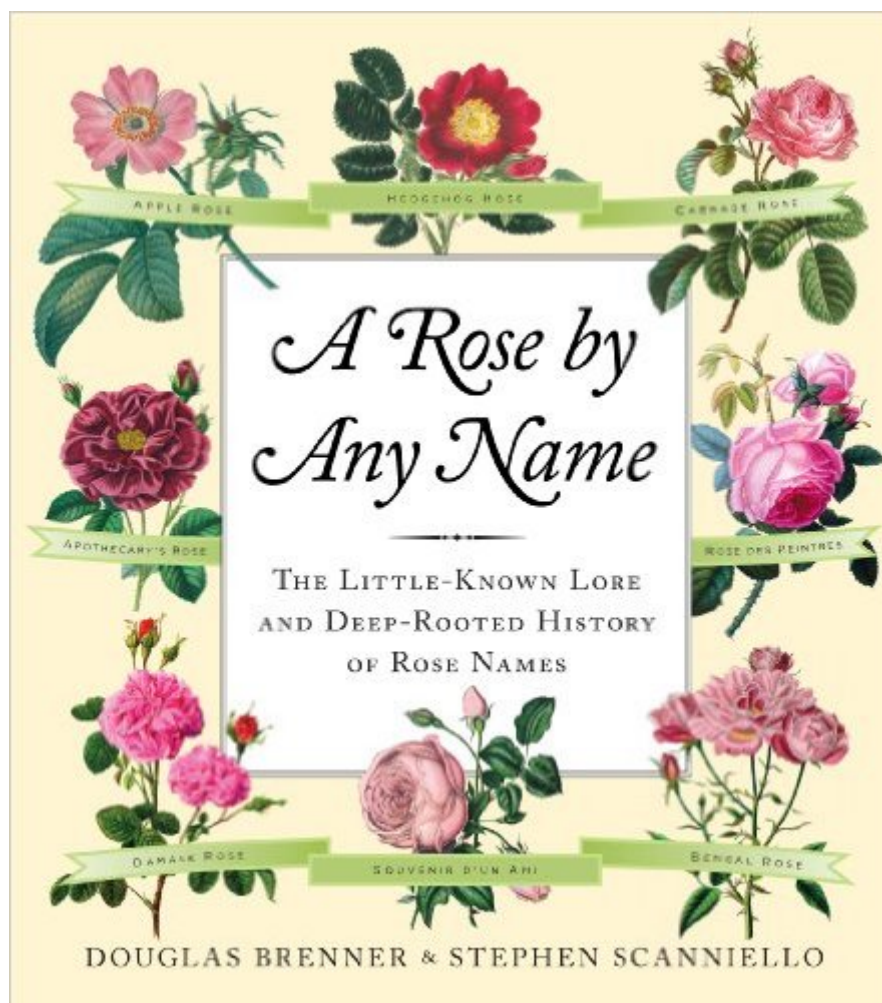


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A Rose By Any Name: The Little-Known Lore And Deep-Rooted History Of Rose Names



Synopsis

Encompassing art, literature, science, technology, history, and everything in between, the stories behind rose varieties include enough curiosities, romance, tragedy, wit, mystery, scandal, and earthy delights to satisfy even those who would never dream of actually tending a plant. In addition to names, readers will learn that the perfume of 'Rosa Gallica' wafted through Pliny's Roman villa and lulled Marie Antoinette on the night before her wedding; that 'Eglantine' is threaded through Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; that roses in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were mainly raised for medicinal purposes; and that the world of rose-naming rights is one of complicated and fiercely guarded copyrights and patents. With full-color art throughout, this eclectic little volume is a must-have for die-hard rosarians, and for the less rose-obsessed, it's simply a marvelous miscellany starring what is arguably the world's most popular flower.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Algonquin Books; First Edition edition (February 3, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1565125185

ISBN-13: 978-1565125186

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 7.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #626,877 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers > Roses](#) #338 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants > Flowers](#) #14524 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology](#)

Customer Reviews

It's no secret that I love roses, especially heirloom roses. I love their gorgeous flowers. I love their heavenly scents. I love their toughness. And I love their names. Residing in my garden are *Baronne Prevost*, *Cecile Brunner*, *General Jacqueminot*, *Mme. Pierre Oger*, *Mme. Plantier*, *Therese Bugnet* and *Zephirine Drouhin*. Who were these people and why were roses named after them? Douglas Brenner and Stephen Scanniello set out to solve those mysteries. They initially chose about four dozen roses with interesting histories. But the problem with roses and their stories is that when you start out discussing one tale, it leads to another story about another rose which leads to yet another story about another rose, etc. By the time the authors finished, the four dozen roses had become

over 1200. It's those stories that make this book so fascinating. Rather than a dry list of names each followed by a short explanation of the person/place/thing for which the rose was named, we are treated to tales of danger, intrigue, humor and pathos, all with historical tidbits thrown in to put it into context. We visit gardens that no longer exist and gardens that are still going strong. We learn about the game "Rose Alphabet" wherein players must come up with rose names for each letter of the alphabet. Also included are several recipes using rose petals or hips along with the story of the discovery of rose oil in India. Most of all, it's the people and their stories. Gods and goddesses, kings and queens, saints and sinners. Presidents, war heroes, painters, fashion designers, actors and actresses. Humbler folk such as family members of rose breeders. The authors debunk a few legends.

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