



The First Australian Rose Award

At the 1978 Annual General Meeting of The National Rose Society of Australia held in Perth, W.A., it was decided that the Australian Rose Award be conferred on Dr. A. S. Thomas, of Balwyn, Victoria.

The Australian Rose Award may be made by The National Rose Society of Australia, from time to time, to any person or persons whom the Society deems to have given outstanding service in any way whatever to the rose. In particular, any service which promotes knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of the rose by the public, is regarded as highly meritorious.

The Award is not necessarily made on a yearly basis, and more than one or none may be made in one year.

This stipulation, together with the regulations for the administration of the Australian Rose Award, make it the most prestigious honour to be conferred in the Australian rose world.

Dr. A. S. Thomas is one of the world's leading rose experts. Since his childhood he has been deeply involved in all aspects of rose growing and showing. He has represented Australia at many international conventions and has served on international judging panels, in particular for the Royal National Rose Society (England). Dr. Thomas has contributed articles on rose growing to many publications, both in Australia and overseas, given numerous demonstrations of rose growing techniques, and helped in the development of rose societies.

His list of achievements includes:

President of the Rose Society of Victoria, 1939-48, 1950-53, 1955-68.

Awarded the T. A. Stewart Memorial Award 1951; The Dean Hole Medal 1952; Gold Medal Veitch Memorial Award 1962; Officer of the Order of the British Empire 1963.

Hon. Vice-President of the Royal National Rose Society since 1967.

Foundation President, The National Rose Society of Australia 1973-74.

Dr. Thomas' deep knowledge of roses and the warmth with which he imparts his knowledge has made him one of the best-known and respected figures in the international rose fraternity.