

ROSES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649109326

Roses by H. R. Darlington

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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H. R. DARLINGTON

ROSES

GARDEN FLOWERS
IN COLOR

EDITED BY
K. HOOPER PEARSON
MANAGING EDITOR
OF THE *GARDENERS'*
CHRONICLE.

PLATE I (*Frontispiece*)

HUGH DICKSON

(One of the best H.P.'s of recent introduction.)



PREFACE

THE indirect effects of legislation are notoriously incalculable, and even those who are inclined to think most hardly of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would scarcely suggest that of malice prepense he had by means of the Finance 1909-10 Act deprived the Rose-loving public of the pleasure of reading a book on *Roses* from the pen of Mr. H. E. Molyneux. Yet it has so fallen out that Mr. Molyneux, who had intended writing this book, has found himself unable to accomplish the task owing to the press of work thrown upon him by the Act in question, and it has fallen to me to prepare the following pages, owing to the pressure of circumstances (and the Editor), somewhat more hurriedly than I could have wished.

Those who, like myself, are familiar with Mr. Molyneux' careful observation and graceful method of expression, must regret that he has been unable to accomplish the task he had proposed, and must hope that before long we may again renew our interest in his writings, and reap the benefit of his judgment and experience.

In compiling this little book, although I have, I fear, somewhat exceeded the limits of space originally assigned to me, I have found the subjects calling for discussion so many that I have had much difficulty in deciding which to reject. The plan I finally selected has been to confine

myself as far as possible to matters relating strictly to the practical cultivation of Roses. Matters of more theoretical interest, such as the History of the Rose, and of the forms of culture practised in the past, I have found it necessary to reject; and for different reasons, subjects like Hybridisation and the raising of new varieties, and similar subjects which would be of practical value to a limited class of readers, have also had to go. I have, however, endeavoured to include as far as possible such matters as the amateur rosarian is likely to concern himself with in growing his own Roses in his own garden, and to try to solve some difficulties with which, from my numerous correspondence, it appears amateurs are frequently confronted.

It is but a short time since Mr. Pemberton's much more elaborate treatise on Roses appeared, but even in that time I regret to have been obliged to add somewhat considerably to the list of diseases and pests with which we are troubled. The introduction of improved forms of washes and of syringes for applying them has, it is true, in large measure helped us to keep some of these plagues at bay, but syringing is at best a mitigation and seldom a cure of the evil against which it is directed, and I have among my friends some who consider the time it involves may be better spent in other ways.

It is quite within the bounds of possibility that the hybridist might help rosarians considerably if he could be induced to direct his attention to the introduction of disease-proof Roses. As far as I can judge, that fine-coloured Rose *Rayon d'Or* is practically immune from mildew; I have had it growing in a bed surrounded with Roses such as *Theresa* which have suffered badly, without seeing the least

trace of the hoary fungus invade its brilliant and shining foliage. Here perhaps may be the commencement of a new era for the rosarian.

As to new Roses, I have said but little, for there is little that can be said from one's own actual experience, and I have tried to confine myself to this. The annual production of new Roses is now very large; more than a hundred new varieties are usually put in commerce each year. It usually takes at least four years for a new Rose to become at all common in gardens, and then our experience of it in a wet summer may prove to be almost valueless in a hot and dry one, and *vice versa*.

I ought to add a word about the illustrations. For these I am not personally responsible; they were, I believe, selected and completed before I was asked to undertake this book. Their chief interest lies in the fact that they are photographs in colour of actual Roses. Some idea of the difficulty attending this form of photography may be formed from the statement made to me that in some cases the Rose, in sitting for its portrait, was required to keep still during an exposure of as much as six hours.

H. R. D.

