purple halo. It was never introduced commercially but was eventually used as a parent.

‘Peach Halo’

Photo by Kim Rupert





'Halo Star' - top row and center

'Halo Dolly' - lower right

Two "Halo" seedlings were released in 1992 with the following introduction; "What are HALO™ roses? This new break originated here at Sequoia. They are distinguished by the dark area (or HALO™) around stamens, similar to the dark area hitherto seen only in *Hulthemia (rosa) persica* and its hybrids." 'Halo Dolly' resulted from a cross of 'Anytime' x Eyselav made in 1986. Its semi-double blooms were medium to light pink with a very distinct red halo. Slightly quilled petals gave the open flowers the appearance of a waterlily. The second, 'Halo Star,' was a selfed cross of Eyselav made in 1988. Its smallish star-shaped flowers were a blend of coral orange and pink shades with a darker reverse. Its vivid red halo was enhanced by its bright yellow stamens. In contrast to 'Halo Dolly,' 'Halo Star' remained in their catalog for over a decade.

In 1994 the catalog featured two new introductions. 'Halo Today' resulted from a cross of 'Peach Halo' x ('Anytime' x 'Lavender Jewel'). Its petal count varied from five to twelve and its base color was a sort of Fanta Orange (the soft drink!). The halo was a rather subtle purplish red, perhaps taking a back seat to the vibrant yellow stamens. A cross of 'Peach Halo' with 'Make Believe' (another seedling out of 'Anytime' x 'Angel Face'), yielded 'Halo Rainbow.' Its petals were white, edged with a band of pink and a conspicuous rose-red halo. Despite its dramatic color the variety did not appear in Sequoia catalogs again except in their limited numbers supplemental lists. Curiously though, Ralph would use it as a pollen parent for future introductions.



Above: 'Halo Today'  
Photo by Stephen Hoy



Left: 'Halo Rainbow'  
Photo by Beth Hana

One year later saw the release of 'Halo Fire,' a cross of Sam McGredy's 'Orangeade' and an unregistered/undescribed variety listed on HMF as Halo8. Its eight or so petals are a florescent orange-red with a very

subtle purple-red halo. I was able to reacquire a plant several years ago and it is the inspiration for this article. I don't do any black spot protection but it continues to perform nicely in my garden.

Another very dramatically colored introduction appeared in 1997, 'Halo Sunrise.' And no wonder, it was bred using 'Peach Halo' and the colorful 'Halo Rainbow.' Its eight to ten petals were glowing yellow with the reddest halo yet.



In 2000 Sequoia added 'Halo Sunset' to its catalog. There is conflicting published information about the parentage of this variety. Ralph Moore's breeding list states that it resulted from 'Peach Halo' x unknown. HMF and American Rose Society sources reported the parentage as Unnamed seedling x 'Show 'n Tell.' I am inclined to trust



'Halo Karol' was released in 1998 and was, once again, a distinctive color. A cross of Halo8 x Halo8, the color was a pale pink with a darker pink reverse that often finely brushed the outer edges of the petals. The red halo in these new introductions was becoming more defined and more clearly visible.



Ralph's list. The single to semi-double

blooms are coral-orange with a conspicuous red halo.

Upper Right: 'Halo Fire'

Upper Left: 'Halo Sunrise'

Lower Right: 'Halo Karol'

Lower Left: 'Halo Sunset'

All photos by Stephen Hoy

Next in the collection was ‘Halo Sweetie’ (2001). The parents were ‘Peach Halo’ x ‘Halo Rainbow.’ Its single star-shaped flowers were a soft peach color that grew paler toward the center, making the red halo really pop. The blooms and the plant were smaller than others in the series. Also released that same year was ‘Ora Kelly,’ a mini that wasn’t designated a Halo™ rose but nevertheless had Halo™ parentage and a faint pink halo. A beautiful single-flowered variety, its petals are white with a broad band of pastel pink around the edges. The halo, although subtle is clearly visible under yellow stamens. Its parents were ‘Peach Halo’ x ‘Rise ‘n Shine.’



