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'Kalevala', miniature, Szilveszter Győry, 2008

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EDITOR'S NOTE



This issue is dedicated to Szilveszter Győry, an amateur rose breeder who lived in Dunajská Streda, Slovakia. He passed away on the 24th of February 2024 at the age of 89. A former ship engineer, Szilveszter Győry started breeding roses in 1999 and left us more than 200 rose varieties. Szilveszter Győry also left us a very well documented list of his roses, which shows again, his passion for everything he embarked on.

I strongly feel that we, rose lovers, have the duty to preserve the roses created, after all, for us. My wish is to let all the rose lovers from our region and from everywhere know about the roses created by Szilveszter Győry and, hopefully, keep his legacy alive,

Special thanks to Martina Šimkovičová Greňová, senior radio producer of public broadcaster RTVS from Slovakia, who instilled in me the idea of this newsletter.

You will find inside this issue an interview with Szilveszter Győry conducted by her while visiting his garden in 2022 and an interview with Miloslav Šíp, owner of the Růže Skaličany nursery in the Czech Republic.

Many thanks to Szilveszter Győry's son Attila and daughter Tünde for providing valuable information about roses bred by their father.

With roses we can make the world a better place!

Angela Bokor

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A REMARKABLE LEGACY CREATED WITH PASSION

Angela Bokor, Romania

The Slovak people consider Győry Szilveszter as the most prominent breeder in their country after Rudolf Geschwind.

Mainly known for his miniature roses, Győry Szilveszter left us more than 200 roses. And those roses are like a history book as many were named after historical events, personalities, places, persuading us to look up the names. He liked the roses with small flowers as he felt that the beauty of large flowers is concentrated in the small ones.

He lived in Dunajská Streda in Slovakia and in 2016 thanks to a project initiated by the town council, 150 varieties of Győry roses were planted in the park.

His son, Győry Attila recalls, during a visit to the rosarium, his father's thoughts about the beauty of roses, why are they beautiful:



Győry Szilveszter (photo: Győry Attila)

"The synergy... Look, that yellow rose...It's not pretty by itself...but the one next to it, there....my favourite, with the little red petals...it gives the rose a harmony...The whole is beautiful... It's beautiful because we are here...and everything will pass.

The roses are beautiful. They are stunning. The petals, the smell. They are beautiful. Don't you see?" 1



rose park
in Dunajská Streda

Who was Szilveszter Győry?

Slovak citizen but of Hungarian nationality, he worked as a ship engineer for more than 40 years, mostly on ships navigating on Danube.

*"I loved this job! I believe that anyone who is once bitten by the smell of oil and machinery is irremediably addicted to it, as I was once"*²

After retiring, he started collecting roses and then creating new varieties. Here is how his son remember him:

"He was universal and versatile. He had a connection with literature, with arts, but he seemed to me to have a little bit of everything.

His intellectual knowledge and his memory were amazing, and he had a special understanding of the world of machines, he literally understood the language of machines, and while he was tinkering with big ship engines, he read philosophy and relaxed in the world of poetry...

Open to all impressions, he somehow had access to all forms of being, his soul somehow had an encyclopaedic relationship with being, with talent, he simply meant versatility. He was someone who dominated every field where talent could manifest itself."

"What he did - he did with passion. What he did not do - did not exist. It was a simple world where actions could only be done with passion, no other method existed."

"One day he bought white roses - for my mother - for her newly purchased garden. The white roses turned out to be red and then he was challenged again, what the heck happened to the rose, why has it just changed by its own. And with that, he set off to an unknown realm - the "gül bahcesi", the garden of roses, to start again - with passion - and to understand the people, the tendencies, the world of roses..."¹

Szilvester Győry started collecting roses, in his small garden of just 3 acres. At its peak there were 700 roses, the biggest collection in Slovakia. Including about 30 varieties from Russia, which were getting lost in the country and around 120 varieties from Mark Gergely, the breeder in Budapest, whom he regarded as his mentor. At first it was difficult to connect with the rose specialists, but later he was noticed by rose growers and breeders in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary.

The first rose created, 'Rylona' in 1999 has its own story and shows that all started by chance. Or maybe not? Why fishing, there were two roses and looking at them he just crossed them. The next day he kept doing that, eventually getting about 150 seedlings. One of them showed no resemblance to the initial roses and, after a while, he realized that a new rose was born. She was named after his wife, Ilona.

After 30 years of passionate work, he became the largest rose collector in Slovakia, and with his many rose varieties he has earned the recognition of the international rose world.

"His favourite roses have become "honorary citizens" in Gyimes, in Moldavia, in Budapest, one of his favourite roses blooms in Hybe, specifically at the resting place of Bálint Balassi, there, at the foot of the Hybe church, others whisper noble gossip in the Várkonyi Amadé Castle – so roses have made their way from Prague to Tokyo..."¹



with Agi Antal opening the rose garden in Dunajská Streda

In Dunajská Sreda 150 varieties of his roses were planted along with 100 varieties created by Mark Gergely. Around 1000 plants greet the visitors.

