

OUTSIDE INFLUENCES, PART II

The Use of the Trakehner

“It is very important in our breeding to get the type, and the only way to get the type is from the Trakehner” – Jens Meyer

As previously noted in the Fall 2002 issue of *The American Hanoverian* – breeders in Germany at the end of World War II were faced with near catastrophic circumstances. Prior to WW II – the Trakehner was the dominant riding horse breed in Germany and had only been used in small ways to influence the Hanoverian breed. However, after WW II, the Hanoverian breed was seriously depleted from war casualties, and to add insult to injury, was no longer needed as a farm work animal. Thus began the Era of Change.

AT THIS TIME IN GERMANY AND Lower Saxony, when the breeding purpose of warmbloods switched from work horse to the modern sport/riding horse, the directors of the Hanoverian Verband and the Celle State Stud were faced with charting a new path for the Hanoverian horse; a path that would require a change both in the physical appearance of their horses, and a change in their function. The farsighted decision was made to infuse “blood” into the existing breeding program – and this was accomplished in three ways – by the use of the Thoroughbred, the Trakehner and the French Anglo-Arab. While our first article in this series focused on the use of the Thoroughbred, now we will highlight the history and use of the Trakehner, and introduce you to some of the influential Trakehners past and present.



AROGNO

At the end of WW II, East Prussia was in disarray. The Russian army was in occupation, and frankly, breeding horses was not a priority of the communist regime. According to Dr. Brockmann, of the Celle State Stud, “The Trakehner Stud at that time was in shambles, the stallions were homeless, and a huge exodus of Trakehners began. A new German Trakehner association was founded, and most of the stallions found homes in other State Studs, or occasionally, in some of the big private stud farms.

This exodus corresponded with the beginnings of change in the Hanoverian breed as well, and a few of the Trakehner stallions became very useful to change the type of a working horse into the sport horse of today.”

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In their homeland of Trakehnen, the Trakehner horse had primarily been bred to be riding and cavalry mounts, not farm horses. They were a more refined horse with the Arab influences of pretty heads, small ears and high set on necks. These were all characteristics the Hanoverian breeders ▶

were looking to add. During this time, according to Eugen Wahler, of Klosterhof Medingen, “The older Trakehner stallions represented modern riding horses and brought more type to the Hanoverian breed.”

Abglanz

In 1942, at the old Hauptgestuet Trakehnen in East Prussia, a shining chestnut stallion was born, appropriately named Abglanz (which translates into English as “reflection”). Abglanz derived from a famous dynasty. His dam, Abendluft, was the full sister to renowned hereditary transmitters Absinth, Absalon and Abendstern. His sire line was the Dampfross line, which also produced the well known Pregel and Donauwind.

was the tallest of the three brothers, and produced predominately show jumpers. His influence can still be found in many performance bloodlines of today. The full sister Zukunft was neither “elegant nor charming in her appearance and demeanor, but she could jump endlessly.” She achieved great fame with Alwin Schockemoehle on the jump course.

Abglanz consistently stamped his offspring with his beautiful type, and always forwarded good front ends. Abglanz’s blood primarily lives on in the paternal line via Absatz, who while stationed at Ottersen and Roydorf, became a prolific disseminator of his sire’s genotype.

Argentan dynasty that lives on today as one of the most important bloodlines of all time in the Hanoverian breed.

Semper Idem

Semper Idem (1946-1959) was another Trakehner stallion of this era that proved to have great influence. From his first foal crop, only seven colts were born, six of whom became licensed stallions! Five of these stallions went to Celle and one to Warendorf. Semper Idem was best known for producing jumping offspring, and founded a breeding line that is one of today’s hottest tickets in show jumping. Dr. Christmann believes his son, Sender (1959-1978), had the biggest influence on



CAPRIMOND



HOHENSTEIN

Following the end of the war in 1946, Abglanz made his way to the Celle State Stud and was first assigned to the Handorf station, where he stood from 1946 to 1949. This station was perhaps not the best assignment for Abglanz, and he only left behind the granddam of the Duden I son Dirigent (Warendorf State Stallion). However, in 1950, he was moved to the Hechthausen region to a stud farm that no longer exists today. At this station was where he found his best match in the local mare stock. When bred to the mare Ankerhirtin, by Aktionar I, Abglanz sired the trilogy of brothers, Abhang I, II and III, as well as the full sister Zukunft. Abhang III

Absatz

Doubtlessly the most influential son of Abglanz was Absatz. During his lifetime he sired 40 licensed stallions, 82 States Premium Mares and over 400 registered mares. According to the VhW, “Absatz was one of the most famous Hanoverian stallions in his time, if not of all time.” His sons Argentan, Arsenik, Akzent I and II, Aktuell and Aderlass, started a real “Absatz boom” according to Bernd Eylers. Dr. Ludwig Christmann pays tribute to Absatz by stating: “Absatz is one of the stallions who had the biggest influence in changing the appearance of Hanoverians to a more modern, elegant type.” Absatz founded the

the Hanoverian in recent times as a very good producer of jumping horses. Sender’s best son, Spartan, is the sire of the internationally renowned Stakkato. Stakkato is proving to be true to his lineage by producing licensing and performance testing champion sons, and high quality foals that bring top prices at the foal auctions. Other offshoots of the Semper Idem line live on via the Salvano branch and the Salem branch (via Sherlock Holmes).

