



*preservation*

of historic roses is the common goal that unites members of the Heritage Rose Foundation. It is a purpose common to people who believe that the past has much to teach us about the possibilities of our future; saving fragments of the past may be the only way to understand the past.

With this issue, we embark on an exploration of the greatest repository of roses that survive from the past; we call this section Wayside Roses. Lacking public, private, or commercial funding to maintain

the roses that grow there, waysides are places where roses simply survive—cemeteries, roadsides, abandoned home-sites—anywhere that roses were once planted and are no longer looked after. Waysides lure “rose rustlers” because their fragile rose survivors are often just a season away from disappearing for good.

Collecting pieces of old roses from waysides has rescued countless varieties from oblivion. These “found roses” have made their way into public gardens and nursery catalogues, and many more thrive in the care of private collectors. But while rustling roses might save some roses, it does not result in preserving those cultivars in the historic locations where they were once planted. The history of a place is diminished when it loses its roses. Many historic rose collectors understand this and they have begun to address this very important aspect of rose preservation.

Concerned for the plight of roses in such famous cemeteries as Elmwood in Charlotte, North Carolina, the HRF board asked the editors of *Rosa Mundi* to turn its attention to waysides and found roses, and to the destruction and degradation of these historic sites. As we listened to the stories of Pat Toolan, Doug Seidel,



and others, we began to understand how complex this aspect of rose preservation could be. Responses to the plight of lost roses, from the Barossa Old Rose Repository to the Sacramento Cemetery, show how ordinary citizens can play a part in preserving rose history *in situ*. The lessons of the Easton Cemetery remind us of the importance of each generation playing a part in this preservation, just as each generation passes along the rose treasures of the past to the next generation.

Simple listings of places, the roses that thrive there, and the people who tend them seem inadequate to correctly address wayside roses. We have therefore taken a different approach and hope to tell the stories of these places and share the ideas and experiences of rose preservers around the world. Three stories of waysides from Pat Toolan, Doug Seidel, and Sherri Berglund launch our journey in this issue. We hope to further our readers' understanding and interest in found roses and waysides in the coming issues of *Rosa Mundi*. And we believe that this will lead to greater respect for wayside roses and a wider participation in the preservation of these ephemeral bits of living history.

—Gregg Lowery

CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE TOP:

Austrian Copper found in Mariposa, "Fun Jwan Lo" (aka *Indica major*, or *Odorata*) found in Murphys, goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) and gray pines on a Gold Country back road near Murphys, Fortune's Double Yellow found in Coulterville, Chinese grocery store made of adobe in Coulterville.

Photos by Ron Robertson