His roses were mostly propagated and sold in Czech Republic by Miloslav Šíp. Győry was unhappy that in Slovakia his roses was not of much interest.

Even if only an amateur, Szilveszter Győry was very meticulous in recording his work. He had his own code, RYS, and he left us a document recording all his roses with detailed information about each variety. In this newsletter you will find some of the rose with their detailed description. The document was kindly sent to me by his daughter, Tünde.

He was the first Slovakian rose breeder who created groundcover roses, ramblers, miniatures, patio roses, and micro-miniatures. Also the first moschata, multiflora, rugosa and virginiana hybrids.

I heard that his garden was sold but his roses are saved, growing in Dolna Krupa, Slovakia, in Acsad, Hungary in the Mark Rosarium, in the botanical garden of Olomouc, Czech Republic and can be bought in Czech Republic and some in Poland and Hungary.

References:

- 1- Facebook Győry Attila
- 2 – Somogyi Katalin interview – *Történelemóra rózsákkal*



'Ryttila' (groundcover, Győry, 2002)
named after his son, Attila



'Rynde' (climber, Győry, 2002)
named after his daughter, Tünde



'Szelle Mama' (polyantha, Győry, 2009)

In the very meticulously edited document written by Szilveszter Győry there is a sum up of the roses bred until 2020.

All pictures presented in this newsletter are from this document.

	CLASS	Until 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1	Floribunda	7	3	3			3	3
2	Climber	13	1				2	
3	Hybrid Moschata	2						
4	Hybrid Multiflora	2						
5	Hybrid Rugosa	1						
6	Hybrid Virginiana			1	1			
7	Micro miniature	6	1					
8	Miniatúre park	2	1					
9	Miniflóra	5						
10	Miniature	33	9	8	3	4	4	4
11	Shrub	13	2		1	2	1	
12	Patio	1	1					
13	Polyantha	10	1		1	1	1	3
14	Rambler	1						
15	Hybrid Remontant				1			
16	Groundcover	16	3	3		1	2	
17	Hybrid Tea	5	1	3	1	1	1	2
Total:		117	23	18	8	9	14	12

"A rose has a radiance, whether it has a fragrance or not. Roses are a world apart, they make you think more kindly."

Szilveszter Győry



'RYSter' (hybrid tea, Győry, 2014)

SZILVESZTER GYŐRY, THE MOST PROLIFIC SLOVAK BREEDER

*Jana Huttánová,
The Slovak National Rose Society/ Ružičarska spoločnosť Márie Henriety Chotekovej*

In February this year, our friend the rose breeder Szilveszter Győry passed away. He was born in 1943 in Jahodna, southern Slovakia. A ship engineer by profession, he was an employee of the Czechoslovak Danube Transport Authority. He started collecting different roses as his hobby after he retired, having collected about 700 varieties as well as several rose species. After 1992, he started to be involved in amateur breeding, focusing mainly on miniature roses.

He was hugely inspired by the Hungarian breeder Gergely Márk but was also an avid admirer of roses bred by American Ralph S. Moore. At that time, Szilveszter Győry owned probably the largest collection of miniature roses in Slovakia, altogether 143 varieties.

In Slovakia, Szilveszter Győry was a pioneer in the breeding of miniature rose varieties. As he states in the manuscript of the unpublished book "Roses by amateur breeder Szilveszter Győry by the end of 2019", he produced the first Slovak ground cover roses such as 'Ryttila' (2002) and 'Anna Baróka' (2002). Further, hybrids of *R. moschata*, where he included roses named after the historical names of Slovak cities Košice 'Cassovia' (2012) and Trnava 'Tyrnaviae' (2013).

Hybrids of *R. multiflora* include the roses 'DNL Nitra' (2013) and 'Kriváň' (2012). Hybrids of perpetual, *R. rugosa* and *R. virginiana* are also among his pioneering achievements. Moreover, Szilveszter Győry introduced a "new category" of micro-mini-roses for overly miniature roses. This group, which is so typical of Szilveszter Győry, includes 'Janko Hraško' (2013), 'Balassi Bálint' (2004), 'Iglíc' (2008), 'Sedmokráska' (2005, translates into Daisy), etc.

Many of his cultivars bear the name of important historical events and personalities as well as of down the Danube river. These names prove his broad knowledge rooted in a solid social and historical background; at the same time, the names of his roses testify to his origins as an ethnic Hungarian living in Slovakia. He dedicated some of them to members of his family and to his friends.

Almost all of Szilveszter Győry's roses are hardy and they don't require protection against fungal diseases or extra care. Due to the high alkalinity of the soil in which he grew the roses, his cuttings gradually acquired resistance up to a pH of 8,55.



