

**THE AMATEUR  
GARDENER'S  
ROSE BOOK**

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The Amateur Gardener's Rose Book by Julius Hoffmann & John Weathers

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## GERMAN PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

As indicated by the title—"THE AMATEUR GARDENER'S ROSE BOOK"—this volume is intended, not so much for professional gardeners and nurserymen, as for the large number of garden lovers who devote special attention to the cultivation of the rose; the object in view being to enlarge their knowledge on this subject, and to produce a book that will serve as a short, practical, and concise adviser.

The author has accordingly set himself the task of dealing in a clear and comprehensive manner with all matters relating to the raising, culture, and general treatment of the rose, which are likely to be of interest to the amateur grower, so that not only shall the beginner be able to obtain profitable advice, but that the experienced rose grower will also from time to time consult the following pages for any information he may require. Unfortunately, the author of this book on roses, Dr. Julius Hoffmann, has been taken from us just at the moment that he was revising the last sheet of his manuscript. His faithful friend, however, Mr. Hermann Ostertag, of Stuttgart, who, for many years past, has shared with him his great love of roses, and assisted him, has brought the work to an admirable finish in a most unselfish manner, for which we take this opportunity of expressing to him our warmest thanks.

The various chapters in the book show an intimate knowledge as to the state of the Soil and its improvement, Manuring, Planting, Pruning in autumn and in



spring, Bending down Roses and Uncovering them, the choice of Stocks and their treatment, Budding and Grafting, Classification of Roses into groups like Tea Roses, Hybrid Perpetual or Remontant Roses, Climbing Roses, &c., &c. Various operations and methods of cultivation, such as the Raising of seedlings, Propagation by cuttings, Grafting under glass, Pot culture, Production of new varieties, &c., which are of the utmost importance to professional gardeners, but come less under the consideration of the amateur, nevertheless claim attention on account of the keen interest they excite, and are therefore explained and described in a clear and intelligible manner.

The twenty beautifully executed coloured plates add an artistic appearance to the volume, and display a number of characteristic and universally admired kinds of roses. The original paintings were prepared by Mr. Hermann Friese, whose intimate knowledge and care are evident, and he has superintended their reproduction by Mr. E. Hochdanz, at his art works in Stuttgart. Any one, who knows how extremely difficult it is to reproduce exactly the characteristic peculiarities of a rose in a picture, will not withhold his recognition of the high success attained in the coloured plates.

The "Alphabetical List of Roses" will be full of interest to every lover of roses, containing as it does brief descriptions of the most popular kinds in cultivation. They have been selected with great care, and brought together, so that the reader may become acquainted with the most important sorts, which are, indeed, to be found in most catalogues, although not more minutely described.

## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

IN translating this interesting book on roses, the original has been closely followed all through, so that the author's own views should be placed before the numerous amateur and professional growers of roses in the British Islands.

The subject in all its aspects has, of course, been treated purely from a German gardener's point of view, and with due regard to the more severe winters that prevail in Germany than in our own country.

The English rose grower will therefore be able to note the principal differences between some Continental methods of cultivation and those generally practised in the United Kingdom; and he may even think it worth while to adopt some of them occasionally. In any case, the British gardener—whether amateur or professional—will lose nothing by laying aside his proverbial insular prejudice to consider the cultural methods of other nations, even if he come to the conclusion eventually that his own are best.

It may perhaps be as well to mention that the "Classification of Roses" adopted in this volume—although simple and sensible—does not altogether coincide with the more elaborate one in use by the English National Rose Society. But the difference is practically of no great moment.

The varieties enumerated at the end of the volume are mostly well known to rosarians on this side of the

Channel. A few are scarcely, or not at all, known ; but the fact that they have been included in the book may be considered a sufficient guarantee that, if they are worthy of cultivation in Germany, with its more rigorous winters, they are more so in our less severe, but more fickle climate.

In order to make the list still more complete and useful, I have added the names and descriptions of several other well-known kinds of roses that are grown in British and Irish gardens either for decorative garden purposes or for exhibition, and amongst them will be found many of the most promising novelties that have been brought to notice within the past year or two. The additions to the original German selection are indicated by an asterisk (\*) in front of the name.

Apart from the interesting information to be found in the following pages, the reader can hardly fail to note the great beauty and exactness of the twenty beautiful coloured plates that adorn the volume.

JOHN WEATHERS.