

Hella Brumme & Eilike Vemmer

KOSMOS

Historical Roses

in the Europa-Rosarium
Sangerhausen

Gallica
Damask
Alba
Centifolia
Moss rose varieties

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*Gallica-Roses,
Damask-Roses,
Alba-Roses,
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Translated from German by Helga Brichet
Past President of the World Federation of Rose Societies
Past Chairman of the WFRS Conservation Committee

KOSMOS



Rosa centifolia foliacea.

P. J. Redouté pinx.

Imprimerie de Rémond

Rosier à cent feuilles, foliacé.

Langleis sculp.

Contents

Prefaces	page 6
Our enthusiasm for historical roses	12
Roses throughout the centuries	14
Distinguishable characteristics of historical rose classes	18
Gallica Roses	26
Damask Roses	76
Alba Roses	88
Centifolias	98
Moss Roses	112
Roses difficult to classify	142
Found roses	144
Easily confused roses	146
Mistakenly named, unidentified varieties	150
Glossary	152
Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen	154
Bibliography	156
Rose Index	157
Acknowledgements	160
Credits and imprint	160





Deutsche Rosen-Ausstellung Sangerhausen

Juni bis Oktober 1903

Kyffhäuser-Denkmal.

Moltke-Warte
bei Sangerhausen.

Preface

The foundation for the collection of the Europa-Rosarium, which is unique in the world in our times, was laid as early as in 1897. During a congress of the Verein Deutscher Rosenfreunde (Association of German Friends of Roses) the rose breeder Peter Lambert from Trier suggested founding an association's rosarium. The intention was to combat against the extinction of rare and historical roses and to preserve them for posterity. Thanks to the rose friends Albert Hoffmann and Ewald Gnau, Sangerhausen became the home of the rosarium. It was inaugurated on July 3rd, 1903. The decisive reason was the fact that the Town of Sangerhausen let the association have a suitable area. The opening selection consisted of about 1,500 different types and varieties of roses, many of which were provided by the famous rose garden at L'Hay-les-Roses near Paris.

Even in the turbulent times of German history in the 20th century the Rosarium succeeded in preserving and steadily expanding its range of roses. After the end of World War II the Rosarium was transferred to municipal sponsorship. With the German reunification the Rosarium gained an all-German and European importance and could be visited by rose lovers from all over the world.

Nowadays the range of the worldwide biggest collection of roses consists of about 8,700 types and varieties of the species *Rosa L.*, to the preservation of which the municipality of Sangerhausen committed itself in the form of a mandate. Since 2009 the Europa-Rosarium functions as a coordination centre of the Deutsche Genbank

Rose (German gene bank rose), In cooperation with numerous network partners strategies concerning the preservation as well as further expansion of the existing collections are being developed. In addition their components are verified.

As is the case with other plant genera, the exact identification of certain representatives of *Rosa L.* baffles even experts. This is true especially for the fascinating wealth of historical roses with 1,400 representatives, making historical roses a main focus of the Sangerhausen collection.

Both authors of the present volume have spent several decades studying the wide variety of Historical Roses intensively and possess singular expert knowledge concerning the Europa-Rosarium's collection. To make available this rich experience was a project that experts and enthusiasts of historical roses have long wished for and even claimed. With the publication of this book the two authors have – with enormous commitment and innumerable hours of work – fulfilled this desire. There can be no doubt that this publication will be an intensively used standard reference work on Historical Roses worldwide.

Many thanks!

Thomas Havel

Director Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen

Preface by the President of German Rose Society

The Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen is one of the world's most important collections of roses. The former president of the World Federation of Rose Societies, Steve Jones lauded this rosarium as "The Holy Grail of Roses". Its collection of roses is an inexhaustible source for scientific studies on the origin and evolution of today's roses. Among the approximately 8,700 varieties of roses and wild rose species, the collection of historical roses is of particularly unique importance. In order to describe this extraordinary collection of roses sci-

entifically and extensively, the authors Hella Brumme and Eilike Vemmer spent several years of dedicated work. They found that they had to make a number of new allocations. Who, apart from these two experts and specialists in the world of roses would have been able to accept such an enormous challenge and – as we see – carry it out with such great success? With incredible energy and scientific meticulousness, representatives of the most important classes of historical roses were inspected and described,



Historical roses in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen

day by day, throughout the seasons, and over several years. Thousands of photographs were taken, in order to document all important characteristics that are relevant for the unambiguous classification of rose varieties, which give the present publication its extraordinary meaning. It is not enough just to look at the blossom of a rose to identify the variety, but the combination of many morphological details is crucial. This is - e. g. - how the criteria for analysis and discussion were applied: What do the spines look like? How are the sepals shaped? Which facet of green does the foliage have? What colour does the bark show? No detail was overlooked. At the end of this exhaustive process a book is presented, the significance of which for the world of roses cannot be overes-

timated. The combined expertise of the authors makes the collection of historical roses in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen a highly reliable source for rose researchers and all rose lovers worldwide.