'Cassovia', (RYScas)
Hybrid Moschata, Győry, 2012

Bud: pink, medium, blunt-tipped
Flower: pinkish raspberry with red tinge, wide creamy yellow stripes, medium, 6-8cm, semi-double, 14-17 petals, flowers solitary
Shrub: strong-growing, large, 2-2.8m tall, upright
Leaves: dark green, matt, healthy
Note: Good frost tolerance, moderately tolerant of high soil pH.

* Cassovia, old Latin name for Cassava. (today Košice)

By 2019, he had bred a total of 189 varieties, which he described in detail, and had other crosses ready. By 2022, his health had deteriorated so much that he did not complete his work and the roses remained neglected in the garden. A substantial number of the roses from his garden were saved and transported to Dolna Krupa by the Slovak National Rose Society in the same year

Unfortunately, some of the roses bred by S. Győry have not been preserved or cannot be reliably identified. Some of Szilvester Győry's rose varieties are grown and tested in optimal conditions by Miloslav Šíp, at his nursery in Czech Republic and several varieties are found in the Arboretum Borová Hora in Zvolen, Slovakia, and in botanical gardens in the Czech Republic.

Szilveszter Győry lived in Dunajská Streda in the borough of Ružový Háj. It was its inhabitants that initiated the planting of roses in this place. The revitalised public park named "The Rose Garden" was inaugurated in 2017. More than 150 varieties of S. Győry roses and around 100 varieties of Gergely Márk have been planted here, but unfortunately with no identification of varieties.

Szilveszter Győry, an extraordinary man and an important Slovak breeder, died on 23 February 2024. His work remains preserved in several places in the roses he grew, as well as in documents and writings recently handed over by his daughter to the Slovak National Rose Society. It is our task to process his collection and, if successful, to identify Szilveszter Győry's lost roses.



'Ad Flexum' (RYSat)

miniature, Győry, 2005

('Nana-2' (Győry) x 'Oakington Ruby'(Bloom, 1933))

Bud: Pink, oval, small.

Flower: Light lavender-blue with a pale centre, slightly fading, small, 2.5cm, plump, 17-21 petals, small cluster, 3-15 flowers, weak spicy fragrance, repeat flowering.

Shrub: Dwarf, 25-35cm tall, branched

Leaves: dark green, semi-glossy, oval, narrow

Note: Good frost tolerance, resistant to fungal diseases, tolerates high soil pH - 8,55.

Suitable for pots.

*Ad Flexum was the name of the Roman fortress on the site of today's Mosonmagyaróvár.

The name was given due to the good relationship with the gardeners of Mosonmagyaróvár



GYŐRY IN A SEA OF ROSES

interview conducted by Martina Šimkovičová Greňová,
first published in www.slovakroses.com, in 2022

What do you name your roses after?

Names? According to my feelings. I couldn't take some things any more.

This rose, for example, is called 'Koncz Márton'. He was a spy for kurutz insurgents (*late 17th / early 18th century anti-Habsburg armed rebels, ed.note*). He walked here and there, but then he was caught, taken to Prešpork (*today's Bratislava*) and sentenced to death.

When did you start working on roses?

We bought a garden, my wife and I received three roses from my mother-in-law. We wanted to buy more in the fall. I went to Bratislava, I chose 10 different roses according to the photos, I planted them nicely here and everything came into bloom in the spring. They were all the same.

To make sure we wouldn't have the same thing one year later, I took a catalogue and chose a rose that I liked. I bought 10 roses again, of which 7 were the same. It was 'Gloria Dei' ('Peace', *ed.note*). I have hated that rose ever since, despite the fact that it was the most popular rose of the 20th century. I just hate it. That's it.



'Koncz Marton' (miniature, Győry, 2012)
(Seedling x 'Ciocârlia', (Győry, 2008) x 'Imola' Győry, 2003)

Later, I realised that it couldn't be done this way and that I would start looking for roses myself. It was not possible in Bratislava, nobody was willing to help. That's how it is in Slovakia. Regardless of ethnicity. In Dunajská Streda (*with the majority population of ethnic Hungarians, ed. note*), I already had roses at the time when I was walking around town, and suddenly saw one rose that I really liked. I took a photo of it. Suddenly, the landlord comes out and I say: "Would you mind giving me two or three of its buds?" But he said: "I am not one for giving away buds to any stranger passing by."

Once they were passing by my garden. "Gee," says his wife. "That's nice, can we?" I said: "You're welcome!" So they looked all around. "Give me this and this," they said. "I'll give you the same as you gave me," I answered. I had a better memory then, so I didn't give anything to them. I highly value a few rose experts in Slovakia, but I have become a Czechophile.

Why?