Lateran

The final stallion of the immediate post war era, was Lateran. Lateran was used quite often in the 1950s in Hannover. He did possess quite a bit of Arab blood via his ▶

dam line, and passed on Arabian traits to his offspring. He produced several stallion sons, some very good mares, and he especially produced some good jumping horses (i.e. Lasso and Lavendel) according to Monika Meyer of the VhW.

THE LATTER HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In the 1960s, the Trakehner stallion that stands out is Trautmann. He was quite influential and is best known for siring Trautgott, who in turn was the sire of Trapper. Unfortunately, Trapper was unable to establish his own stallion line, and became best known as a mare sire.

Consul. Consul was born and branded Trakehner, but was the direct son of the Thoroughbred stallion, Swazi xx. Consul in his time did not stand out very much as a direct producer of stallions or sport horses, but he did produce excellent mares and horses with excellent rideability. Consul himself was a Trakehner Stallion of the Year and an Elite Stallion in his breed. He was a premium stallion at the 1983 DLG show in Frankfurt, as well as being the two-time National Riding Horse Champion in 1983 and 1984. Consul's genotype is highly valued today, particularly through his daughters. The combination of Consul daughters with Donnerhall has proven to be a foolproof

breed. Among these notable stallion sons is Karon, who in turn produced Caprimond, the sire of Hohenstein.

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

The twenty-first century now finds us with several Trakehner stallions making their contributions to the Hanoverian breed. The names that immediately come to mind are, of course, Caprimond and Hohenstein. However, in the past three years, some new stallions such as Buddenbrock, Connery, King Arthur, Hofrat, Latimer and Distelzar have come onto the scene.



DISTELZAR



BUDDENBROCK

He usually produced horses with big movement and bloodlines that are still valued today.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, several good Trakehner stallions came into use by Hanoverian mare owners. Gelria was a pure Trakehner and a grandson of Abglanz. He produced very good types and sired another pure Trakehner stallion, Steuben, who was also used in the Hanoverian breed. However, the Gelria line was also unable to establish itself as a stallion line, and tended to produce more jumping horses than dressage horses.

Consul

Also active at this time was the stallion

combination. Diamond Dream, the most expensive horse of the 1999 Hanoverian Elite Auction is Donnerhall/Consul bred, as is the 1999 Hanoverian Stallion Licensing Champion, Don Frederico. This successful combination has produced the Celle stallion Don Vino as well.

Arogno

In the early 1990s, the line of the Trakehner stallion Arogno proved to be a good match with Hanoverian mares. Arogno himself was "extremely typey and passed on this good type and excellent dressage suitability to his offspring." Several of his sons and grandsons are also leaving their mark in the current Hanoverian

Karon

The Arogno son, Karon, sired Caprimond. Karon himself was a premium stallion at his licensing in Neumunster and completed his stallion testing as a Class I stallion. Karon was utilized not only in the Trakehner breeding district, but also in Oldenburg. In his first foal crop he hit a home run with his son Caprimond. Caprimond's dam is the States Premium mare Capri. She was successful in her own right with victories at the German National Mare Show and she was Champion Mare of Lower Saxony.

Caprimond

Caprimond has been an overachiever his ▶

entire career. He was Vice Champion of his stallion approvals and won the trophy for being the Stallion of the Best Type. At the German Riding Horse Championships in 1988, he was the Vice Champion of the three-year-old stallions. A few short weeks later, he was the sovereign winner of the stallion performance test at Adelheidsdorf with 135 points overall and a stunning 147 points in dressage. Dolf Keller subsequently trained Caprimond to Grand Prix Dressage with numerous placings and victories in FEI competition. As a testament to his character and rideability, Caprimond now serves as a Grand Prix schoolmaster for Theresa Wahler, teenage daughter of Eugen Wahler, the owner of Klosterhof Medingen.

Caprimond and his son, Hohenstein, “leave their very good characters and temperament qualities, also their very good type and rideability.”

