

UNDER the GREENWOOD TREE

By Sylvan Hortus

During the 19th century, France was one of the leading countries in the development of the modern rose. This accounts for the predominance of French names among the rose introductions in the many classes that came and went during that period of rapid development.

The 19th century opened with mainly the most ancient of the rose classes still holding the predominant place in the Rose Garden. But proliferation of varieties had reached a higher level in those old classes. By the end of the 19th century, class after class had been bred developed and let sag to near obscurity as the succeeding class surpassed it in one or more aspects.

The rose class still considered to be the most magnificent was well on its way at the close of this century. The first hybrid tea was introduced in the 1880's, and the latest masterpieces of the rose breeder's efforts are hybrid tea roses today in 1973.

A great deal of the credit for the impetus of this development, particularly in France, should go to two women. In the late 18th century, Marie Antoinette spent money like water. Her spending habits included special palaces and some other gew-gaws of equal price.

I don't like to think she lost her head over roses, but one of her extravaganzas was an enormous rose garden in which she collected most of the varieties then available. When she and the hapless Louis were guillotined, these gardens were trampled and desecrated by the Paris mobs, and left in utter neglect for some time. This unfortunate queen perhaps did little to encourage her subjects, but the fact that this ruined rose garden was at hand when another woman came into a position of power in France was Marie Antoinette's contribution. Her garden was the original stimulus for the enthusiasm of Empress Josephine.

Josephine restored parts of the garden and evinced an interest in improving the rose. She encouraged the growers of the day to experiment in breeding new varieties. Long after Josephine had left the scene the results from her encouragement were still growing and France led the world in rose hybridizing.

cross between the ancient Gallicas and the species R. Cinnamomea. The flower is large and very double, but with the general form of the Gallicas. The vigor of its species parent is present. The color is deep pink, almost carmine in the center, gradually blending to a light pink as you approach the outer petals of the flower. It has the once blooming characteristic of both parents, so it can be enjoyed for a month out of each year. It is a June rose. The advent of the everblooming China prevented further development in this Francefutura class.



HERMOSA
(China Rose)

The smaller flowered Chinas also lacked what is considered good form in a rose, but they kept producing new buds and bloomed constantly from spring to fall. The presence of the China coupled with the impetus given to rose culture by Empress Josephine led to the great advances that followed in rapid succession through the next hundred years.



PAUL NEYRON
(Hybrid Perpetual)

One of the species that had entered into the creation of the Autumn Damask about 5000 years ago was the Musk rose, R. Moschata. Now, 5000 years later, R. Moschata was again bred into roses with China rose blood by a gentlemen named Champneys, undoubtedly a French name, but a resident of southeastern United States. The Noisette brothers, one in the U.S. and the other in France developed the class known as the Noisettes from this original cross of Champneys. From this, the musk blood flowed into the tea rose and eventually into the hybrid tea. The hybrid perpetual, which had developed along other blood lines was a very vigorous, large flowered class with a fair degree of everblooming. The weaker growing teas were

more dependable for ever-blooming, and their smaller flowers had better form.

From the marriage of the husky, large flowered hybrid perpetual with the good form, floriferous tea, we have the modern hybrid tea. It is more robust than the tea, larger flowered than the tea, better formed than the hybrid perpetual, more floriferous than the hybrid perpetual, and comes in the full color range of both parents.

In the 20th century, attention again was given to the musk



DUC GIROD de L'AIN
(Hybrid Perpetual)

rose species and a host of hybrids, some large flowered, some small, some single and some double, and encompassing a great range of color were developed. These have so much R. Moschata blood that they all reach the huge proportions of the musk parent. Unlike the musk parent, the musk hybrids are everblooming.

The hybrid perpetual roses have not passed from the scene as much as you might think. One of the best white roses yet available is Frau Karl Druschki. Many white hybrid teas have

come along to challenge the Frau. The great majority are already forgotten, but the Frau lives on in millions of gardens.

In the heyday of the hybrid perpetual, two unusual roses were produced. Roger Lambelin and Duc Girod de L'Ain are red roses with white edges to all the petals. The Duc is darker red than Roger, and is the most attractive of the two, but for some reason, more growers still produce Roger Lambelin. The huge pink Paul Neyron and the most beautiful large crimson Prince Camille de Rohan are two more found



PENELOPE
(Hybrid Musk)

on many growers lists today. With the growing cult of Old Rose fanciers, more of these older classes are represented every year. Many large rose shows now have class competition for the roses of bygone eras.

Munger on cruiser

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GENERAL JACQUIMINOT
(Hybrid Perpetual)

Both of these women have had roses named after them. The rose, Empress Josephine, is the only remaining variety in its class that is still extensively grown. It is a Francefutura, a



WIND CHIMES
(Hyb. Musk Rose)

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