

An Assessment of Newer Roses

M.S. Viraraghavan

Souvenirs of the HYDERABAD ROSE SOCIETY

In this article an attempt is made to assess the merits and demerits of some of the rose varieties (HT's) introduced in the last five years or so, based on personal experience. Some of the newer Hybrid Tea roses which have received good reports from various authorities are also briefly described.

Taking up the best of the recent Introductions first, there is little doubt that the most outstanding rose of recent years is 'DOUBLE DELIGHT' (All America Rose Selection (AARS) 1977). This American introduction is really novel and distinctive the beautifully formed buds of creamy yellow are edged pink to cherry red and as the flower opens the colour contrast becomes even more vivid with the red darkening with age. The plant is also quite healthy and vigorous, though sometimes a little slow in starting. It has an attractive fragrance and in fact the only defect worthy of notice is that sometimes the red becomes a little smeary. But fortunately, this is more the exception than the rule.

Another very beautiful rose is 'JANINA', raised by the famous breeder Tantau of West Germany. The buds are on exquisite colour-copper with yellow undertones and open to lovely cup shaped flowers of apricot orange tinted yellow and pink. The plant is surprisingly vigorous for this colour range and the plum coloured new shoots and dark foliage are also distinctive and attractive in their own way.

The only other two worthy of mention in this category are the two "Masterpieces" 'RED MASTERPIECE' and 'WHITE MASTERPIECE' both raised by William Mariner of the famous firm of Jackson and Perkins USA. Of the two there can be no doubt that 'White Masterpiece' is the most outstanding white rose ever raised. The blooms which are carried on lovely thick stalks are extremely large with very good petal texture. The foliage is also large in proportion and outstandingly healthy – altogether a very beautiful and trouble-free rose deserving a place in any garden.

'RED MASTERPIECE' is again a very good variety, though perhaps slightly prone to mildew. But this minor defect will soon be forgotten if you look at the exquisitely shaped fragrant blooms of clear red edged a darker colour which are produced so freely on bushy, erect plant growth. Other Hybrid Tea roses which have been to be mentioned below.

'**Doris Tysterman**': Lovely double flowers of very beautiful shade of apricot orange, borne on a very vigorous plant. Slightly prone to mildew.

'**Feurzauber**': Exquisitely shaped vermillion blooms. Would have deserved inclusion with the first four, if only it had been more vigorous.

'**Miss Horp**': The best of the newer yellows – AARS 1975, under the name ORE GOLD. A lovely shade of golden yellow but in my experience not productive enough and somewhat prone to mildew. But still a very good rose.

'**Mabella**': One of the most vigorous and free flowering yellow roses I have seen. It would have been quite outstanding if only its form had been more classic. Makes a wonderful display in the garden, but you should watch out for Black spot.

'**Medallion**': Huge, but rounded blooms of light apricot, with very good petal texture. The flowers do not hold their shape long enough and so cannot be used for exhibition.

'**Vicky**': A startlingly bright vermillion red the flowers borne on strong stems open slowly and retain their colour well to the end. Not very free flowering in my experience.

'Coalite Flame': Huge flowers of a slightly dull shade of orange red. The form can be breathtakingly perfect at times but more often than not split centers develop. A very vigorous and healthy plant.

'Tenerife': One of the most fragrant of recent introductions in an unusual shade of pale coppery orange with yellow reverse, on a very vigorous plant. The flowers, however open quickly in our weather. One of the few fragrant roses in this colour range.

Three of the newer roses to be avoided are the bicolor **'DIE WELT'** (World Rose) very tall and mildew prone; **'OLYMPIC TORCH'**, very short and unproductive and **'FUTURA'** though it has a brilliant red colour, it has not fared well, as the shape is far too open and the blooms too sparse for such a large growing bush.

New Roses Worthy of Trial: Some of the later roses which deserve mention are listed below. The selection is based on reports by various rose growers in different parts of the world.

1. **'Admiral Rodney'**: Perfectly shaped exhibition blooms of pink with a tinge of lilac. One of the top exhibition roses in the U.K.

2. **'Alpine Sunset'**: Both are described as peach yellow flushed

3. **'Champlon'**: pink, and are becoming two the most popular exhibition roses in the U. K.

4. **'Charles de Gaulle'**: One of the best of the new lilac roses, according to Sri Kasturirangan of Bangalore.

5. **'Colour Magic'**: This A. A. R. S. winner of 1978 is described as bearing huge blooms of apricot pink shaded to ivory in the centre. The petal edges develop a dark rose colour as the bloom matures.

6. **'Deep Secret'**: The latest from Tantau. Medium sized, but claimed to be the darkest red rose ever raised.

7. **'Folklore'**: Rich salmon with yellow base and reverse. Tend to be one of the most promising of the newer introductions.

8. **'Julia'**: Named after a famous flower arranger, **JULIA CLEMENTS**, variety bears very unusually coloured flowers of brown and copper.

9. **'Louisiana'**: American reports are to the effect that this is one of the best exhibition white roses of recent years.

10. **'Pristine'**: A variety which has aroused tremendous enthusiasm in the U.S. Described as bearing great ivory white blooms brushed pink. with beautiful spiral formation. A seedling of FIRST PRIZE into WHITE MASTERPIECE.

11. **'Rosy Cheeks'**: Bicolor red reverse yellow with very large blooms. Raised in Scotland, the variety has been appreciated in the U.S. too.

12. **'Wini Edmonds'**: Greatly acclaimed in the USA and described as producing huge exhibition blooms of red reverse white.

Latest Award Winners

1. **'Silver Jubilee'**: This rose which won the President's Inter- national Trophy of the Royal National Rose Society of 1977 is described as coppery salmon pink with peach shadings.

The two Hybrid Tea Roses which received the AARS awards for 1979 are **'PARADISE'**. described as producing exquisitely formed blooms in many shades of lavender, purple, bright pink and ruby red, and **'FRIENDSHIP'**, coral rose with very large blooms and good petal texture.