We are especially grateful to the publisher that the book is being published in two languages, this being an important precondition for making it internationally available.

Professor Dr Hans-Peter Mühlbach
President of the German Rose Society e.V.



The rose garden donated by the German Rose Society at the centenary celebrations in 2003

Preface by the chairman of the Foundation Europa-Rosarium Sanger- hausen of the German Rose Society



Rosa x centifolia 'Cristata'

The German Rose Society's Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen Foundation has as its objective the promotion of all scientific research regarding the unique collection of roses in Sangerhausen, as well as its maintenance, and enrichment, while also making it available and useful.

Since the establishment of the Foundation in 1994, a number of research and scientific projects have been initiated, sustained and financed. For the moment the most important of these is the establishment of the Gene Bank Network Rose Project. As a result of exhaustive preparatory measures, a centre of coordination for the Network was established in the Europa-Rosarium in 2009.

The continuous enlargement of the rose collection in the Gene Bank Rose envisages, as an intergral part of the project, including the exact morphological descriptions of the varieties and illuminating inaccura-

cies and mistakes that have appeared in literature regarding the rose to date. The present systematic examination of the unique botanical collection of historical rose varieties in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen substantially amplifies the knowledge of historical rose classes, and so facilitates the identification of varieties for all rose friends.

The Foundation, on the Advisory Council of which the two specialists Eilike Vemmer and Hella Brumme are members, has supported and financed the book project "Historical Roses" in accordance with the Foundation's statutes. The authors have enthusiastically, meticulously and scientifically devoted themselves to this task, thus enabling readers to experience this fantastic rose collection also in their own homes.

Sincere gratitude is extended to all rose friends who have made specific donations to the Founda-



Alba-Rose 'Königin von Dänemark'

tion in order to finance the Historical Roses project.

I wish you much enjoyment with the study of historical roses, and invite you to visit this unique

collection of roses in the Mecca of rose friends, the City of Sangerhausen.

Dr. Hans Schreiber
Foundation Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen



The former Chairman of the Foundation, Josef Raff planting the rose 'Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria' together with the great granddaughter of the Empress, Felicitas Princess of Prussia, during the celebrations for the Rosariums' Jubilee, its 100th anniversary in 2003.

Our enthusiasm for historical roses

For me, the most fascinating thing about roses is their almost unimaginable diversity, their multiplicity of forms and types. Each has its own way of growing, its particular kind of leaves, shapes, the colours of its flowers and its unmistakable hips:

Every Rose is a Character.

Hedi Grimm



Eilike Vemmer and Hella Brumme

To this day I am not able to say why I find historical roses so enchanting. It started early in my youth. I grew up in the Harz Mountains, where my parents had a small farm with fields and meadows as well as a few domestic animals. As children we were soon included in farm duties and even if we were not always very enthusiastic about looking after small livestock or lending a hand at harvest time on hot summer days, these jobs had a formative influence on our respect for work, while laying the foundation for our love of nature. Chickens and geese waddled around the farm courtyard, while a smaller plot was set aside for vegetables and herbs, but there was also a garden in front of the house with

two roses and some herbaceous plants. As there was little time to look after this garden, the roses were often overgrown with weeds, and it became my task to extricate them when they were about to bloom. But not even the wonderful flowers of the once-blooming HT 'Comtesse Vandal' were enough recompensation. On the other hand, in my friend's garden, grandfather had built a swing in a passage to their garden, next to which stood a large shrub of the Alba 'Maiden's Blush'. The entire bush was covered in flowers with a wonderful scent, which inspired us to childrens' fairy games.

During my apprenticeship as a gardener, I had little to do with roses, and only in 1971, when I was transferred to the Rosarium in Sangerhausen, could I once more focus on them. At that time Bed and Grandiflora varieties were very popular and necessitated many hours of work in the Rosarium. The plants often suffered during the winter months and did not grow into healthy shrubs.

And thus, historical roses fascinated me even more. They became large bushes with little upkeep and bloomed generously in the summer, while exhaling an enchanting perfume. Slowly I learnt and noticed the differences, that, for example, the same variety may seem very different at diverse times of the year. And the Rose School in Sangerhausen with Eilike Vemmer increased my knowledge. As a result of her intensive study of all available rose literature, many queries arose, which we tried to solve together. The more we study historical roses, the more fascinating they become. As Eilike Vemmer and I write, we are aware that there are still many unresolved questions.

Hella Brumme

I got to know historical roses through my parents in Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe. At first Damasks, Gallicas, Centifolias and Moss Roses all seemed about the same to me – fat, many-petalled flowers which lasted only for a short period of time, and really rather boring – except for the scent! I thought I would never see their differences and much preferred the Hybrid Musks in Wilhemshöhe Park, with their small flowers, charming growth and especially generous blooms in autumn.

