



Single Rose Bouquet: Rose Art by Ron Gladin

Singularly Beautiful Roses

A Publication Dedicated to Single,
Nearly Single, and Semi-Double Flowered Roses.
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Fig. 59.—*Rosa Watsoniana*.—See page 476.

Rosa watsoniana: Line drawing from *Forest and Garden*, Vol. 3, Issue 136, Oct. 1, 1890, p. 477.

responsible for sending the “new” rose to Brussels, sometime in the 1880’s, for evaluation by Mons. François Crépin. The famous Belgian botanist and rose authority gave it the name *R. multiflora Thunbergia forma watsoniana* Matsumara - in honor of Dr. Watson according to an Italian horticultural journal published in 1888 (p. 309). During the last decades of the 19th and first decades of the 20th centuries the rose was distributed throughout Europe and parts of the U. S.

The five petalled blooms of *R. watsoniana* are pale pink to white and are very small, measuring approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ ” in diameter; they arrive mid-summer in large pyramidal clusters referred to botanically as corymbs. As unusual as the flowers are, the feature that really draws one’s attention to this rose is the slender willow or bamboo-like foliage which is pale green mottled white. Each leaf has three leaflets which may account for Crépin’s comment about its “relation” to *R. anemoneflora*. The arching stems layer over top of one another in rather casual fashion, growing to about 3-4’ in height and diameter, and are armed with small, but very sharp, hooked prickles.

Its oddity as a garden rose prompted Gertrude Jekyll to write, “There are not many roses which are distinctly unbeautiful, but this may certainly be said of *R. watsoni* (sic) . . . the leaves are twisted. . . and look as if some enemy has been at work upon them, or as if they had been passed through boiling water.” (“Wild and Garden Roses,” p. 366.) One

Shinosuke-Bara: The Bamboo Rose

A number of years ago I had the opportunity to attend an Heirloom Roses open house. One of the speakers, Suzy Verrier, showed several slides of a very unique rose, one I’d never heard of – *Rosa watsoniana*. To say this rose is a curiosity is an understatement!

According to an article written by Professor Charles S. Sargent in an October 1, 1890 issue of *Garden and Forest*, Edward S. Rand brought a plant to the Arnold Arboretum in 1878 from his Dedhams, Massachusetts garden having obtained the variety (Sargent wrote, “If I remember correctly) from an Albany, New York garden some years earlier. Prof. Sargent added, “It was supposed to have been brought from Japan, and to be a cultivated form of a variety of *Rosa multiflora*. Its Japanese or Chinese origin is probable, but Monsieur Crépin, whose knowledge of roses is unrivaled and to whom specimens from the Arboretum have been submitted, points out certain characters which separate it from that species and another east Asia species of the same section (Synstylm) *R. anemoneflora*, to which, however it is closely related. . . [It] would seem to suggest some long cultivated abnormal form from a Japanese garden, a view which is further strengthened by the fact that wild specimens of this plant have not been collected” (p. 476).

Dr. Sereno Watson of Harvard’s Gray Herbarium was the individual

contributor to HMF speculates that the unusual character of the foliage may be virus induced. This idea is potentially corroborated by the fact that seedlings of *R. watsoniana* have normal multiflora foliage.

Despite Ms. Jekyll's opinion, I love the "curiosity" factor this rose brings to the garden. My backyard is filled with Japanese maples, in particular the dissectums, a very rare cut-leaf Vitex, the quite novel lace-leaved birch 'Trost's Dwarf,' plants with variegated foliage, silver foliage, maroon foliage – *R. watsoniana* fits right in.



Rosa watsoniana

BEWARE:
Infected with Incurable Rose Fever!

