

**PARSONS ON THE ROSE: A
TREATISE ON THE
PROPAGATION, CULTURE,
AND HISTORY OF THE ROSE**

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Parsons on the Rose: A Treatise on the Propagation, Culture, and History of the Rose by Samuel B. Parsons

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SAMUEL B. PARSONS

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TREATISE ON THE
PROPAGATION, CULTURE,
AND HISTORY OF THE ROSE**

J. N. Lathrop,
1883

PARSONS ON THE ROSE.

A TREATISE ON THE

LIBRARY OF
CALIFORNIA

Propagation, Culture, and History of the Rose.

BY

SAMUEL B. PARSONS.

NEW REVISED AND ENLARGED EDITION.

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PREFACE TO NEW EDITION.

In presenting a new edition of this work, we have carefully revised the garden classification. With the first edition was published a list of nineteen hundred and sixty-six varieties, with their synonyms. The great increase since then has doubtless doubled that number.

When the first edition was published, the growing of roses for bouquets and other decorations was yet in its infancy; now the sales of cut flowers in New York alone, amount to millions of dollars, while among them all Roses take the lead. During the past year, there has been almost a rose mania. Single blooms of new roses have been sold at twelve dollars per dozen, and, tempted by these large prices, gentlemen of wealth are putting up houses for the forcing of roses extensively for sale. Thus our chosen flower is daily receiving new honors, and continuing to be the favorite above all others.

We have stricken out much of the poetry, which to the cultivator may have seemed irrelevant if not worthless, and for the interest of the classical scholar, have retained much of the early history of the Rose, and its connection with the manners and customs of the two great nations of a former age.

For many interesting facts in the History and Culture

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of the Rose, we are indebted to Deslongchamps, Vibert, Laffay, and several anonymous writers. To the former we wish most fully to express our obligations, both for the plan of this work and for many interesting facts and researches, to which we cannot conveniently attach his name in the body of the work.

Upon the classification we have bestowed much thought, and although we do not feel quite satisfied with the system we have adopted, it is the best that occurs to us in the present condition of Rose Culture. The amateur will, we think, find the labor of selection much diminished by the increased simplicity of the mode we have adopted, while the commercial gardener will in nowise be injured by the change.

In directions for culture, we give the results of our own practice, and have not hesitated to avail ourselves of any satisfactory results in the experience of others, which might enhance the utility of the work.

For our labor we shall feel abundantly compensated, if this work, in its enlarged form, shall in any way tend to produce a more general admiration and increased culture of the most beautiful flower known. S. B. P.

Flushing, New York, October, 1882.

CONTENTS.



CHAPTER I.	
Botanical Classification.....	7
CHAPTER II.	
Garden Classification.....	37
CHAPTER III.	
General Culture of the Rose.....	69
CHAPTER IV.	
Soil, Situation, and Planting.....	86
CHAPTER V.	
Pruning, Training, and Bedding.....	93
CHAPTER VI.	
Potting and Forcing.....	102
CHAPTER VII.	
Propagation.....	113
CHAPTER VIII.	
Multiplication by Seed and Hybridizing.....	130
CHAPTER IX.	
Diseases and Insects Attacking the Rose.....	140
CHAPTER X.	
Early History of the Rose, and Fables Respecting its Origin.....	153

CHAPTER XI.

Luxurious Use of the Rose.....	161
--------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XII.

The Rose in Ceremonies and Festivals, and in the Adornment of Burial-places.....	167
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

The Rose in the Middle Ages.....	173
----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

Perfumes of the Rose.....	185
---------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XV.

Medical Properties of the Rose.....	198
-------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

General Remarks.....	202
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CHAPTER XVII.

The Latest Lists of Roses.....	213
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PARSONS ON THE ROSE

California

CHAPTER I.

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION.

The Rose is a shrub or dwarf tree, with mostly deciduous foliage, and large, beautiful, and fragrant flowers. Its branches are slender, almost always armed with thorns, thinly furnished with leaves, which are alternate upon the stem. Its leaves are pinnate, and vary in color and character, from the rich, dark green, and somewhat rough leaf of La Reine, to the glossy smoothness and rich purple edge of Chromatella. The blossoms are variously arranged at the extremity of the newly formed branches. The calyx is single and tubular, swelling at its lower part, contracted at its opening, and divided at the edge into five lance-pointed divisions, which are whole or pinnatifid. The corolla is inserted at the mouth of the tube of the calyx, and is composed of five heart-shaped petals, which constitute the Rose in its single or natural state. The double blossoms are formed by the change of the stamens and pistils into petals or flower leaves, shorter than those of the corolla proper. The fruit or seed vessel, or *hip*, is formed by the tube of the calyx, which becomes plump and juicy, globular or oviform, having but one cell, and containing numerous small, one-seeded, dry