




Roses Then and Now

Roses 101



Master Manus MacDhai, OL

Barony of Windmasters' Hill
Kingdom of Atlantia



Sonnet 54 by William Shakespeare

54
O H how much more doth beautie beantious seeme,
By that sweet ornament which truth doth giue,
The Rose looks faire, but fairer we it deeme
For that sweet odor, which doth in it liue:
The Canker bloomes haue full as deepe a die,
As the perfumed tincture of the Roses,
Hang on such thornes, and play as wantonly,
When sommers breath their masked buds discloesse:
But for their virtue only is their show;
They liue vnwoo'd, and vnrespected fade,
Die to themselues. Sweet Roles doe not so,
Of their sweet deathes, are sweetest odors made:
And so of you, beautilous and lovely youth,
When that shall vade, by verse distills your truth.

O, how much more doth beauty beauteous seem
By that sweet ornament which truth doth give!
The rose looks fair, but fairer we it deem
For that sweet odour which doth in it live.
The canker-blooms have full as deep a dye
As the perfumed tincture of the roses,
Hang on such thorns and play as wantonly
When summer's breath their masked buds discloses:
But, for their virtue only is their show,
They live unwoo'd and unrespected fade,
Die to themselves. Sweet roses do not so;
Of their sweet deaths are sweetest odours made:
And so of you, beauteous and lovely youth,
When that shall vade, my verse distills your truth.

Introductions

Let's get to know each other a
little bit

- Name
- Where you hail from in the SCA
 - Where is that mundanely?
- Level of experience with roses
- What brought you here today



Topics

What I will talk about ...

- History of Roses
- Roses of the Period
- How do roses of the Period differ from modern roses
- Q & A



History of Roses

- Origin of Roses
- Roses prior to our Period
- Roses in the Middle Ages
- Roses in Modern Times



Origin of Roses

- Members of the Rosaceae family
 - Over 190 species of roses, 46 of which grow wild in Europe, and tens of thousands of cultivars
 - Only 10 contributed to the roses we cultivate today
 - 3 of those have contributed the trait of remontancy (repeat blooming)
-

Origin of Roses

- Native to the Northern Hemisphere
 - Mostly temperate but found from semi-tropical to sub-artic
 - Fossil evidence
 - 70 Million years ago in Asia
 - 35 Million years in North America
-

Roses before our Period

Prior to 600 CE

- Cultivated for at least the past 5000 years
 - Known to be cultivated in Babylonia and Assyria
 - Purpose for cultivation: production of rose water
 - Egyptian tomb painting dating from 14th Century BCE
 - Records of roses in gardens in China and Greece
-

Roses in Classical Times

Prior to 600 CE

- Roses in Homer's *Illiad*
 - Theophrastus described roses
 - Pliny the Elder
 - Dioscorides and *De Materia Medica* (1st Century CE & 6th Century Vienna Dioscurides)
-

Roses in the Middle Ages

The Medieval & Renaissance
Period

7th to 16th Centuries

Bechtel said in 1950:

“We know little about roses between the period of the Roman Empire and the early Renaissance.”

- Bechtel, “Ancient Cultivated Roses”, *American Rose Annual* 25 (1950), Pg 17

But that was 70 years ago ...

Roses in the Middle Ages

The Medieval & Renaissance
Period

7th to 16th Centuries

- Monastic records
 - Charlemagne and Capitulare de Villis (c. 800CE)
 - Theobald IV and the Apothecary Rose
 - Production of roses for rose water in Persia, Anatolia, Atlas Mts, Bulgaria
-

