

HEARST CASTLE

A Conference on Old Modern Roses



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Cl. Mme. Caroline Testout, Modern Standards to be replaced, Gartendirektor Otto Linne.
Photos by Gregg Lowery.

On April 17th and 18th, 2008 the Heritage Rose Foundation will host a conference at Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California, to celebrate the return of the original collection of roses selected by William Randolph Hearst and Julia Morgan for the gardens of Hearst's great estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Over the past three years Hearst Castle's horticulturist, Christine Takahashi, has worked to restore these original plantings. Christine persevered in seeking out budwood of the original Pernetiana Hybrid Tea roses and in finding a nursery person who was willing to graft that budwood onto rose tree stems, in order to replicate the very particular vision of the original design. This conference joins a calendar of special events at Hearst Castle commemorating the 50th anniversary of the property being given over to the people of California. And it highlights the serious efforts that are under way through support from the Olmstead Project to evaluate and restore the fragile landscape, both natural and man-made, of this beautiful place.

This one-day conference will be preceded by tours of the garden and wine and dinner at sunset on the ter-

aces overlooking the famous Neptune pool. An international lineup of speakers will address several topics relevant to garden restoration and historic rose



plantings. We will explore the history of the tree rose and other rose topiary forms; trace the creation and development of the gardens at Hearst Castle, for which a wealth of detailed records survive; hear the story of Joseph Pernet-Ducher's legacy to the Hybrid Tea roses; and learn more about new efforts in America to preserve historic roses along with the gardens in which they once dwelt.

Special tours are being arranged before and after the conference that will offer attendees the opportunity to visit unique and historic gardens from Ventura County to Monterey. We are proud to announce that this conference will be co-sponsored by regional groups of the Heritage Roses Group and the American Rose Society. In embracing the importance of Hybrid Tea roses as valuable heirlooms worthy of preserving, we find common ground that all rose lovers can join together on, to share our love of roses and our friendship in gardening.

Details of the conference will be available on the HRF website at www.heritage-rosefoundation.com.

—Gregg Lowery, *vice president of the HRF and preservation and gardens editor of Rosa Mundi*

