

**FAMOUS HYBRID TEA ROSES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDEN  
“DIMITRIE BRANDZA” ROSARIUM IN BUCHAREST**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Flowers have been a form of commemoration of the most important events or people in our lives since ancient times. Roses breeders have always had the idea of paying homage through their creations. In this paper we will try to highlight some hybrid tea roses that are famous by their name, the importance they represent for the collections of roses or their perfume that reminds us of the old gardens from childhood.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Roses, through the diversity of chromatics and fragrance, have always represented a source of inspiration for the breeders, real "painters" who selected important characters and played with the palette of colors and aromas, giving birth to real "masterpieces" that have marked important events, world personalities or the commemoration of loved ones. From the first hybrid tea 'La France' created in France in 1867 until today when there are over 40,000 cultivars, roses have been given names that remind us of important events. For example, 'Peace' ('Mme A. Meilland') was created in honor of ending the World War II, to commemorate important people like 'Imperatrice Farah', 'Ingrid Bergman', 'Christoph Columbus' or cultivars that have huge flowers, such as 'Parole' with a flower opening of up to 21 cm in diameter. Also, one of the most important cultivars in the collection is the last rose created by St. Wagner, 'Wagner's Favorite'. In this paper we highlight some hybrid tea roses that are famous by their name or the importance they represent for the collections of roses (Wagner 2002).

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Like all those who have roses collection, we are interested in the ones that made an impact in history or have something unique, like size or a particularly fragrance. The presented cultivars are from the rose collection of the Botanical Garden "D. Brandza" - University of Bucharest. In this collection there are approximately 300 cultivars represented by 5000 bushes. We will present some of the most famous hybrid tea cultivars.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### **'Christophe Columbus'** (Figure 1.)

Synonyms: 'Christoph Columbus', 'Christopher Columbus', 'Cristobal Colon', 'Cristoforo Colombo', 'Cristoforo Colombo', 'Flamboyance', 'MEInronse'

Origin: seeds: 'Coppélia' 76 × pollen 'Ambassador' × MEInaregi.

Bred by Alain Meilland, France 1992.

Description: Vigorous cultivar, height 90-170/50-60 cm, has erect shoots with many thorns. The leaves are large, thick, green dark and glossy. Flowers appear more often solitary, with 30-40 petals, large, with red-orange petals, without perfume.

This rose actually celebrates the 500th anniversary of the "Discovery" of America.

Awards: 2001 - Court of Show / Honor - Contra Costa Rose Society Show, Golden Gate Rose Society Show.

2000 - Queen of Show (ARS) - Tropical Rose Society Show.

1994 - Durbanville - Gold Medal - Durbanville Rose Trials.

1992 - Genoa Gold Medal - Genoa Rose Trials (Wagner, 2002).



Figure 1. 'Christophe Columbus'  
(Photo orig.)

### **'Chrysler Imperial'** (Figure 2.)

Origin: 'Charlotte Armstrong × Mirandy'.

Bred by: Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, U.S.A. 1952.

Description: Bushes of medium vigor, 160/45 cm, with erect branches, medium leaves, dark green and semi-glossy. The flowers are large (45-50 petals), the buds are elongated, of a noble shape; large light flowers, velvety dark red and with a particularly intense and pleasant fragrance of citrus, clove and damask. It shows good resistance to frost but is sensitive to powdery mildew and Black spot. It can be planted in groups, due to its fragrance. It is the most famous fragrant rose from the old grandmother's gardens. The only disadvantage is the large number of thorns that cover the stem until below the flower and the fact that it has a short life as a cut flower

Awards: 1999 - King of Show - Morgan Park Rose Society Show, New England Rose Society Show.

1965 – ARS James Alexander Gamble Rose Fragrance Award – ARS Fall National Show.

1964 - John Cook Medal (ARS) – ARS American Rose Society Show.

1953 - All-America Rose Selection - All-America Rose Selection Rose Trials.  
1951 - Gold Medal - Portland Rose Trials (Charles & Brigid Quest-Ritson 2008).



Figure 2. 'Chrysler Imperial'  
(Photo orig.)

**'Imperatrice Farah'** (Figure 3.)

Synonyms: 'Empress Farah', 'Kaiserin Farah', 'Strawberry Parfait', 'Francofurtana', 'DELivour'.

Bred by G. Delbard, France 1986.