Roses in the Middle Ages

The Medieval & Renaissance
Period

7th to 16th Centuries

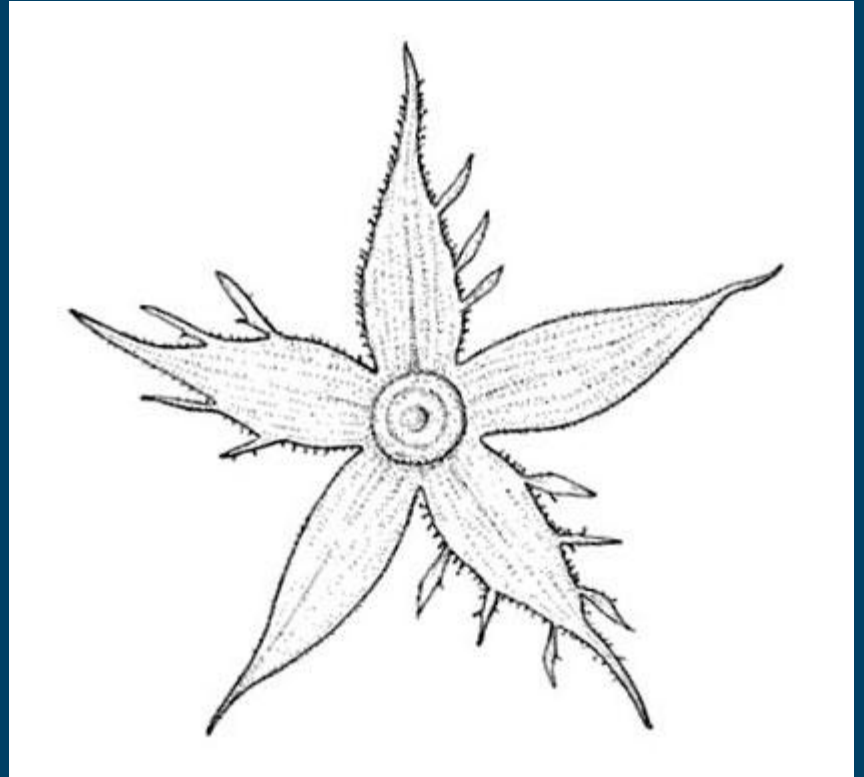
*Quinque sunt fractres
Duo sunt barbatī
Duo sine barba nati
Unus e quinque
Non habet barbā utrimque*

On a summer's day, in sultry weather,
Five brethren were born together
Two had beards and two had none,
And the other had but half of one.

-- Albertus Magnus

Roses in the Middle Ages

Albertus Magnus's
Riddle



Demonstration

Rose Sepals

Roses in the Renaissance

The Medieval & Renaissance
Period

7th to 16th Centuries

- Humanism of the Renaissance
 - The Beginning of Natural History as a Science
-

Roses in the Middle Ages

Pressed specimen of a rose:

Hieronymus Harder, *Herbarium vivum*

From 1576



Harder, Hieronymus: *Herbarium vivum* - BSB
Cod.icon. 3, [S.l.] Süddeutschland, 1576 - 1600
[BSB-Hss Cod.icon. 3] p. 81v

Demonstration

Herbarium-style Pressed Rose

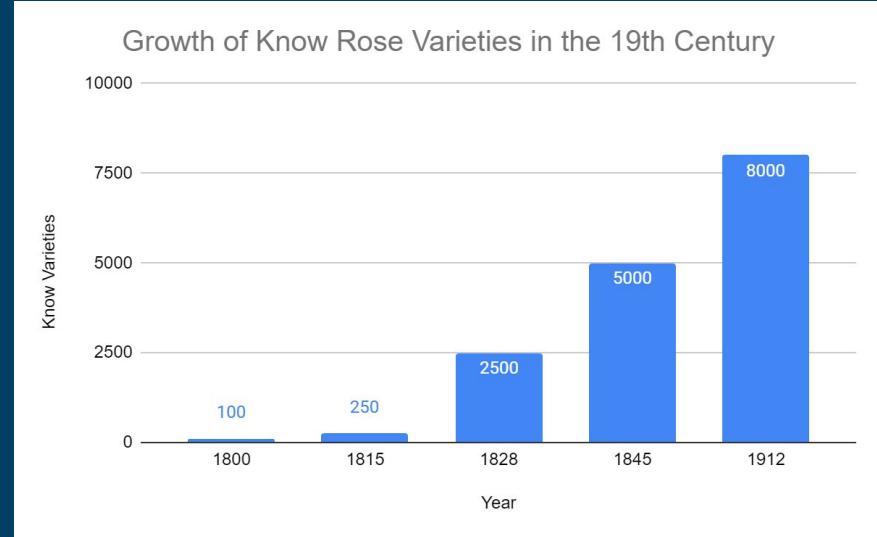
Roses in Modern Times

17th Century to Present

- Age of Exploration and Colonization
 - Increased trade with Asia and introduction of Asian roses
 - China Rose
 - Tea Rose
 - Other Asian species
-