Because out of nowhere, they neither knew me nor knew who I was, and they said: "You come and I will give roses. I don't have many, only about a hundred." That's how the number of roses in our garden increased. Then I had about 700 varieties. In the meantime, I tried to save the roses of, for example, Soviet breeders, such as Klimenko, which were commonly thrown away back then. No matter if they were Soviet. I couldn't stand it. After all, they're the result of a lot of work

It is said that your rosary is the largest in Slovakia. How many varieties do you have here?

The smallest, but with the greatest number of varieties. Now there aren't many of them, around 500. I used to save roses, but it's not possible anymore, because I don't have room for my own roses.

How many roses do you have here?

What I have left, because some have died out. There can be as many as 195 varieties. They have them everywhere in the Czech Republic.

While we're at it, this rose is called 'Pescan'. It is the old Latin name of Piešťany (*a Slovak spa town popular also abroad, ed. note*). And this rose was named after the attorney of Hedviga Malinova, an ethnic Hungarian who was beaten up by skinheads in Nitra. I'm also working on a rose for her, I don't have it yet, however.



'Pescan' (Györy, 2011), ('Comtesse Maria Henrietta', F1 (Györy, 2006))

Do you see what it is? Those are pollinated roses.

I take another rose. I don't pollinate with a brush like a breeder. I do not. I'll clean the rose, pour in another pollen from a different variety. If it works. Some say that if they did it right, it would work out. But that's not the case. It's like having 4-5 children in one family, each one is different.

Father and mother are the same. But when you get to know those connections better, you will soon find out that, for example, in my family, my son has a love of books and a height he takes from me, he also inherited boat engineering from

me, but the prerequisites for gaining weight come from his grandmother and a bald head from his grandfather. I don't want to sound smart, but the same things happen. It used to be said: "Look at the mother, marry the daughter." Of course, it's the same with roses. After all, it's biology.

Can we go back to this rose? Why is it covered?

Look, I'll pollinate it. I will give there, for example, pollen from this rose. But a bee will come and bring you another pollen. Or a different bug will come and seize the whole inside.

What name would you give this rose?



It is so gentle, tiny...

I'll tell you. Janko Hraško.

This is Janko Hraško! That's your rose!

It is the result of many years of work. I also reduce the size of these flowers. The smaller the flowers, the smaller the hips.

And you make seedlings out of hips...

The hips are cleaned, peeled, and the seeds are sown.

Why did you start breeding? You mentioned that you got your first roses from your mother-in-law. When did you decide to make a rose yourself?

I didn't want to breed roses, God forbid! I went fishing, I had things here. Roses were planted here. Three side by side. And I was sitting and telling my wife what if we pollinate it together. So I grabbed and criss-crossed, absolutely without any preparation, I started mixing it. It wasn't until I got home that I read that I should mark it. The next day I marked what I pollinated and the next day again. In the end, I had about 140 seedlings left. And one of them was such that it did not belong here, nor there, neither to its father nor to its mother. I then named it after my wife. It's like that, whenever a sin begins, it never stops



'Janko Hraško' (Győry, 2013)
(Seedling x 'Talas' (Győry, 2005))
x ('Sedmokráska' (Győry, 2005)x 'Talas' (Győry, 2005))

Come on, I'll show you. Here, for example, are the roses that were planted in the fall. Each type of seedling is marked according to the variety. Some had one seed, so I planted one seed. Here I planted the whole row. But nothing germinated.



'Rylona' (climber, Győry, 1999)
('New Dawn' ,Dreer, 1930) x 'Ilse Krohn
Superior' (Kordes, 1964)
named after the breeder's wife, Ilona

Each plant is numbered. How many do you have here?

Autumn sowing was approximately 750-800 items. I consider roses to be poems. That rose doesn't have to be the *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. For Slovakia, *Mor ho!* (a Slovak patriotic poem, ed. note) is enough. Indeed, what can the rose say?

And this one here has 4 petals! Gee! I have to mark that. I had roses with four petals, but they didn't stick with me.

Why did you start breeding? What did you enjoy so much about it?

Nothing. You know, I'd be lying if I said I thought I was going to breed roses. As I said, I was on a fishing trip, I arrived around nine, I worked for two hours and, all of a sudden, the job was done. I was sitting there in the shadow, and I'm like, "What if I try it?" By chance. It all started like this.

You said that you became a Czechophile. What does that mean?

Slovakia is a rather unhappy country. When I already had roses, they told me to have them registered somewhere. So I wrote to Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Some responded in this way, others in another way. At that time, the stamp cost 8 or 9 crowns. Crowns haven't existed for I don't know how many years, but I still haven't received any answer.

In Slovakia?

In Slovakia. They forgot about it. But I'm not bitter. For example, I named the rose 'Hybe'. Do you know Hybe? This is, I think, the most beautiful village in Slovakia. It's like with songs. One likes this, the other likes a different one. I liked Hybe. But I named the roses just like that, to see what they say. I wrote to them. They immediately sent a response, yes, they are very grateful that I named roses after them.

