

In Your Garden

By V. Sackville-West

FAITHFUL to the principle that the autumn catalogues will shortly be arriving, I propose to devote the next few Sundays to notes on some roses less frequently grown than the hybrid teas, climbers, ramblers, and other popular kinds. Useful though they undeniably are, some people like to get away from the orthodox and try something different. It is for those people that I write these articles.

A rose which always catches the eye of visitors to my garden is an old Hybrid perpetual (1867) called *Baron Giraud de l'Ain*. This is a dark red rose with crinkly petals edged in white. I am not very well versed in dress-making terms, but I am given to understand that this sort of edging is called picot in English and by the French *engrèlure*, not to be confused with *engelures*, meaning chilblains.

— TIME OFF —

The 'Time Off' travel feature will be resumed shortly.

This picot-edged rose is, in my experience, a far stronger grower than the almost indistinguishable *Roger Lambelin* (1890). Giraud seems to be blessed with a better constitution than his younger brother Roger.

Then there is the green rose. Admittedly this is a freak, and you may not like it. I don't like it very much myself; but I have a sentimental feeling for it because it grew in my old home when I was a child and one preserves a sentimental feeling for everything one knew as a child before the cares and worries of adult life came upon one. The green rose is called *Rosa chinensis viridiflora*. It makes no show in the garden, but is surprisingly decorative in a vase for picking.

One could wish only that it lived up to its name and was truly green, not tinged with brown. A jade green rose would be something worth having, but even the lovers of the so-called green rose must confess that its flowers are a bit smudgy. Either you love it, or you have no use for it; it all depends on what you feel.

The rose called *Turkestanica*, or *Tipo ideale*, or *chinensis mutabilis* is likely to please anybody with a freakish taste. Well grown, it makes a big bush apparently smothered in several sorts of butterflies: pink, yellow and cream. It will flower all through the summer, especially if you can give it a sunny, sheltered corner. I do recommend this, if you don't already know it. It is a china with a fairly long history, and has had the honour of being drawn by Redouté.