Farewell to Dr. Leslie Kozsely
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Dr. Leslie M. Kozsely served as a “Huszár,” a cavalry officer in the Hungarian military. As a young Huszár, he trained in dressage at the Spanish Riding School. His favorite saying, encompassing politics, history and all human affairs, “Man makes plans, and God laughs.”

The communist government which had ousted the legitimate elected government of Hungary offended this patriotic Hungarian and Leslie tried to help his beloved country by working with the American C.I.C. His life took a sad turn when he was arrested and imprisoned by the secret police and then sentenced to death for spying for the West. He spent three and a half years in solitary confinement, where Leslie said he kept his sanity by imagining, helping his beloved country by working with the American C.I.C. His life took a sad turn when he was arrested and imprisoned by the secret police and then sentenced to death for spying for the West. He spent three and a half years in solitary confinement, where Leslie said he kept his sanity by imagining.

Leslie Kozsely was born in Hungary. He died in Ohio, on January 19, 2007, 84 ½ years later, just three days after lung cancer was discovered, and only one day after being placed in a hospice. As a gentleman with refined old world manners, he was not one to linger after the party was over.

Leslie Kozsely was proud of being Hungarian and his personality contained both types of Hungarian paprika: sweet paprika and hot paprika. He could be sweet and charming, kissing ladies’ hands while clicking his heels, and he could be sharp and biting, swearing when someone did not move correctly when handling a horse. He loved to talk and he loved to sing but most of all he loved to be with horses.

Leslie was born an aristocrat in rural Hungary where horses were still the center of life. He said that his father would bring home carved wooden horses for four year old Leslie. “Pretty soon I had a nice collection, and I made harness out of string for a pair, four, five and seven-in-hand.” Leslie said he named each horse and was adamant about who was in each pair. “Papa would made marks on the bottom of the horses and check if I really remembered which horse was which. He tested me and I surprised him.”

He drove his mare to elementary school every day and she stood outside waiting until the drive home. He insisted that this driving mare, “Fáni,” also receive a third grade attendance certificate, an award that he placed on her stall front “for all of the other horses to admire.” His father tried to talk the young Leslie into a career as a lawyer or physician, but Leslie was adamant that he wanted to become an agriculturist. “Papa tried to play a trick on me by making me live and work all summer, side by side with the peasant boys in every hard job, working the fields with water buffalo, then oxen, coming in exhausted each night, with blistered bleeding raw hands. He thought I would learn that agriculture was very hard work and I would chose to be a lawyer or doctor. But Papa’s trick backfired: I loved agriculture even more. Papa gave up.”

Leslie served as a “Huszár,” a cavalry officer in the Hungarian military. As a young Huszár, he trained in dressage at the Spanish Riding School. His graduation gift from Colonel Podhajsky was a ride in the School Quadrille during a performance. “He told me to just sit straight and look handsome because the Lipizzan stallion smarter than I was and he knew the whole routine better than I.” Leslie was very proud of hisflashy Huszár uniform, with cape and saber, his blue eyes, brown hair and blond mustache, and he would promenade before the ladies on the boulevards of Vienna. With a straight face, he claimed, “I was so good-looking the girls would pee pee in their pants as I walked past.” During the war years, there were high ranking officers of many countries present in Hungary. One day Lieutenant Kozsely was walking up the grand entry stairs of an elegant hotel and “saw what had to be a big shot Italian General with such a fancy uniform. I tried to salute but my saber got tangled between my legs and I fell face down on the floor. The fancy Italian General turned out to be the hotel doorman, so he helped up me, brushed me off, and we had a nice laugh and a nice drink together.”

He served on the Eastern Front, in what were some of the world’s last cavalry charges, and in battles with 60% casualties. When he spoke of the hospital for wounded horses where awards for bravery were pinned on the saddle pads, he had tears in his eyes. When he spoke of horses using their teeth to drive home. He insisted that this driving mare, “Fáni,” also receive a third grade attendance certificate, an award that he placed on her stall front “for all of the other horses to admire.” His father tried to talk the young Leslie into a career as a lawyer or physician, but Leslie was adamant that he wanted to become an agriculturist. “Papa tried to play a trick on me by making me live and work all summer, side by side with the peasant boys in every hard job, working the fields with water buffalo, then oxen, coming in exhausted each night, with blistered bleeding raw hands. He thought I would learn that agriculture was very hard work and I would chose to be a lawyer or doctor. But Papa’s trick backfired: I loved agriculture even more. Papa gave up.”

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After he came back from the war, he completed his doctorate in equine nutrition and breeding, and began to work in the Hungarian Agriculture Ministry, monitoring stud farms. He was married to a beautiful actress-singer and his career in agriculture and horses seemed assured.

Leslie often would say, “Why? It is in the past. I cannot change it. I cannot forget it, but I do not need to remember it.” His favorite saying, encompassing politics, history and all human affairs was, “Human stupidity is unlimited.”
Starting all over again in his newly adopted country, with nothing in his pockets and unable to speak English, Leslie struggled a bit while making his way. Another of his favorite sayings was, “Horses have four feet and they stumble, so what chance does a man have with only two feet?” He worked wherever he could, in an auto factory, in a dealership selling cars. He remarried and had two little girls. In those difficult years Leslie could not afford to be with horses, but his father’s old harness maker sent Leslie a beautiful set of Hungarian harness in remembrance. In his down moments, Leslie would lay out the five-in-hand harness in his small living room and imagine that he was driving a lovely matched team of Lipizzan stallions.