“Twin Sons of Different Mothers”

Although over a hundred single and nearly single hybrid teas were introduced into commerce during the first three decades of the 20th century, only five truly single hybrid teas were registered and introduced from 1940-1949. *White Wings*, a silvery white cross of *Dainty Bess* and an unnamed seedling, was raised by amateur hybridizer Alfred Krebs of Montebello, California. It first appeared in the catalog of fellow rose hybridizer Fred Howard (of Howard & Smith fame) in 1945, and was registered with the ARS in 1946. The introduction of a single white hybrid tea instantly invited comparison with the very popular semi-double white hybrid tea *Innocence*, introduced by the Chaplin Brothers in 1921. Dorothy Stemler, one of my favorite catalog writers, described *White Wings* in the 1965 *Roses of Yesterday and Today Catalog*, “Very long, narrow buds open their five petals wide to show the exquisite pattern of garnet red stamens at the center; a vigorous plant with excellent foliage and long, strong stems.” (p. 67). In my garden it is not quite as prolific a bloomer as *Dainty Bess*, nor is it as fragrant, but the combination of the “garnet” stamens and white petals stand out in the garden. Something that separates *White Wings* from other single hybrid teas – it holds Patent #850.

In 2007 the Deep South District of the American Rose Society celebrated the news that one its members, James Bailey, had earned gold, silver, and bronze medal certificates for three roses entered in the ARS Trial Grounds garden, a trial for roses bred by amateur hybridizers. The silver medal winner, a cross of *Dainty*



White Wings

Dog Wood: Photo Courtesy of Carol Green



Bess and *Crystalline* earned a score of 8.2 from the trial grounds judges. It was hybridized in the 90's when Jim was living in Texas – it's white, single-flowered, and has deep red stamens.

Sound similar? *Dog Wood*, the name of this "twin," is almost identical to *White Wings*. Both varieties produce their 4-4 ½" blooms in clusters and one-per-stem on nice long cutting stems. There is some difference in the foliage, new growth on *Dog Wood* is tinted maroon, *White Wings*' leaves are very heavily serrated; the shape of the flower petals is also somewhat distinct. However, their similarities far outweigh the dissimilarities, bringing to mind the title of a Dan Fogelberg/Tim Weisburg album, "Twin Sons of Different Mothers," that used to get a lot of play time in my dorm room years ago. (For you botanically wise rose growers, both roses actually have the same seed parent/mother, but considering that the catchy album title was the inspiration for the article I chose to disregard that "small" fact.)

My Novelty Miniature



Ruffles 'n Flourishes

Ruffles 'n Flourishes, intrigued me. Although the name was reportedly inspired by the ruff worn as part of the uniforms of the Yeoman of the Guard (a ceremonial unit of former British soldiers), I was reminded of the musical honor also named "Ruffles and Flourishes" that I had performed a zillion times at retirement and awards ceremonies during my Air Force Band career. The rose is a bit of a mystery. Although sold as a miniature in their catalog, it was registered as a shrub (CLEruff). Introduced in 2004, it has since been dropped from their catalog. In my Georgia garden it grows about 18" tall, the blooms are informally shaped, roughly 1.5" in diameter, and an attractive combination of a densely hued red and white. The parentage is listed as *Sexy*

My interest in hybridizing began in 1999 after I had been growing roses for almost twenty years. At the time I was working in the nursery and greenhouse business and was doing quite a bit of residential landscaping in Middle Georgia. I had access to greenhouses, a professional mist house, and a large florist cooler. I harvested seeds from open-pollinated hips, put them in the cooler for about 80 days, and planted them in the wonderful soilless potting mix we used in the greenhouses. The result was a lesson many first-time hybridizers experience, a germination rate that was extremely disappointing. But I did get several seedlings, and a new hobby was born.

Shortly thereafter my hobby got put on hold as I began to lose a battle with Hepatitis C. After a liver transplant in 2004, I began to slowly redo my rather decimated garden with some new roses. I came across a variety in John Clemons Miniature Rose Catalog whose name,

Rexy x Whistle Stop in the *Official Checklist and Registry* published by the ICRA. *Sexy Rexy* we know, *Whistle Stop* may not be as familiar. It (*Whistle Stop*) is a mostly white miniature with prominent red stripes also hybridized by Sam McGredy IV, and has the red blend climbing miniature *Hurdy Gurdy* as a pollen parent.

