



## Appendix 2

### The Zonta Rose

In her book *Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide: The History of Zonta International 1919-1999*, Therese de Langis mentions the Zonta colors, gold and mahogany, which were selected to represent the autumnal season of Zonta's birth. She also mentions the choice of the yellow rose – the symbol of friendship – as Zonta's official flower.

In earlier times, especially during the Victorian era, a yellow rose symbolized jealousy, dying love and infidelity. But as times changed, so did the meaning of the yellow rose. In the modern era, yellow roses are used to convey a number of sentiments, with friendship being the main one.

However, there is another possible reason that our founders chose a yellow rose as the symbol of Zonta International – it was the symbol of the suffragist movement in the USA.

The 19th Amendment to the USA Constitution and its ratification

In the summer of 1920, Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution granting women the right to vote.

Washington had just become the 35<sup>th</sup> state of the 36 needed to call for the constitutional amendment through ratification. All the legislators and every politically aware citizen knew that if Tennessee approved the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the long fight for women's suffrage would succeed.

More than 70 suffragist groups began applying pressure to Tennessee Governor, Albert H. Roberts, who was considered an anti-suffragist. He convened a special session of the General Assembly on 9 August 1920.

The Nashville Hermitage Hotel became the headquarters of both the suffragists and the anti-suffragists. To identify friends and foes, and to display community support, the anti-suffragists

distributed red roses to those opposing the ratification, and the suffragists distributed yellow roses to those supporting the women's right to vote. The War of the Roses raged in Nashville!

The Tennessee Senate swiftly voted to support women's suffrage on Friday, 13 August 1920. In contrast, the House worked through parliamentary maneuvers and motions to table the legislation with emotions and tempers growing more and more heated. The rose-count reflected on the lapels of the state House members, revealed a 48-vote deadlock of the 96 lawmakers present.

Believing he had the votes needed to defeat the suffrage legislation, Speaker Seth Walker put the resolution to its final vote on Wednesday, 18 August 1920. The drama concluded as Harry Burn, a young man from Niota, in McMinn County, sporting a red rose on his lapel, changed his mind and shouted "Aye!" to a stunned crowd. Harry Burn had changed his mind because of a seven-page letter he had received from his mother, Phoebe Burn. The letter, comprising mostly updates of daily life, included a short declaration, which read: "I notice some of the speeches against. They were bitter. I have been watching to see how you stood but have not noticed anything yet....Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs Cat put the 'rat' in ratification. Hurrah, and vote for suffrage!" (Mrs Cat is Carrie Chapman Catt, the most prominent suffragist leader).

Sources:

<https://www.blueshoenashville.com/suffragehistory.html>

[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2015/08/18/the\\_deciding\\_vote\\_for\\_womens\\_suffrage\\_127808.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2015/08/18/the_deciding_vote_for_womens_suffrage_127808.html))

### **The First Zonta Rose**

Since 1984, a yellow rose has been a symbol of Zonta. The idea came from Valerie Webster, the then governor of District 16, Australia–New Zealand. Rose gardener Mary Mason, who was a Zontian, contacted Harkness, the famous UK rose breeder, who developed the first Zonta Rose, which was presented at the Sydney Convention in 1984.

The rose sold by clubs in Australia, Canada, USA and UK was developed from the "Hartanna" rose by Harkness, UK. The name of the rose was "Princess Alice" in Canada and the UK, "Bright Lights" in the USA, and "Zonta Rose" in Australia.

### **The Second Zonta Rose**

At the District 13 conference in 1995 in Reykjavik, the Area Director from Iceland talked about a Finnish fundraising project selling silk roses. A Danish PR committee, chaired by Inge-Lise Soebjerg, Zonta Club of Koege, adopted and developed the idea and presented it at the club presidents' meeting in Spring 1996. It became very clear that Danish Zontians did not want to sell silk roses; if they were to sell roses, the flowers would be real!