I will show you one rose. It's called the 'Cassovia'. The first musk rose bred in Slovakia. I bred it and they just had a cultural year in Košice (*Košice 2013, European Capital of Culture, ed. note*).



'Mor ho' (Győry, 2017), (Seedling x 'Bajor Gizi emléke', (Márk, 1991))

I sent them its description as a curiosity, not that I needed anything. I needed nothing. They knew well enough that I didn't need anything. So they didn't get anything.

Why did you call it Košice, i.e. Cassovia?

I used to go to school there. I named the second rose 'Tyrnaviae'

Trnava.

Our county. I sent them photos, a description. Do you think I have heard back? They are also from Slovakia. They simply didn't answer.

Where do you actually come from?

I'm from Matthew's Land (*a very archaic name for the area, used by ethnic Hungarians, ed. note*). It lies between the rivers Little Danube and Váh. It used to be like that: if children were to learn foreign languages, they took a 10-year-old Hungarian boy among the Slovaks and, vice-versa, they brought a Slovak boy here



'Cassovia' Győry, 2012)
(*'William Lobb'* (Laffay, 1855) x *'Jani'*, (Győry, 2008)

Both grandma and grandpa could speak some Slovak because they attended markets. That's how my father got here. This way, he learned Hungarian. He was also from Matthew's Land. I am so crazy, you know. I am very glad that I do not belong to anyone.

This rose is named after the Csángó poet. He wrote poems in the Csángó dialect. Neither in Hungarian nor in Romanian. As if someone wrote poems in a dialect common in Eastern Slovakia.

But your names are also political. To the victims of the Beneš decrees, to the heroes of Chernobyl...

This rose is the first of the group of rugosa hybrids. When they consecrated the church in Černova, the policemen, like proper Christians, fired at those locals. 40 were left dead. Is it my fault that they were shooting? Or, for example, are you to blame for the fact that there were policemen who were Slovaks? They got the order, they shot.

And this little rose belongs to the Kuciaks. Hybrid tea

Why did you dedicate a rose to the murdered couple - investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová?

Honestly - it goes against my grain. Shoot someone for being right? 70 years after the war? Well, excuse me! Because someone can do everything? Because he thinks that when he has money, that he has an honest mind? No. I never saw the Kuciak couple in my life, but I was thinking about them a lot. It is not possible that any kind of outcasts could have innocent people shot dead, I am at a loss of words. And they also protect themselves pretending that they are innocent.

Did you give the couple's parents this rose?

I sent it to them. But I told you that we are in



'Tyrnaviae'(Győry, 2017)
(*'William Lobb'* x *'Blanche Moreau'*)



'Memorial to the victims of Černova'
(Győry, 2010), (*Rosa rugosa* x *'Parkdirektor Riggers'*)



'Chernobyl Heroes' (Győry, 2018) Seedling x unknown garden rose

Slovakia. I didn't name it so they should thank me. For me, it's because it's good for my heart.

Look, I have a rose, it's in the other garden, it's called **'Vukovar-Ovčara'**. Do you know what happened in Vukovar? When the Serbs occupied it, they found over 200 wounded Croats in the hospital there. So they put them on a bus, took them to Ovčara, tortured them to death and shot them. And it can be left like that? It can't.

If it was, let's say, in the 1940s, a few years after the Second World War! But 50 years after the war? That's a lot. They did the same in Srebrenica. I'm not an expert on these things, but it makes me feel better.

Since when have you been breeding roses? Since 2000?

Even earlier. I bred roses, but I had no idea that I was breeding them. I also had a variety but I didn't know I had a new variety. One rose was different, done. It stood out, it would be good to breed it, so I did. And then someone told me "you have a new rose".

This rose has a Romanian name. Its name is **'Ciocârlia'**.

What does it mean?

Skylark. But when you google Ciocârlia, listen to that tune. Some say it was written by an illiterate gypsy. A lot of people finish their university studies and can't make music like this.



'Monument of the Kuciaks' fiancés' (Győry, 2019), (Seedling x 'Victims of the Armenian Genocide' (Győry, 2009))



'Vukovár-Ovčara' (Győry, 2015) Seedling of unknown origin

Whew, you get goose bumps when you sing it to me.

The Romanian plays it on the pan flute. You know, even if you don't understand the lyrics ... but when you see how he is playing, you're 100% hooked.

The 'Zigeunerknabe' rose by Geschwind comes to mind. You told me he was a role model for you. In what?

In that total devotion. He completely surrendered to those roses. It's unbelievable that... well, I think I am now older than he was ... but that he created his roses with such joy and so simply ... it can't be explained. Geschwind is Geschwind.

And this rose is called 'Victims of the Inquisition'.

Many of your roses are victims.

Yes, unfortunately.