Description: vigorous bush 110/50 cm, erect growth, thick branches with many thorns. Large, normal green, leathery, glossy leaves. Double flowers (>40 petals), elongated buds that open perfectly, greenish-white petals (especially the outer ones) with pink or even light red edges, lacking fragrance. It was created in honor of Empress Farah of Iran (Charles & Brigid Quest-Ritson 2008)

On 10-12-2008, following an early frost, the water froze between the petals, a few days later the ice melted and the petals escaped unharmed.

Awards: 1999 - Court of Show / Honor - Tidewater Rose Society Show; Queen of Show (ARS) - Tallahassee Area Rose Society Show.

1998 - Court of Show / Honor - New Orleans RS Show; Queen of Show (ARS) - Tidewater Rose Society Show.

1992 - Baden-Baden Gold Medal - Baden-Baden Rose Trials; Rome Gold Medal - Rome Rose Trials (Botanica's Pocket, 2006).



Figure 3. 'Imperatrice Farah'  
(Photo orig.)

**'Ingrid Bergman'** (Figure 4.)

Synonyms: 'Love You Mum', 'Poulman'

Origin: 'Precious Platinum' × 'Else Poulsen'.

Bred by L. Pernille Olesen, Denmark 1981.

Description: The bushes are medium vigorous 60-100/40 cm, dense compact and erect growths. Medium, dark green, leathery leaves. Flowers are double with 35-40 large petals and 10-14 cm in diameter. Dark velvety red color. Moderate fragrance. It shows good resistance to diseases.

Awards: 2013 - Rose Hills - Best Established Rose - Rose Hills International Rose Trials.

2001 - Princess of Show (ARS) - Schenectady Rose Society Show.

2000 - King of Show - Peninsula Rose Society Show; Princess of Show (ARS) - Eugene Rose Society Show, Iowa Rose Society Show, Tacoma Rose Society Show; WFRS Rose Hall of Fame (The World's Favorite Rose) - World Federation of Rose Societies Convention.

1999 - Court of Show / Honor - Lincoln Rose Society Show.

1993 - Award of Garden Merit (RHS/RNRS) - Royal Horticultural Society Show.

1987 - New Zealand Certificate of Merit - New Zealand Rose Trials; The Hague Gold Medal - The Hague Rose Trials.

1986 - Gold Medal - Copenhagen Show; Madrid Gold Medal - Madrid Rose Trials.

1985 - Belfast Gold Medal - Belfast Rose Trials.

1984 - Geneva Silver Medal - Geneva Rose Trials; Rome Silver Medal - Rome Rose Trials.

1983 - RNRS Trial Ground Certificate - Royal National Rose Society (RNRS) Show ([www.helpmefind.com/rose](http://www.helpmefind.com/rose)).



Figure 4. 'Ingrid Bergman'  
(Photo orig.)

**'La France'** (Figure 5.)

Origin: seedling of 'Madame Falcot'.

Bred by Jean-Baptiste André (son) Guillot, France 1867.

Description: It is considered to be the first hybrid tea, although this fact is much discussed by specialists. Bushes of medium vigor, 60/40 cm, with not too thick branches and semi-glossy leaves. The flowers are double (60 petals), large, oval buds, with pink-silver petals on the inside and dark pink on the outside and emit a

pleasant fragrance. Blooms profusely. It is a relic among tea hybrids. It is recommended for gardens and parks and in the collections of knowledgeable amateurs (Wagner, 2002).

Awards: 2001 - Court of Show / Honor - Linn County Rose Society Show.



Figure 5. 'La France'  
(Photo orig.)

**'Mme A. Meilland'** (Figure 6.)

Synonyms: 'Peace', 'Mme Antoine Meilland', 'Gioia', 'Gloria Dei'

Origin: ('Georges Dickson' x 'Souv. de Claudius Pernet') x ('Joanna Hill' x 'Ch. P. Kilham') x Margaret McGredy,

Bred by Francis Meilland, France 1935.

Description: Vigorous bushes 100/50 cm, with semi-erect but straight branches; dark green leaves, thick and glossy. Double flowers, large-very large, spherical buds that open slowly, yellow-cream petals with pink iridescence on the edges. The perfume is weak but pleasant. It was the most beautiful hybrid tea that had been seen until then. At first, they did not find a name for this cultivar; it was called simply #3-35-40. In 1942, despite the war, this rose was introduced in France under the name of Mme A. Meilland, in memory of the French creator's mother, Claudia, in Germany with Gloria Dei and in Italy with Gioia. This is one of the most famous and widespread cultivars today. When the 49 delegates to the inaugural conference of the United Nations assembled on June 22, 1945 in San Francisco, a few days before they would sign the UN Charter, they each found a 'Peace' rose in their hotel room with a card from the American Rose Society which read, "This is the 'Peace' rose, christened in Pasadena on the day Berlin fell. We hope the 'Peace' rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace" ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)).