Inge-Lise Søbjerg, Zonta Club of Koge, appointed a rose committee, a sub-committee to the area Public Relations committee, with Annelise Hallund, Zonta Club of Hillerød, and Mette Madsen, Zonta Club of Roskilde, as members. Inge-Lise received information from Zontians in

Australia as well as beautiful rose cards, and the idea was to use the same rose as in Australia for a Danish fund-raising project.

Rose-grower Mr Martin Jensen, Bogense, Denmark, and rose-breeder, Mr. Robert Harkness, in the UK, decided instead to use a new rose for the project. The choice fell on a rose developed under the name of Harflow which was still without a market name. Inge-Lise made a deal: the name of the rose would be "Zonta '98" and Zonta Denmark had first option on the total 1997 production of the roses, amounting to 1,003 plants. The committee sold all the plants, as well as 10,000 rose cards. Mr Harkness and Mr Jensen donated beautiful labels for the plants.

Because of this success, the Danish committee decided to expand the project worldwide. This was more difficult than anticipated because of market regulations governing roses. However, all 30 district governors received information on the project and the 1998 convention committee agreed to market the rose during convention. Harkness Roses, UK, donated a shipment of 500 pre-chilled roses to Zonta for the Paris convention for use in ceremonies such as memorial service, the installation of officers and directors, and in decorations.

The Danish committee sold 3,000 rose cards; the Zonta Club of Naestved sold 300 rose scarves designed by Charlotte Sparre; and Inge-Lise presented the project at two workshops.

On 31 July 1999, the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen were the venue of the christening of the "Zonta '98" rose. Mr Martin Jensen had donated a big rose bed to the Tivoli Gardens, and he and Mr Harkness attended and made speeches. Many Zontians had decided to spend an afternoon in the Tivoli Gardens. Journalists reported on the event, as was the case in Kiel in 1999 when the Zonta Club of Kiel sold the roses as a fundraiser at their charter ceremony. The roses were also used to market Zonta in the convention cities of Oahu (2000) and Gothenburg (2002).

In 2018, the Zonta Rose (born Harflow from Harkness Roses, UK) was marketed in the USA by Edmund Roses under the name of *Easy Going*, and in Denmark by major rose-grower, Knud Pedersen, of Rosenposten nursery.

([www.roses.co.uk](http://www.roses.co.uk); [www.edmundroses.com](http://www.edmundroses.com); [www.rosenposten.dk](http://www.rosenposten.dk))

### **The Third Zonta Rose**

In 2008, the Rotterdam Convention Handbook (p. 40) published an article on the long journey to create a new commercial rose. The Zonta+ rose was bred by Lex+, a division of global flower and plant breeders, DNA Green Group.

The Zonta+ rose is distinctive for its flower which is a wonderful clear yellow and of larger than average size. The yellowness intensifies when the flower is kept in water. It ...will last for a long time....The new rose will be officially inaugurated during the Opening Ceremony of the 59<sup>th</sup> Zonta International Convention...Mrs. Maria van der Hoeven, Minister of Economic Affairs, and Mrs Olivia Ferry, Zonta International President, will officially baptize the new rose.

### **The Austrian Zonta Rose**

In her book, *Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide: The History of Zonta International 1919-1999*, Therese de Langis included a photo of the christening of the Austrian Zonta Rose (p. 39). The text reads:

The Zonta Club of Baden Area, Austria, christened a Zonta Rose in the course of the Badener Rosentage, a rose festival that takes place in Baden, near Vienna, every year. Pictured from left: August Breininger, Mayor of Baden; Madeleine Hofecker-van Slooten, president of the Zonta club of Baden Area; Elizabeth Gurtler, executive director of the Hotel Sacher in Vienna and "godmother" of the Austrian Zonta Rose; and Ferdinand de Cassan, grower and sponsor of the Zonta Rose.

Eva Presoly-Ney and Past International Director, Ingeborg Geyer, Zonta Club of Vienna, reported September 2018 to Eva Nielsen that "the Zonta Rose is still blossoming in Doblhof Park near the pond with other special cultivars but is no longer offered for sale in the market garden" (<https://www.cafe-doblhoffpark.at/>).