(All photos from Szilveszter Győry's archive)



'Victims of the Inquisition' (Győry, 2016), ((Seedling x 'Obsidio Szigetiana' (Győry, 2014)) x 'Strength' (Berger, 1983))



'Ciocârlia' (Győry, 2008), ('Beys ' (Győry, 2004) x Seedling)



'Ada Kaleh' (RYSada)

groundcover, Győry, 2011

'Hybe'(Győry,2003) x 'Gizike', (Győry, 2009)

Bud: Small, globular, white

Flowers: whitish pink, slightly darker in the centre, fading later, small, 2cm, double, 25-35 petals, no fragrance, abundant, long-lasting, once-flowering

Shrub: Low, 20-40cm tall, spreading, ground cover, 80-120cm branches

Leaves: dark green, semi-glossy, narrow

Note: good frost tolerance, tolerates high soil pH (8.55), suitable for pot culture.

*Ada Kaleh, below Orsova and above the Iron Gate, was an island inhabited by Turks /means island castle, but also called New Orsova/, flooded by the waters of the constructed Iron Gate Hydroelectric Power Station. The island is mentioned in Jókai's novel "The Golden Man". It is mistakenly considered by many to be Nobody's Island. Parts of the fortress have been moved to the island of Şimian /bellow Turnu Severin/,



'Baba Kay' (RYSbaba)

polyantha, Győry, 2007

'The Fairy' (Bentall, 1932)-F1 x 'Little White Pet' (Henderson, 1879)

Bud: pinkish small, globular.

Flower. pale pink, slightly fading, with a small creamy centre, rosette-like, small, 2.5-3 cm, plump, large clusters with 5-35 flowers, weakly scented, blooms until late autumn

Shrub: low, 50-65cm tall, spreading

Leaves: medium green, semi-glossy, pointed

Note: Good frost tolerance. Resistant to fungal diseases. Can be grown well without spraying. Good ornamental in high pH /8,55/ soils. Its' cuttings root easily.

* Baba Kay, a bare cliff in the middle of the fairway, about 10-15m high, protruding from the Danube bed. Baba Kay, Turkish for Rock Apo. On the border of Romania and Serbia, below Ómoldova /Moldova Veche/, between Lászlóvára and Galambóc castle, the ballad of János Arany, Rozgonyiné is set in its surroundings. Here all novice sailors are "baptised"



'Anyátoknak' (RYStok)

floribunda, Győry, 2012

Synonym name: 'For Your Mother'

'Lichtkönigin Lucia' (Kordes, 1966) x 'Domokos János emléke' (Márk, 1991)

Bud: blood red, sometimes yellow with reddish tints, medium, pointed.

Flower: yellow, medium, 7-8 cm, double, with 18-15 petals, weakly scented.

Shrub: Medium, 70-80 cm, erect, slightly branched.

Leaves: dark green, shiny, leathery, medium

Note: Good frost tolerant, tolerates high soil pH well.

* Named in memory of my wife. Her favorite was this yellow rose.



'Cantata Profana' (RYScant)

Shrub, Győry, 2013

Seedling x seedling

Buds: long, pointed, graceful

Flower: cherry red, velvety, simple, 5-6 petals, medium, 6-8cm, faintly scented

Shrub: medium, 100-140 cm tall, spreading 80-100 cm.

Leaves: medium green, semi-glossy

Note: Good frost tolerance, moderately tolerant of high soil pH.

* Named after Béla Bartók's 'Cantata Profana', a musical setting of a Romanian folk tale. The work is about the nine sons of an old man who turned into stags.../From this tale comes the saying: "Only from a pure spring"



'Cholloucuz', miniature, Győry, 2004



'Százszorszép', micro miniature, Győry, 2005



'Csernovai áldozatok emlékére'. Rugosa Hybrid, Győry, 2009



'Csángó Himnusz', Hybrid Tea, Győry, 2015



'Dr Ambrózy-Migazzi', climber, Győry, 2009



'Gyöngyszem', micro miniature, Győry, 2015



'Győry Mama', polyantha, Győry, 2010



'Jaroslav Ježek', polyantha, Győry, 2014



'Győry Papa', park, Győry, 2011



'J. A. Comenius', miniature, Győry, 2016



'Karinthy Frigyes', mini floribunda, Győry, 2011



'Kriván', multiflora hybrid, Győry, 2012

MILOSLAV ŠÍP ON SZILVESZTER GYŐRY

an interview with Czech nurseryman Miloslav Šíp, conducted by Slovak radio journalist Martina Šimkovičová Greňová

We started collaborating in 2008. I found out about him through my acquaintance in Písek (the Czech Republic) who told me that it was his wife who was the breadwinner in their family at that very moment so he had time to browse the internet. That was in fact how he came across Szilvester Győry who caught his eye.