Roses in Modern Times

17th Century to Present



Roses in Modern Times

17th Century to Present

- Hybrids developed in the 18th and 19th Centuries
 - Bourbon (chinensis x gallica)
 - Noisette (chinensis x Moschata)
 - Portland
 - Moss (sport of centifolia)
 - Hybrid Perpetuals: link between old and modern roses
-

Roses in Modern Times

17th Century to Present

- 1867: Guillot introduces “La France”, the first Hybrid Tea
 - Considered the dividing line between Old Garden Roses and Modern Roses
 - Modern Varieties (Groups):
 - Hybrid Tea
 - Grandiflora
 - Floribunda
 - Polyantha
 - Climbers
 - Ramblers
 - Shrubs
-

Groups of Medieval Roses

- Gallica
- Alba
- Damask
- Centifolia
- Foetida
- Species
 - Native Roses



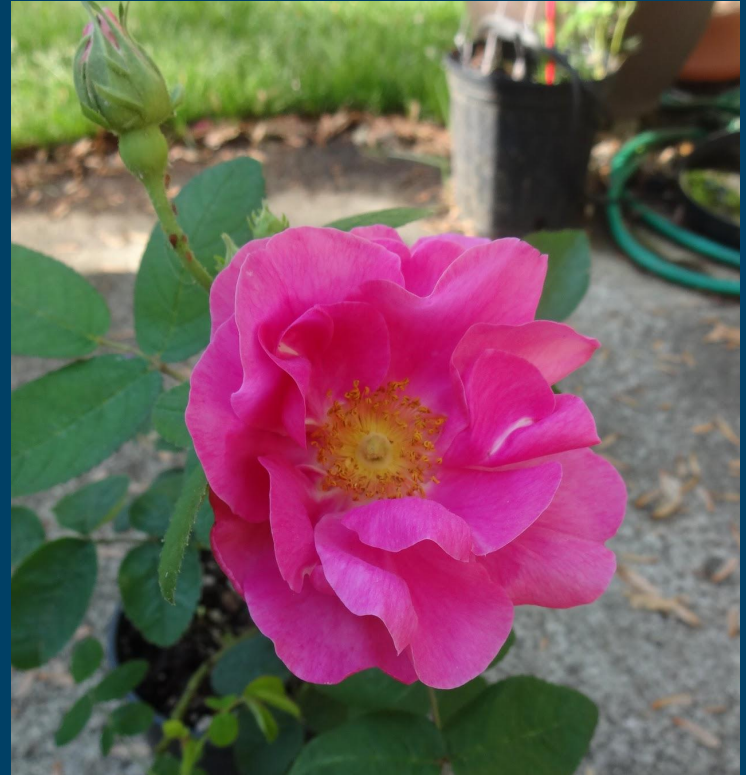
Gallica Roses

Gallica Roses

Apothecary Rose

R. gallica officinalis

Before 1250



© Philip Scott Dean

Gallica Roses

Rosa Mundi

R. gallica versicolor

Before 1581



© Philip Scott Dean

Gallica Roses

Tuscany

R. gallica 'Tuscany'

Before 1597



© Philip Scott Dean

Gallica Roses

Splendens

R. gallica 'Splendens'

Before 1583



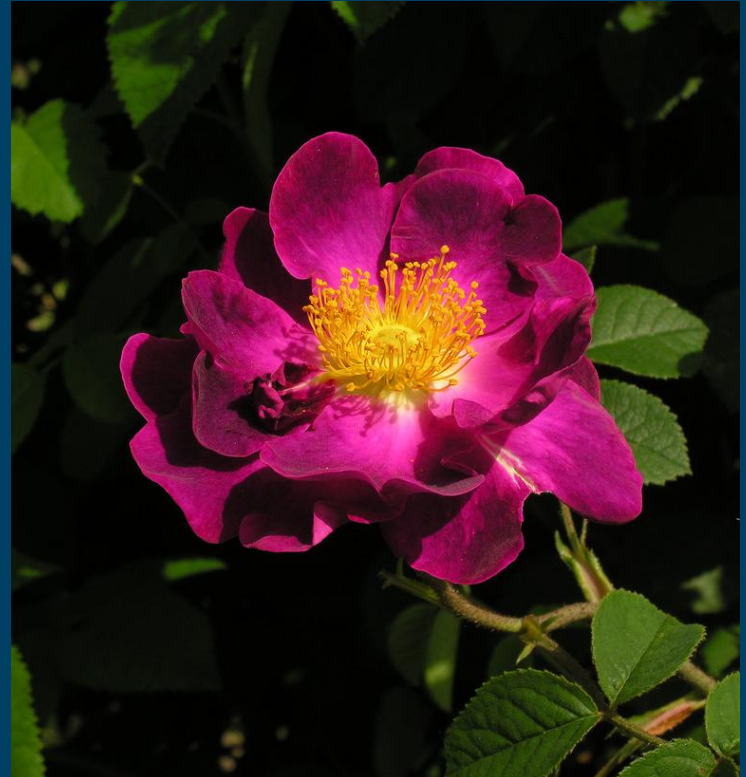
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Gallica Roses

Conditorum/Hungarian Rose

R. gallica 'Conditorum'

Before 1588



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Schwerdtfeger

Alba Roses

Alba Roses

Rosa alba semiplena

Before 1629



© Philip Scott Dean

Alba Roses

Great Maiden's Blush/Grande Cuisse
de Nymphe

R. alba incarnata

Before 1400



© Philip Scott Dean

Alba Roses

Rosa alba maxima

Before 1500



© Eli's garden

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/43111026@N00/>)

