



The Loubert Collection

A LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE

Bernard Loubert

The Loubert Rose Collection is situated outside the village of les Rosiers-sur-Loire in an almost predestined location—the wonderful Loire Valley, the cradle of France’s national history. When my parents, Thérèse and Raymond Loubert, bought their estate in 1963, they had not yet discovered the world of roses. Raymond had worked as the head of the fruit research laboratory at Delbard’s nursery, helping to breed and produce varieties of fruit. In the first years my parents produced roses, fruit trees, and other shrubs, and contracted for larger firms like Vilmorin, Truffaut, and Delbard.

They also started a collection of species roses, which they assembled with patience. The first-planted are now thirty years old, and some that were never pruned have reached a spectacular size. Their collection also now includes a large selection of historic roses, many of which originated in the Loire Valley from the hands of famous breeders.

The Loubert Collection was recognized as a national collection of roses in 2001 by the Conservatoire des Collections Végétales Spécialisées (CCVS), an organization established in 1992 whose mission is to preserve the plant heritage of France. The CCVS works with public and private plant collectors, offering assistance with the management of collec-



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: *Rosa bracteata*, *Rosa pomifera duplex*, Frühlingsgold
(photos by Bernard Loubert)

TOP: 'Jubilé Loubert' (photo by Étienne Bouret)

tions and providing a liaison to the Bureau des Ressources Génétiques, the governmental agency charged with preserving the genetic variability of plants. Today the Collection contains about 3,000 roses and over 400 species (and sports).

Over the past twenty years, the Louberts have been judges at many international rose events, and have even received an award for one of their creations, 'Jubilé Loubert'. My parents' collection and garden can be visited by appointment from May to July.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information on France's national collections of plants, contact the Conservatoire des Collections Végétales Spécialisées, 84 rue de Grenelle 75007, Paris, France; Tel: 0033 (0) 1 44 39 78 84; Email: ass-ccvs@wanadoo.fr