My friend told me it would be a good idea to get in touch with this person and to start propagating his varieties. Through further research, my friend found out that Mr Győry was breeding roses but he did not find any nursery propagating or selling them, neither in Slovakia nor in the Czech Republic and, of course not anywhere else abroad. So, he contacted Szilvester who at first was hesitant, asking us why his roses should be sold and that this was not necessary. He did not understand why he should send them for grafting when it is only his hobby as a gardener.

I tried to explain to him that keeping them only for himself does not make greater sense because nobody else would enjoy the qualities he produces. His roses involve a lot of hard work and as I come from a family of gardeners I know exactly how much effort lies in breeding a rose. At that time, he had up to 150 of his own new varieties. All of them were located in that little garden of his but nobody else had them and nobody was propagating them. Gradually, I managed to persuade him that it would be worth doing it, that it would make sense and that all his work would gain a deeper purpose too, making many people happy. And that this may make him happy too – that he is not breeding roses only for himself but also for others.

In the end, I succeeded in my endeavour

In December 2008, Szilvester Győry sent me a

CD with a list of the roses he had bred by that time including photos and description of these varieties. In the summer of that year, he sent grafts to our nursery in Skaličany in the Czech Republic. And that was how we started propagating his varieties.

I have to say that his roses started very quickly to be popular. Some of our customers started rose gardens consisting purely of his roses. He had very interesting varieties for rock gardens, magnificent ground covers as well as climbers, multiflora, tea hybrids and a large number of shrub roses.

It is true that many of them do not repeat flowering including groundcover ones, climbers and ramblers. But it is not a disadvantage as these roses give as many flowers in the three weeks of flowering as those that are in bloom from June through October. The number of flowers is much higher so this cannot be matched by roses that flower continuously for several months. The point is that we have to follow nature and not expect that nature will follow us. We have become used to the idea that money can buy everything, even nature. So we expect roses to be in full bloom when we want them to be in full bloom. It does not work this way. Simply, it's us who have to go to see the rose in bloom when it is blooming. When we do this, we realise how beautiful roses that do not flower repeatedly are.

Our collaboration started with the only drawback

The soil conditions in his garden were very bad as it was over too salty with a pH of 8,5 which is totally unsuitable for roses because they want a pH of 6, max 7 which is slightly acidic or neutral..

The result was that the height of his roses in his garden was half or a third of the size of plants growing on my plot of land. Despite the fact that I grow roses in bad conditions as here we have sandy soil with granite ground, the roses in the nursery reached 60-70 cm while Szilvo's data showed 30-40cm

So, I had to move the rock garden varieties into the floribunda category. Of course, we agreed upon this, he let me do that. He told me that if I find out that those roses look different in my garden, I am free to change categories, no problem with that. So this was the only drawback while propagating his roses.

But I have to say that he had done a huge load of work in breeding Slovak roses. I have been involved with growing Czech and Slovak varieties for over 30 years and I think that despite the fact that the country split, Czech and Slovak roses should be propagated together. So I have been propagating his roses. And I have to say that also he was delighted by how popular his varieties became in a very short time after having been introduced to customers. The conditions in which he bred his cultivars cannot be even compared to those of Kordes, Tantau and similar big players who abound in completely different financial means, completely different sizes of land and they have a large number of employees dealing with different levels of running well-established business companies. They did not have communists ruling the country for 40 years; the bonds were not broken there.

He started from scratch. He came across roses on an island where he saw a yellow rose, most probably *Rosa foetida*, that thrilled him. But he started to be involved with roses as soon as he bought the little garden.

Along with his wife, they bought roses to have them there. First, he was disappointed because he had bought several roses where each one would be different. It was during the communist regime where there was one company known as ZAREZ. All the roses he bought were of the

same variety – 'Gloria Dei', as he found out later. Since that time, he did not like 'Gloria Dei' which is a kind of irony as exactly this variety was mother or father to many other roses and itself has a moving history as it was bred by Meilland in France shortly before Hitler took over France.

Back then it had no name but a number and, in order to save it along with other new seedlings he found interesting, Meilland sent them all across the globe. It was ironic that he sent it also to Germany. And today, if you were reading an American book, you would find this rose under the name of 'Peace', here in Europe it is 'Gloria Dei' but Meilland intended to name it differently. Nevertheless, it is the most famous tea hybrid that was used very intensively in breeding and, moreover, has a considerable number of mutations. Szilvo, however, did not like it at all.

After we started co-operating, he sent me his latest varieties that he always created in summer and when he succeeded, he sent me, in winter, some information and pictures.

Propagate Győry's roses

I try to promote Czech and Slovak varieties. The current trends are commercial. When you want to propagate Czech and Slovak roses, commerce goes aside. You're not going to make much money on those. They are not licensed so you cannot set their price high but that was not my goal. I think that it is a great pity that we import a lot of roses from abroad here while we have beautiful roses bred, some of the varieties are of a great quality but nobody knows about them, nobody is propagating them. It's because, e.g. Kordes has their representatives here so garden centers will sell Kordes varieties.