Damask Roses

Damask Roses

York and Lancaster

R. damascena 'Versicolor'

Before 1551



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Damask Roses

Autumn Damask / Quatre Saisons

Rosa damascena bifera

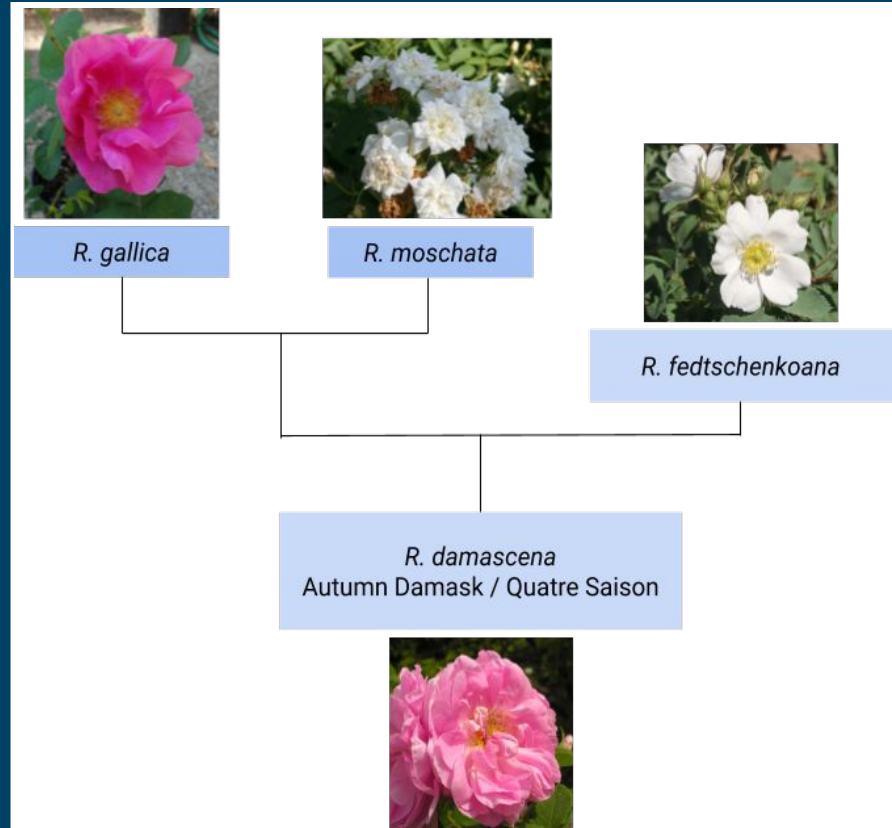
Before 1633

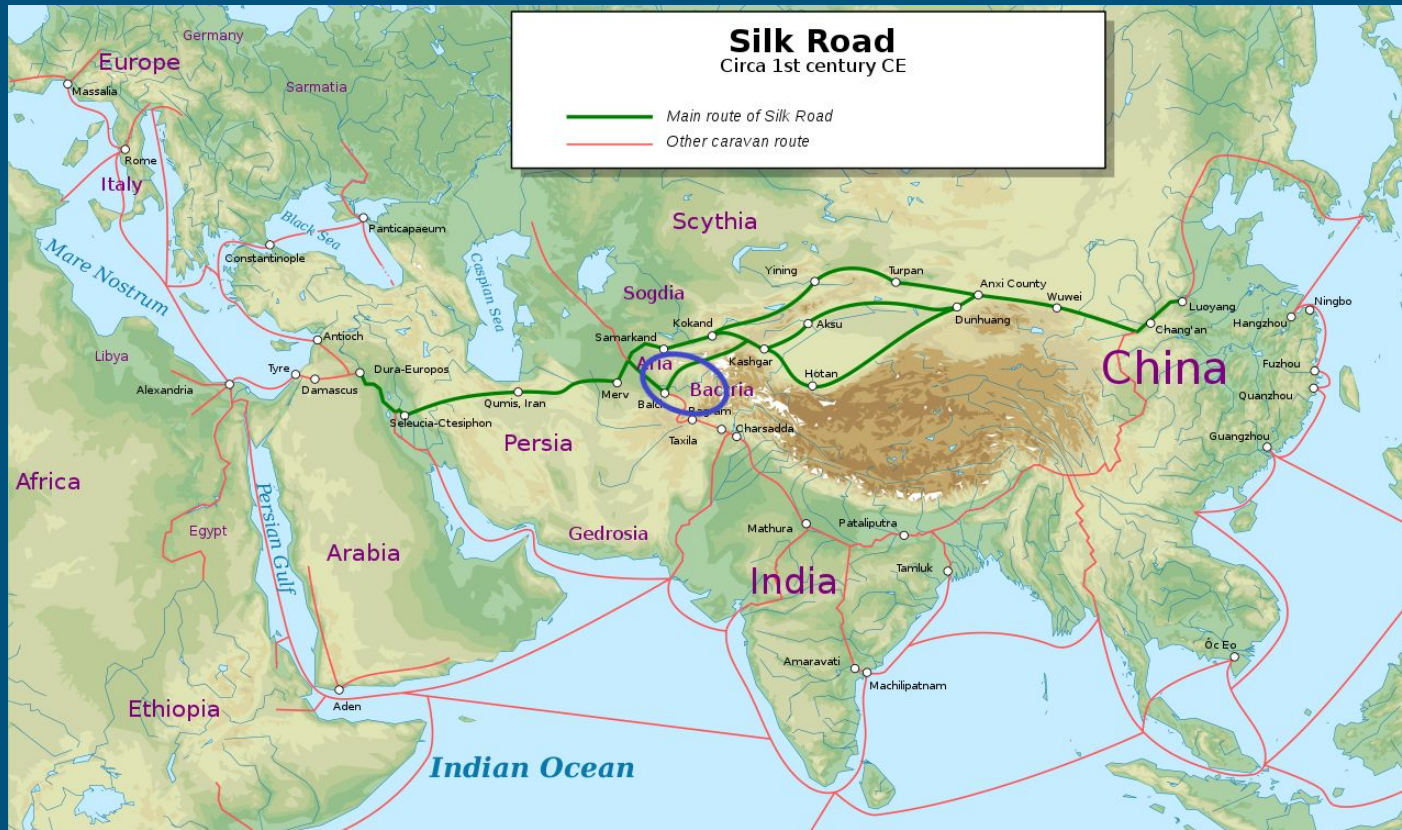