My mother tried long and hard to encourage my interest in historical roses. Only slowly did I find an approach to them, and that was via history, which had always interested me, particularly the Napoleonic period. This was also an interesting period for roses. The history of roses has many murky instances and there are often contrasting renditions in different sources. The search to know more about certain roses and rose breeders has meanwhile become more exciting for me than a detective novel.

First with the help of my parents and later with Hella Brumme, I learned and still learn more about historical roses. In 2003 my husband had a good idea: why not introduce, one by one, all the classes of roses which are represented in the Europe-Rosarium Sangerhausen in some sort of Rose School? So ever since then, especially in the winter, I have spent many weeks studying rose literature and old catalogues, aimed at describing a particular class or group of roses. And the more one gets involved with a theme, the more absorbing it becomes. Today I no longer find historical roses boring! And they are distinguishable. It has to be made clear again and again that in nature there are no drawers of classification. There are often just flowing transitions.

Eilike Vemmer

As a result of our notes regarding the Sangerhausen Rose School, the Europa-Rosarium Foundation of the German Rose Society expressed a desire for a book concerning historical roses. At first we labori-

ously consulted all available literature about historical roses, and collected the descriptions of every Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia and Mossrose present in the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen from old catalogues and books. Then Hella, with her admirable knowledge of varieties, and Eilike started comparing each portrayal with the variety in the Rosarium, and described them in a repetitive scheme. Theory and reality did not always coincide, as a result of which we then had to try and find the correct rose or identify the probably falsely named variety. This was sometimes not possible. In spite of intensive research and exhaustive comparison of blooms, not every rose could be identified. Very ancient roses, such as 'Maiden's Blush', are often morphologically different, there being no single form, but various types. Concerning the names of several roses we put the generally used name first and mentioned other names as synonyms. In this we differ from the Rose Directory of the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen. To identify clearly a variety it is necessary to know the name, the breeder, the year of introduction and the classification of the variety. Sometimes the same name has been used for different roses. Only in a few cases can we describe hips, as at the Rosarium the faded flowers are cut off in summer.

Hella Brumme and Eilike Vemmer

Roses throughout the centuries



Rosa gallica

Thanks to their perfumes and striking blooms, roses are considered to be one of man's favourite plants. The oldest traces of petrified roses date to some 35 to 40 million years ago, while roses have been used as ornamental plants over the last 5,000 years, first in China and then in the Middle and Near East, and a little later in Europe.

Roses in ancient times

Rose water and rose oil were produced by the Sumerians more than 4,000 years ago, indicating that perfumed and double blooms must already have been available. The praise of the Greek poetess, Sappho, eight centuries before Christ, is well known: the Rose is the Queen of Flowers. The Greeks already wore wreaths of roses and transmitted rose culture to Egypt and Rome, where the goddesses Aphrodite and Venus were worshipped, as was the goddess Ishtar in Babylonia. In the late Roman Empire unimaginable luxury was devised for feasts and celebrations with fields of roses cultivated in and imported by ship from Egypt. At that time the red *Rosa gallica*, the pink *Rosa x damascena* and the white *Rosa x alba* and probably the *Rosa x centifolia* were known.



Rosa x centifolia 'Major'

The Middle Ages

Initially Christians turned their backs on the rose because it was a symbol of Venus. Soon, however, roses were cultivated in convent gardens for medicinal purposes, and then found their way into other gardens, thanks to their beauty and scent. It is said that crusaders returned to France with the semi-double *Rosa gallica* 'Officinalis' and a **Damask-rose**, which then spread to the rest of central Europe. It is possible, but we do not know with certainty, that both these roses had already travelled northwards through Italy, or been brought to Spain by the Arabs. In paintings of the Madonna dating from the late Middle Ages, we can clearly recognize the red *Rosa gallica* 'Officinalis' and the white *Rosa x alba* 'Semiplena' which had been adopted as symbols of the grief and purity of the Virgin Mary.

The sixteenth century

In the Netherlands a lost type of rose appeared again with very many petals: *Rosa batavica*, the Dutch Rose. This rose was in all probability a chance crossing between existing garden roses and was soon given the name *Rosa x centifolia*, because of the numerous petals displayed.

Near Frankfurt, similarly, a chance crossing between the *Rosa gallica* and the May Rose, *Rosa majalis*, occurred, giving rise to a *Rosa x francofurtana* group of a different appearance. A form with some pretension to climb was known as the “Täpetenrose.” At that time there were not yet any climbing roses in central Europe.

As interest in plants increased, the first Herbals appeared, some also with drawings of roses.