In 2007 I collected the seeds from one open-pollinated hip from *Ruffles 'n Flourishes* and stored them in my home refrigerator. After planting the seeds the following spring one seed germinated. As the plant matured the red and white bicoloored bloom gained several petals, often having a few small petalooids at the center of the flower. When the danger of frost had passed I potted it up in a larger container and moved it outside. As the weather warmed up the bloom began to show some rather novel characteristics. The red to white transition towards the center of the petals took on a rather dramatic watercolor-like hand-painted effect, and the white picotee edge became more pronounced.

In 2010 I registered the rose as *Forrest Hale*. Forrest and his wife Lee brought new life to the Middle GA Rose Society years ago. Unfortunately, Forrest passed away in 2008 - I thought the rose was a fitting tribute. The plant grows about 18" tall and about 15" wide. The red blend blooms average 1" in diameter with about twenty petals, and usually arrive one per stem. The form would best be described as decorative. The foliage is matt green in color with slightly above average resistance to black spot. I cannot accurately comment on its susceptibility to powdery mildew as I rarely see that disease in my garden. The prickles are quite small but are quickly discovered if careless when deadheading. Among the seedlings I have raised it possesses a very striking hand-painted blend of colors. Sam McGredy did all the work years ago - I was merely the discoverer of a wonderfully unique surprise.



Forrest Hale

From the Editor

For some of you the rose season may be yet to come. Here in central Georgia (climate zone 8b) the first flush of bloom has come and gone for the most part. Usually "Lady Banks" is the first to show color in my garden, but this year there was no frost after Valentine's Day. Several small own-root plants that did not require any pruning were in bloom on March 31 - last year we had snow in mid-March!

This year I tried something new. For thirty years I've ordered roses from all over the U. S. and Canada; I was ready for a new rose adventure. Using *The Combined Rose List* I began looking at the websites of several European firms that exported roses to the U. S. Roses Loubert in France had several varieties that I was interested in and after contacting them I received a prompt reply from Jérôme Chene.

The experience of applying for the correct permits and filling out the paperwork was somewhat daunting, but it got done with just a few bruises. Completing the process without actually talking to a person left some questions initially unanswered. I personally prefer to have the opportunity to dialogue so that I get everything done in a timely and efficient

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fashion. However, all turned out well in the end and seven new roses are nicely growing in a quarantine area in my backyard.

I would urge everyone interested in importing roses to make sure that the roses aren't available in the U. S. or Canada. I ordered one variety that was listed as *Trier x Mutabilis*, which turned out to be *Plaisanterie*, available from several sources in the U. S. Oh well!

Here are the steps I followed.

1. Apply for Level 1 access from USDA.gov.
2. Apply for Level 2 access from USDA.gov.
3. Apply for a Postentry Quarantine Permit (Form 546) from www.aphis.usda.gov/permits. On the application you will be asked to list the exact quantity of plants ordered and their place of origin (in my case France). Additional orders placed while roses are in quarantine require modification of this permit. After applying for this permit you will be visited by an inspector who will approve the quarantine area.
4. After the application is approved you will receive a small green and yellow shipping label per plant ordered that must be mailed to the provider. These labels must accompany the roses as they leave the country of origin and arrive in the U. S.
5. Roses arrive at a designated inspection station (in my case Atlanta, GA), are inspected, and shipped to your address. I did not require a broker to carry the roses from the airline to the plant inspection station (which I understand can get very expensive). I actually drove up to Atlanta, GA and picked up the roses at the inspection station to avoid any further delays.
6. I immediately called my inspector and we made an appointment for him to come by and inspect the roses.

-Stephen



Singularly Beautiful Roses

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All photographs by Stephen Hoy
unless otherwise noted.

Please feel free to share this e-newsletter!

Sources:

Angel Gardens; www.angelpgardens.com - Dog Wood

Cool Roses; www.coolroses.com - Forrest Hale

Greenmantle Nursery; www.greenmantlenursery.com - White Wings

Rogue Valley Roses; www.roguevalleyroses.com - *R. watsoniana*, White Wings

Roses Unlimited; www.rosesunlimiteddownroot.com - White Wings

Vintage Gardens; www.vintagegardens.com - *R. watsoniana*, White Wings



Mateo's Silk Butterflies