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Damask Roses

“Geneology” Chart for
the Autumn Damask Rose





Silk Road and the Origin of Damask Rose

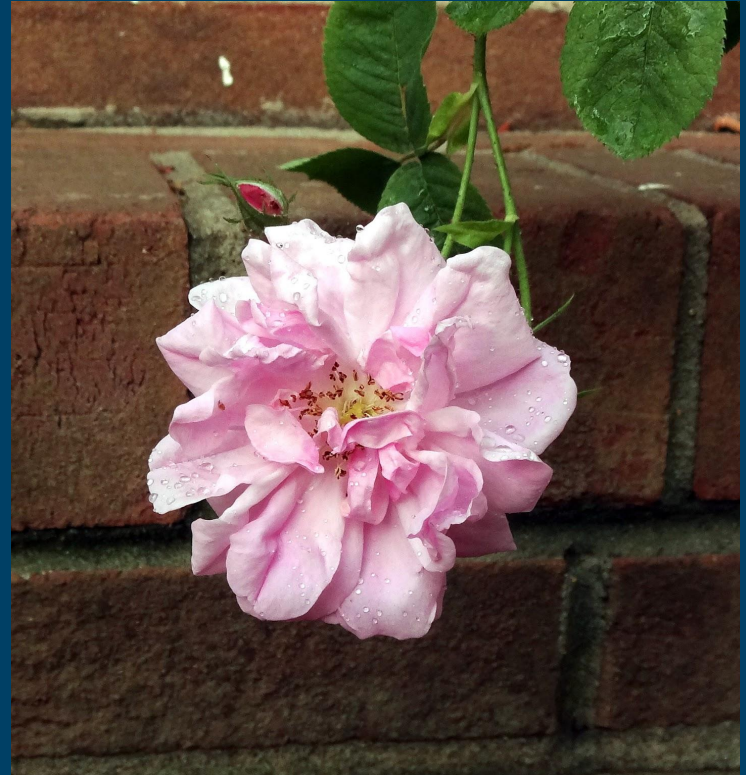
By User:Kaidor - File:Silk Road in the I century AD - ru.svg, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=71237789>

Damask Roses

Kazanlik

R. x damascena 'Trigintipetala'