The yellow rose, *Rosa lutea*, and its poppy-red mutation, *Rosa punicea*, as well as the double, yellow sulphur roses (today *Rosa foetida*, *Rosa foetida* 'Bicolor' and *Rosa hemisphaerica*) were imported from Asia Minor. As yellow roses were unknown in central Europe at the time, they quickly became popular.

The seventeenth century

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries affluent members of society permitted their gardens to be painted in Florilegia, and owing to this we know which roses were planted in central European gardens at that time. In a Hamburg Florilegium dated 1660 twenty roses are illustrated, most of which are identified: *Rosa gallica* 'Officinalis', *Rosa gallica* 'Versicolor', *Rosa holoserica* (today's 'Tuscany'), a double Gallica *Rosa gallica forma plena*, *Rosa x francofurtana*, *Rosa x damascena* 'Bifera', *Rosa x damascena* 'Versicolor' ('York & Lancaster'), *Rosa x alba* 'Semiplena', *Rosa x alba* 'Maxima', 'Maiden's Blush' (the Virgin's rose), *Rosa x centifolia*, the three yellow roses as well as a *Rosa foetida forma plena*, *Rosa majalis* 'Foecundissima' (the double May Rose), *Rosa moschata* and *Rosa canina*. In addition, the *Rosa villosa* (the Apple Rose) was cultivated for its hips, while the *Rosa rubiginosa* formed impenetrable hedges.

The most important rose group in the sixteenth or seventeenth century became the **Moss Roses**, a mutation of the Centifolias.



'Perle von Weissenstein'

From the middle of the eighteenth century

It was above all in the **Netherlands** that rose breeding, or rather selection of varieties amongst the existing rose groups or classes began, and, above all, amongst the Gallicas. In Germany the first recognized variety to be bred was given the descriptive name of '**Perle von Weissenstein**' at the end of the 18th century in Kassel.

Wild roses were imported from eastern **North America**.

In England a probable form of an Autumn Damask and *Rosa gallica* 'Officinalis' were crossed, giving birth to the repeat blooming Portland rose '**The Portland**'.

Around 1800

Of fundamental importance for rose breeding was the importation of repeat flowering Chinese garden roses to England and thereafter into the rest of Europe. Before 1800 the two most important varieties were *Rosa chinensis* '**Semperflorens**' and '**Old Blush**', from which Hybrid China or Bengal roses were developed.

After 1800 the *Rosa x odorata* and the yellowish *Rosa x odorata* '**Ochroleuca**', formed the basis of future Tea Roses breeding.



'Old Blush'

The first half of the nineteenth century

In North America the *Rosa moschata* was in all probability crossed with 'Old Blush', giving rise to the **Noisette Roses**, which were subsequently further bred and elaborated in France. Similarly, on the Island of Bourbon (today's Réunion) a crossing of 'Old Blush' and an Autumn Damask gave rise to a new class, which in France was to be named **Bourbon Roses**.

It was above all in France that work on crossing the imported China roses with old European roses began.

Many **Hybrid Gallicas** were produced, fewer **Hybrid Albas, Damasks, Centifolias, Moss** and **Portland** roses, but above all from around the middle of the century, many **Hybrid Perpetuals** were created.

So too were the first climbing roses bred: **Ayrshire Roses, Sempervirens Hybrids, Boursault Roses** and **Setigera Hybrids**. In addition, the first **Multiflora climbing roses** and **Asiatic wild roses** began to arrive from Eastern Asia.

Around 1870

Tea Roses were crossed with Hybrid Perpetuals giving rise to **Hybrid Teas**. The hybrid Tea '**La France**' (Guillot, 1867) was later generally acknowledged to herald the start of modern rose breeding.

Breeding with the wild Asiatic *Rosa multiflora* and *Rosa wichurana* produced many of the **climbing roses** still much-loved today. A cross between the *Rosa multiflora* and a China Rose produced the first **bed varieties**, named **Polyantha Roses**.

A cross between a hybrid remontant variety and the *Rosa foetida* 'Persiana' brought the yellow tones to European varieties. The orange-yellow '**Soleil d'Or**' was a forefather of modern yellow and orange varieties.

1900

Crosses between Polyanthas and Hybrid Teas resulted in the development of the bed varieties named **Hybrid Polyanthas**.

Rugosa Roses, imported around one hundred years earlier from North Eastern Asia, were used in the breeding of shrub roses.

In 1903 the German Rose Society, which had been founded in 1883, inaugurated its **Rosarium Sangerhausen**, in which not only new varieties, but above all the fast disappearing historical roses, were to be preserved. Today the Europa-Rosarium Sangerhausen is the most important Rosarium in the world.

Around 1910 **Moschata Hybrids** began to be bred in England. These shrub roses were bred from Multifloras and were able to bloom until cut down by frost.

In the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century unusual **wild roses** were imported