I can understand that. But, on the other hand I doubt that Germany would do the same with Czech roses. I am not sure about that and I think they wouldn't as Germans would promote first of all their varieties and only then roses from

other countries. I am not against roses from abroad but why not also sell ours, Czech and Slovak ones? So, for the past 30 years I have been trying to subtly promote our breeders. Of course, I as a nursery man cannot advertise only Czech and Slovak roses. That's why I tried to show them the qualities of these varieties so clients would realise themselves that it is worth buying them despite the fact that nobody knows about them. And by flooding the market with roses from abroad, we do not allow domestic varieties to prove their qualities.

That is why I started to be interested in this endeavor. I was interested in any roses by any Slovak breeder. However, in Slovakia, there were not that many breeders, nor were there that many local varieties. Back then, I knew 'Orava' by František Chorvát as I had been selling it already for several years. A fantastic rose that has also been used for further breeding. I myself have its mutation which I named after my Grandpa. But there were not that many roses there. So, I was so happy to find out that there is a breeder working on his own varieties in Slovakia. I tried to get in touch with Szilvester Győry and I tried to make his roses popular so to make them being grown in our region.

When I started to grow them, I found out that many of his varieties are of a high quality. Getting a nice and quality miniature rose for a rock garden, a true miniature rose, that would make the cherry on the rock cake is a rather big problem.

Usually also some polyanthas are considered great for rock gardens. It really is not that easy to come across a quality cultivar. I have been looking for the perfect fit for years just to find out that the most beautiful varieties of this type of roses are in Slovakia. In the garden of Szilvester Győry. Varieties such as 'Imola', 'Yehuda Assad', 'Talas', 'Daisy', 'Janko Hraško' are fantastic and unrivalled. They are beautiful, really.

The same goes for the ground cover roses as they were not commonly used under the communist regime. In Germany, they were progressive in breeding ground cover varieties. When I started in the rose business 30 years ago

my friend got a collection of 15 ground cover roses for me. I had known about these 15 varieties and I think that there were no more of this type of roses in Czechoslovakia back then.

I was caught by surprise when I saw those bred by Szilvo Győry. I was very happy that these roses came from Slovakia not from Germany or France. Here the climate is pretty much the same so these roses are well placed to have fewer problems to grow well here, both in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia.

As to flowering and thorns, you can find in his portfolio polyantha roses with single, double, semi-double flowers. However, I did not focus on full-petalled or deeply-cut flowers. No.

Friendship

Yes, our relationship turned into a friendship. However, we never met in person, you know. I am still very sorry about that. I would say though that we were very close and he confirmed that once when we were on phone and he suddenly suggested this "tykat-ing" to me (*ed. note: informal addressing, in English it would be suggesting calling the person by first name*). But I knew that at that time he was over 80 while I was in my 50's. I told him that if that's his wish then ok but I was not sure if it is polite from my side to call him by his name. So he asked me how old I was and I said 50+. "True, I am a bit older but you can call me Szilvo." It was so beautiful! He made it clear that there are no boundaries between us, rose lovers. If we live for roses, nothing else matters.

Address of the nursery:

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email: ruzeskalicany@seznam.cz
website: www.ruzeskalicany.cz/



'Obsidio Szigetiana', floribunda, Győry, 2014



'Neti', miniature, Győry, 2007



'Praha-89', climber, Győry, 2009



'Dr. Šafránek' (RYSsaf)

Hybrid Tea, Győry, 2017

'Fáklya', (TH, Márk Gergely, 1975) x seedling

Buds: reddish-orange, medium, conical

Flower: salmon orange with pinkish-blue tinge, yellow corolla, pale bracts, large, 9-10 cm, plump, 18-24 petals, weakly scented.

Bush: Medium, 60-70 cm tall, erect, branched.

Leaves: medium green, medium, semi-glossy

Note: Good frost and drought tolerance, resistant to fungal diseases, can be grown without spraying. Good tolerance to high soil pH.

** My roses were discovered on the internet... by Dr. Slávek Šafránek, a Czech doctor, at a time when they were not even noticed by dogs in Slovakia, and he recommended them to Miloslav Šíp, a rose gardener from Skaličany / Czech Republic/, with whom we have had an extremely good relationship since then. In Šíp's garden, more than 150 of my rose varieties are being selected and sold with great success. I named this rose in honour of Dr. Slávek Šafránek, in gratitude!



'Rosa Márk Gergely', mini floribunda, Győry, 2008

'Rosa Ralph S. Moore', floribunda, Győry, 2015



'Rudolf Joseph Geschwind', climber., Győry, 2007

'Vágvölgye', climber, Győry, 2017

And finally a few pictures taken in the garden where Szilveszter Győry created his roses

(source: Pócs Margit, Facebook)