Before 1612



© Philip Scott Dean

Centifolia Roses

Centifolia Roses

Gros Choux d'Hollande (Great
Cabbage of Holland) / Dutch
Provence

Rosa centifolia batavica

Before 1589



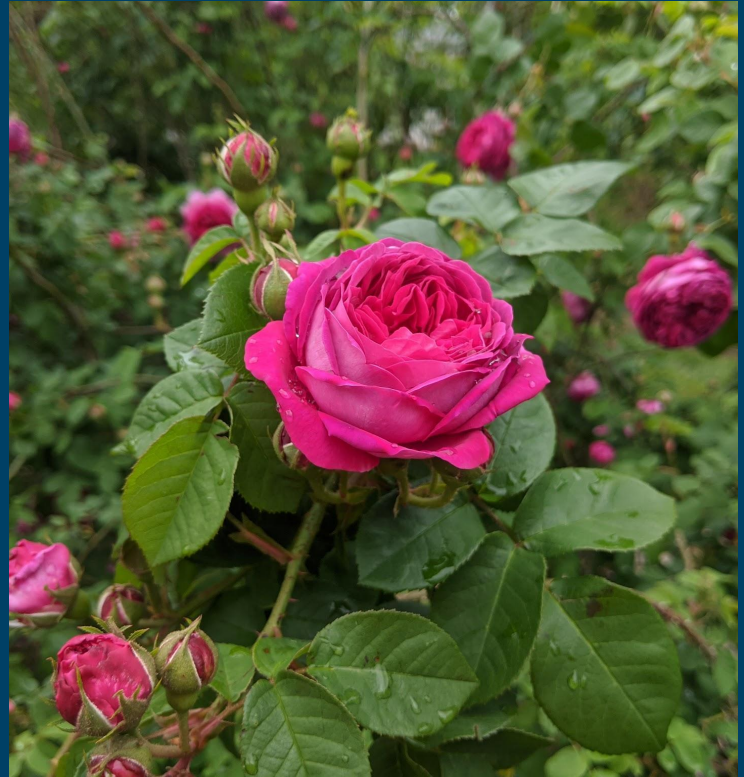
By fuzzyjay on Flickr.com (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fuzzyjay/3612330255>