Hohenstein

While Caprimond has produced numerous stallion sons, including three licensed by the Hanoverian Verband, his most famous offspring by far is Hohenstein. As a two-year-old, Hohenstein was a premium stallion at his licensing, and as a three-year-old finished second overall at the Adelheidsdorf stallion testing. He was then leased by the Celle State Stud for a couple of years, and

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Vice Champion at the Bundeschampionat and later became a top price auction horse at Verden. As recently as November 2002, the Hohenstein son, His Highness (Hohenstein/Donnerhall), was Champion of the Hanoverian Stallion Licensing and achieved a record sales price. The buyer was none other than our own AHS president, Doug Leatherdale.

Both Caprimond and Hohenstein appear to be best when matched to the same types of Hanoverian mares – mares, which perhaps, are looking for improvement in character, rideability and type. Both stallions have



CONNERY



LATIMER

In 1995, the Trakehner Verband honored Caprimond with the title of Elite Stallion. In 1998, Caprimond was given the highest honor of the Trakehner Verband – he was named Trakehner Stallion of the Year.

Caprimond has been “an influential stallion in the Trakehner breed, and has also left his mark on the Hanoverian breed,” according to Monika Meyer of the VhW. Dr. Brockmann believes he almost always adds “type and dressage ability”. In fact, since 1998 Caprimond has led the Hanoverian Breeding Index for Type/Riding Horse Points. In dressage production, Caprimond has consistently ranked in the top 10 since 1998. Mr. Wahler also believes that

currently covers both Trakehner and Hanoverian mares at home, the Klosterhof Medingen. Hohenstein later went on to be a finalist at the Bundeschampionat in the five-year-old stallion division, and was trained to Intermediare II Level dressage. In 2002, the Trakehner Verband honored Hohenstein as Trakehner Stallion of the Year.

Hohenstein, like his father Caprimond, has proved to be a prolific sire of type and dressage ability. Monika Meyer of the VhW believes that “Hohenstein is even more popular than his sire Caprimond in Hannover.” Hohenstein has produced numerous Verden Elite Auction horses and champion riding horses. His son Habitus was

seen good success when bred to Weltmeyer or Donnerhall bred mares, reports Eugen Wahler. Caprimond is better when matched to mares already possessing a good length of leg, while Hohenstein tends to pass on “length of leg and frame,” and he is prepotent for passing on his black color. The VhW states that both stallions produce horses with “good rideability, good temperament, and always good walks.” Jens Meyer believes that Hohenstein in particular gives Hanoverians “the right type, and from the Hanoverian (mares) we get the movement.” In the 2002 breeding indexes – Hohenstein is fifth in dressage production and second in type and riding horse points – second only to his father, Caprimond! ▶

THE NEXT GENERATION

In the past three years several other new Trakehner stallions have been licensed by the Hanoverian Verband, and are beginning to make their mark. According to the Verband, when the stallion licensing committee considers Trakehner stallions they must be “true to type and must be able to improve type. The stallions should possess a good head and neck and topline, but also with elasticity in the movement. Nowadays the stallion must also have above average qualities as a sport horse. To be accepted for Hannover they should stand out for the discipline of dressage.” Eugen Wahler believes for a Trakehner stallion to be licensed by the Hanoverian Verband the most important characteristics are “the type of the stallion, the bloodlines and outstanding gaits.”

The black stallion Buddenbrock was a very successful event horse and has recently been leased by the Celle State Stud. Buddenbrock has produced a son, Connery, who has also been chosen

to stand at the State Stud at Celle. Buddenbrock also sired the 2001 Trakehner licensing champion, King Arthur. King Arthur now stands at the famous Oldenburg stud farm, Gestuet Vorveck and was recently licensed by the Hanoverian Verband.

Klosterhof Medingen, in addition to Caprimond and Hohenstein, stands the Hanoverian approved stallions Latimer and Distelzar. Latimer was German National Champion in 2000 and is by the Hanoverian-approved stallion St. Cloud, with Caprimond as his maternal grandfather.

The use of outside stallions in the Hanoverian breeding program has proven to be a successful equation. Many of these stallions leave lasting influences on the breed for years to come. The breeders must carefully look after the distinctive characteristics of our chosen breed, the Hanoverian. Over time the most enduring characteristic of the Trakehner is the refinement it brings to our breed and the improvement in type. ■

A resident of Hamilton, Ohio, Melissa Mulchahey is Chair of the PREP Committee. She shows horses under the name of FAS Hanoverians and enjoyed success in 2002 with Donna Novella, USDF Horse of the Year Materiale Division winner.

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Stay tuned for Part III in our series “Outside Influences” – The Holsteiner.

This is the second in a series of articles to be written on Hanoverian Bloodlines of note. If you have an interest in a particular bloodline that you would like to learn more about, please submit your suggestions to the AHS Central Office.