‘Halo Glory’ was released in 2003. He used a seedling out of ‘Gold Badge’ x Eyclav as the seed parent and either an unknown or unregistered pollen parent. Its coloring made it one of my favorites among the Halo offerings. The petals are a blend of pinks growing paler toward the center with darker rose-red edges. The glowing red halo and yellow stamens set the blooms ablaze!



The last in the series, ‘Halo Gold,’ arrived in 2004. The 2007 Sequoia catalog described it as having “a halo with orange, gold, and russet colors changing to pink on wavy scalloped petals. 1” flowers on this compact plant are very good for pressing.” Only one photo of it appears to have ever been published.



Upper Right: ‘Halo Sweetie’  
Photo by Julie Lyon

Upper Left: ‘Ora Kelly’  
Photo by Paul Barden

Lower Right: ‘Halo Glory’  
Photo by Stephen Hoy



Lower Left: ‘Halo Gold’  
Photo by Paul Barden

Momentum to continue breeding Halo minis diminished as Ralph had acquired the Harkness *R. persica* hybrid, 'Tigris,' and was making inroads with his own introductions (beginning with 'Persian Autumn' and 'Roses Are Red' in 2005). And he turned 100 years of age in 2007! In April of 2008 the nursery was closed.

Several factors account for the limited trail of photographic history of these unique little roses. The miniature rose industry was exploding with the efforts of numerous hybridizing enthusiasts, and although a number of single and semi-double flowered varieties would become relatively popular ('My Sunshine,' 'Grace Seward,' 'Crazy Dottie,' and 'Why Not' to name a few), they could not compete in catalog sales with the growing numbers of cultivars with exhibition form. Additionally, Ralph apparently did not permit other nurseries that specialized in miniatures to market them (I've looked in my old catalogs from Harm Saville, Dee Bennett, Ernest Williams, Jerry Justice, Nelson Jolly, Michael Williams, and Dennis Bridges – not a mention!). Lastly, hybridizers have cracked the reluctance of *R. persica* to pass along its magic eye. Dozens of hybrids have made their way into the market. However, who wouldn't rather have a halo than a blotch?

## From the Editor

In the last several years I have become passionate about recovering roses I've grown in the past and lost. In the case of a number of them it's now or never. What was I thinking when I didn't assure the survival of 'Cecil,' or 'Isobel,' (and on and on the list goes)? On occasion I lost plants due to unusual weather or to unforeseen circumstances (read liver transplant). I also acknowledge that I had unrealistic expectations regarding how some should grow and may have let some decline unnecessarily.

Such is the case with the Halo minis. At one time I had purchased several, but illness resulted in almost a 100% loss of my roses. I was able to add 'Halo Fire' back to my garden several years ago. Now that I have it I remember how unique and or desirable several of the others were and would love to reacquire as many as possible. However, it would seem they have disappeared from retail outlets and are only in the hands of individuals here and there.

I value and support the work being done by The Friends of Vintage Roses, the Coastal California Rose Society, Claude Graves and HRF (Anne Belovich Rambler collection), Rose Petals Nursery (Teas, Chinas, and OGR's), Roses Unlimited (all of the All-American Roses), and many others to preserve collections of specific heritage and modern rose classes. Perhaps those of us with smaller gardens could maintain a portion of a collection? I'm in!

## Sources (retail sources in North America that ship)

'Miracle On The Hudson' – Roses Unlimited, [www.rosesunlimitedsc.com](http://www.rosesunlimitedsc.com) and many others!

'Pink Miracle' & 'Coral Miracle' – Certified Roses, <https://www.certifiedrose.com>; Regan Nursery, <https://www.regannursery.com>;

the Halo Minis – Rogue Valley Roses, [www.roguevalleyroses.com](http://www.roguevalleyroses.com) offers 'Halo Glory' in very limited quantities.