Centifolia Roses

Rose des Peintres

R. centifolia 'Major'

Before 1597



© Philip Scott Dean

Foetida Roses

Foetida Roses

Austrian Brier

Rosa foetida

Before 1583



© Philip Scott Dean

Foetida Roses

Austrian Copper

Rosa foetida bicolor

Before 1590



© Philip Scott Dean

Species Roses

Species Roses

Musk Rose: *Rosa moschata*



© Philip Scott Dean

Double Musk Rose:
Rosa moschata plena (Before 1513)



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Species Roses

Sweet Briar:

R. rubiginosa/*R. eglanteria*



Sulphur Rose:

Rosa Hemisphaerica (Before 1600)



Species Roses

Francfort Rose:

Rosa francofurtana (Before 1576)



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Double cinnamon Rose

R. majalis plena/*R. cinnamomea plena*



By OldMuzzle (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 or GFDL], via
Wikimedia Commons

Species Roses

Dog Rose

Rosa canina

Before 1557



© Philip Scott Dean

Thousand-year Rose

Dog rose growing against the
side of the
Hildesheim Cathedral in
Hildesheim Germany



Visiting the Tausendjähriger Rosenstock



Hildesheim, Lower Saxony, Germany



Mariendom: Hildesheim Cathedral



Mariendom: Hildesheim Cathedral



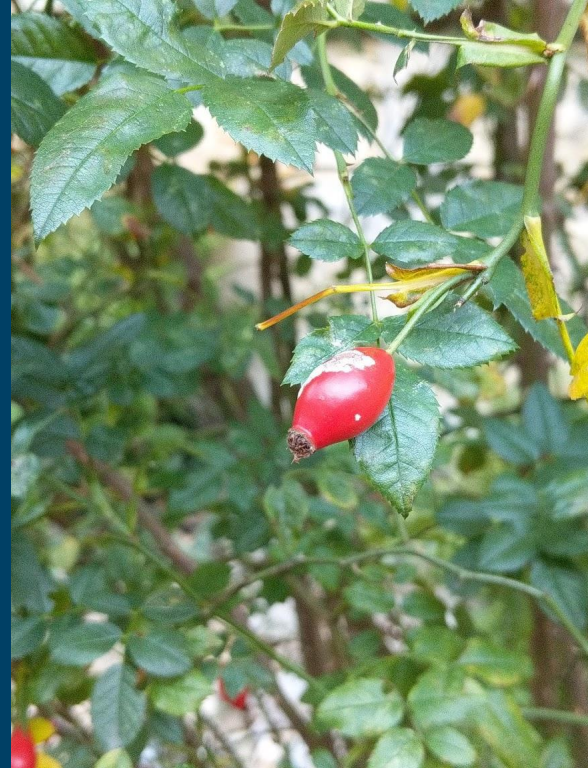
Thousand-year Rose

Visiting in October 2019, the bush did not have blooms but instead rose hips, the fruit of the rose.



Thousand-year Rose

Visiting in October 2019, the bush did not have blooms but instead rose hips, the fruit of the rose.



© Philip Scott Dean

Native Roses

Native species roses that grow wild
and are not generally cultivated

Native Roses

Burnet Rose/Scotch Briar

Rosa spinosissima/ *R. pimpinellifolia*



By Velela @ [wikicommons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rosa_spinosissima.jpg) (cc-by-sa-.25)

Native Roses

Evergreen Rose

Rosa sempervirens



by H Brisse (upload by Abalg) from Wikicommons (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Native Roses

Field Rose

Rosa arvensis



by Meneerke bloem @ Wikicommons (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Characteristics of Roses of the Period

- Bloom only once a year
 - More single and semi-double bloom types
 - Colors are simple
 - White, pink, or red, with a few yellow
 - Bushy in growth habit
 - Hardy in their preferred climate
-

Problems with Identification

Why is it so hard to figure out what varieties they grew?

- Written records are scarce and not very detailed
 - Different names for the same plant
 - Same name for different roses in different places
 - Sports and natural variation
 - Similar names (Provence and Provins)
 - Natural Hybridization
 - Grown as an agricultural crop
 - A rose was a rose
-

Questions?

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Madonna of the Rose Bush by Martin Schongauer (1473)