Awards: 2020 - Prince of Show (ARS) - Greater Atlanta Rose Society Show.

2001 - Court of Show / Honor - Rogue Valley Rose Society Show; St. Vrain Rose Society Show.

Queen of Show (ARS) - Cleveland & Lincoln County Rose Society Show; York Area Rose Society Show.

2000 - King of Show - Medford Rose Society Show; Queen of Show (ARS) - Greater Cincinnati Rose Society Show; Marin Rose Society Show.

1999 - Best Yellow Rose (CRS) - Rosexpo Montreal Show; Court of Show / Honor - Missoula Rose Society Show; Potomac Rose Society Show; King of Show - Belleville Area Rose Society Summer Show.

1998 - Court of Show / Honor - Baton Rouge Rose Society Show; Patrick Henry Rose Society Show.

1976 - WFRS Rose Hall of Fame (The World's Favorite Rose) - World Federation of Rose Societies Convention.

1965 - The Hague Gold Medal - The Hague Rose Trials; The Hague Golden Rose - The Hague Rose Trials.

1947 - National Gold Medal Certificate (ARS) - ARS American Rose Society Show; RNRS Gold Medal - Royal National Rose Society (RNRS) Show or Trials.

1946 - All-America Rose Selection - All-America Rose Selection Rose Trials.

1944 - Portland Gold Medal - Portland Rose Trials.

1942 - Lyon 1st Prize - Lyon Rose Trials; Lyon Gold Medal - Lyon Rose Trials; Lyon Plus Belle Rose de France - Lyon Rose Trials ([www.helpmefind.com/rose](http://www.helpmefind.com/rose)).



Figure 6. 'Mme Meilland'  
(Photo orig.)

**'Parole'** (Figure 7.)

Synonyms: 'Buxon Beauty', 'Garden Queen', 'KORbilant', 'Wanda Ferragamo', 'XXL'

Bred by W. Kordes & Sons, Germany 1991.

Description: It is a vigorous rose 100/50 cm, double flowers (15-20 cm), with more than 40 petals, deep pink color. Strong fruity fragrance. The largest in the collection, with flowers up to 21 cm diam. The leaves are dark green.

Awards: 2010 - Standard Judges Arrangement - Desert Rose Society Annual Fall Show.

2008 - Gifu - Best Hybrid Tea - Gifu Rose trials; Gifu Bronze Medal - Gifu Rose trials.

2004 - Hradec Králové Honorable Mention - Hradec Králové Rose Trials; The Hague Fragrance Award - The Hague Rose Trials.

2001 - Le Roeulx Certificate of Merit - Le Roeulx Rose Trials; Madrid "Pere Dot" Fragrance Award - Madrid Rose Trials (Charles & Brigid Quest-Ritson 2008).



Figure 7. 'Parole'  
(Photo orig.)

**'Wagner's Favorite'** (Figure 8.)

Origin: Sport of 'Alinka'.

Bred by Stefan Wagner, Romania 2012.

Description: Bush with medium vigor (100-120 cm), the leaves are dark green, glossy. Erect stems with few thorns. Flowers are orange-red with yellow undertones, double (17-25 petals). Lacking any fragrance. It has a weak resistance against powdery mildew ([www.helpmefind.com/rose](http://www.helpmefind.com/rose)).

The first 7 roses grafted by Wagner arrived at us by mistake, under the name of VMA (sport), when asked what is it with the rose, Wagner answered that it was his latest creation and to take care of them. We did the phenology and phytology observations until he came to harvest shoots to multiply the rose.



Figure 8. 'Wagner's Favorite'  
(Photo orig.)

The breeders will never stop creating new cultivars of roses. That's why roses will always have a place in the world and find a way to be part of a major event. From an international major event like ending of WW 2 to commemorating queens and cinema stars. The Rosarium from the Botanic Garden in Bucharest will always try to expand by adding new and famous cultivars for people to enjoy.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Roses, like all the flowers, had an impact throughout history, by commemorating events, important people or simply by reminding of childhood.

Roses still remain an important element in all gardens where they will bring a nostalgic air and ennoble the landscape.

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