



Saint Elisabeth of Hungary Rose

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Saint Elisabeth of the House of Arpad was a princess from the most ancient dynasty of Hungary. She devoted her short life of 24 years helping the destitute, founding hospitals and caring for the sick.

According to legend, once, when Saint Elisabeth of Hungary found herself in a hard pressed situation, trying to hand out bread from her apron to the needy, a miracle happened. As she was questioned as to what she was doing, the bread turned into roses.

On January 2009, I had the opportunity to inspect a shipment of these Hungarian roses. Upon inspection, I happened to find a mite. The result was no action. Little did I know, to my surprise, these roses had a very special story. The gentleman that imported them, Mr. Cliff Orent from Morongo Valley, California, was introducing them into the United States for the first time.

He was very happy and grateful with the attention, effort and care I had put into his shipment.

A couple of months later, I received a letter from Ms. Eva Kigyossy-Schmidt. She informed me that the Hungarian Rose Society was very happy with the outcome of my inspection. These roses won the Gold Medal, Rome 2000 and this year they will be Exhibited at the Vancouver Rose Convention in Canada. The year 2007 marked the 800th anniversary of the birth of Saint Elisabeth of the House of Arpad. Mr. Mark's rose appeared almost 20 years before and at the time it was practically unknown.



Featuring the American Rose Society Spring National Convention

June 18-24, 2009

World Rose Convention

Westin Bayshore Hotel • Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Roses in the Landscape, Discover Vancouver!

As part of the event, Ms. Kygyossy will be giving a conference on the life work of Mr. Gergely Mark. He was the creator of this beautiful hybrid. This 85 year young man has devoted over half a century to professional breeding in Hungary and has created over 600 new varieties. As an important note, market demand has not or has only insignificantly influenced his work. Ms. Kygyossy has done very extensive research on this topic.

Our Plant Inspection Station will be honored in this event. Ms. Kigyossy will be writing about, what she describes as “a very exciting and adventurous voyage” of this plant. She will be acknowledging our contribution to the introduction of this plant into the United States.

The importation of this rose has become a symbol of peace, friendship and good will everywhere it has been planted, throughout the world.

A little bit about the rose:

It is a shrub and climbing rose.

Parentage: Queen Elisabeth x Excelsa

Origin: G. Mark, Hungary, 1988, 1995

Height: 2-3 m

Habit: Very bushy

Flowers: Double, 8-10 cm across, vivid purplish-pink, in clusters of 3-5.

Scent: Strong and pleasant

Leaves: Mid-green, medium sized, glossy

Blooming period: Blooms continuously from mid May to first frost in autumn.

Tips: Shows good disease resistance, tolerates dry weather, it is exceptionally frost resistant. Decorative as an isolated specimen, as a

pruned bush in a blooming border, or as climber along a fence, pergola or wall.

I think this is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of Plant Inspection Stations throughout the United States and the pride and professionalism we take at JFK.

As a token of appreciation, Ms. Eva Kygyossy has sent us a set of commemorative stamps issued by the Hungarian Postal Service in honor of Mr. Gergely Mark.

As part of Rose Month, please go to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens webpage (www.bbg.org) and enjoy their wonderful rose garden and activities highlighting this beautiful flower.



Hungarian commemorative stamps for Mr. Gergely Mark



Dear Sandy,
 many warm greetings from Budapest,
 yours, Eva
 and the breeder of 'St. Elisabetha
 of Hungary':

Eva Gergely

VIEW FROM CASTLE HILL ON CHAIN BRIDGE AND
 ST. STEPHEN'S BASILICA
 036.



May 29, 2009

Hungarian commemorative stamps for Mr. Gergely Mark