Slowly he began to make his way into the American horse world. His first step was set in motion by his friend Colonel Podhajsky, who recommended Leslie to Tempel Smith who was importing Lipizzans into the USA and starting Tempel Farm outside of Chicago. Leslie later trained race horses and managed a large thoroughbred stud farm. He then established his own riding academy and horse training facility. His love of driving finally led him to work full-time in driving and carriages.

Driving, with the history and traditions surrounding carriages, was Leslie’s real passion. He grew up driving and Hungary has a rich history regarding driving. He repeated often that the word “coach” came from the Hungarian town of Kocs, along the Danube on the road between Vienna and Budapest, where the first comfortable vehicles with spring suspensions were designed and made beginning in the 15th century.

Breaking into competitive driving and coaching here was not easy. Leslie said that, “At first the experienced whips would block me from the judge’s view or cut in front to make me break gait. I could not win this way. Then I figured out what to do. In the next show, in the warm-up area, I unfurled the four-in-hand whip and cracked it again and again over my horses’ heads. My horses were used to the whip, but the other teams were not. There were teams running in all directions, out of control, their whips yelling to them to whoa. After the class, one of the coaching gentlemen asked me to stop cracking my whip. I said I would be happy to if the gentlemen would allow me to show properly in the ring. After that we were all gentlemen friends and enjoyed competing.” In his understated way, Leslie said, “Even a blind chicken finds corn sometimes if he keeps trying. I keep trying.”

Over the years he trained horses for and drove with many luminaries in North America and around the world. He helped write the rule book for driving competitions. He competed and won many championships. He assembled collections of carriages. He judged
driving and coaching. He gave clinics and taught many about driving. He often said that his best contribution to American driving was encouraging an expansion of pleasure driving and competitive driving in America, opening up the driving world to ordinary men and women and families. He was instrumental in the development and growth of the Carriage Association of America, the American Driving Society and the Western Reserve Carriage Association, among others. He was an honorary life member of the Lipizzan Association of North America.

Through his “American Four-in-Hand Training Center,” Leslie nurtured a succession of grooms, many of whom are now whips and trainers. His many grooms and assistants, whom he referred to as his “adopted children,” shared his passion for driving and horses which, ironically, his daughters did not. During show season he and his grooms and assistants would travel the circuit. He delighted in remembering a dinner with a dozen young assistants. They were all referring to him as Pop or Father or Daddy. The confused waitress asked Leslie if they were all his children.

“Yes,” he said, “But they all have different mothers.” He enjoyed her look of shock.

His rumbling baritone voice with the elegant upper class Hungarian accent could make curses sound like compliments. He enjoyed telling a driving clinic attendee who kept asking the same simplistic question over and over throughout the day. Dr. Kozsely finally lost his temper and called him “You god damned stupid son of a bitch.” The man complained to the clinic organizer who deftly explained to the irate man, “Leslie must really like you if he called you that. He only says that to people he really likes.” The man was pleased to be so honored and went on his way, happy.

In his seventies, Leslie retired from active competition and training, first to Colorado, then back to his home in Ohio. Several years ago, he was able to travel back to Hungary for the first time since the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. He visited the graves of his mother and father and sister, and said his final goodbye to Hungary. He said that the years of communist rule had stripped Hungary of its traditions and the new Hungary was not the country he remembered. “I really am an American now. The way of life I knew in Hungary is gone, but I am glad I grew up in the old ways and saw what it was like long ago, before the crazy modern world.” Leslie visited the Lipizzan stud farms and returned with two Hungarian Lipizzan stallions. Although retired, he continued to train and drive. He said, “Horses are a disease for which there is no cure, a wonderful disease.” He was happiest when with horses, and with other people who loved horses.

Another chapter of Leslie’s life was re-opened one and a half years ago when the Spanish Riding School of Vienna came to tour the USA to celebrate the 60th year anniversary of the rescue of the Lipizzans by the American Army and General George S. Patton. On the opening night of the tour, Leslie was in the “Royal Box,” sitting next to the former Director of the Spanish Riding School and General Patton’s grandson, Colonel (ret.) Jamie Totten, and his family. Upon meeting Jody, Jamie’s wife, Leslie, true to form, surprised her by clicking his heels and kissing her hand. After the performance, we had drinks and a late dinner with the Director and riders. One rider eagerly approached Leslie asking if he had known his grandfather, also a rider with the School. Leslie’s laughing reply was, “I was a young man then. I was too busy paying attention to the lovely ladies of Vienna. I was not paying attention to the other men.”

To his great delight, Leslie started to ride again two years ago, despite prior back surgery and ten years out of the saddle. One horse was a Lipizzan named Carlos, a horse he drove twenty years earlier. Leslie said, “Carlos and I are old friends.” Carlos had been owned at different times by Messrs. Seabrook, Fafard and Weaver, and Leslie first met Carlos when he was called in to help figure out what to do with this young Lipizzan stallion who was causing difficulty in a four-in-hand team. Carlos would behave well until he entered the ring and halted at X. Then, Carlos would simply lie down and refuse to get up. Leslie said, “That old trickster Carlos and I worked it out. We understand each other. Carlos was never a problem again after he decided that he really wanted to drive after all.” Carlos retired to my farm in Ohio at age twenty and he always enjoyed going out for a drive. It was so appropriate that a retired Carlos and a retired Leslie, both tricksters in their youths, shared some special moments together in their last years.

“Listen to the melody, not the words, the melody,” Leslie said, “Horses listen to the melody.” The melody of Leslie’s life was that of a Hungarian song: lyrical start, followed by terrible tragedy and mournful moments, but turning to lively dancing and singing, celebrating the joy of life and love and friendship, and ending with optimism. Sweet paprika, hot paprika, sweet paprika.

Leslie often said that his dear friend Sam Freedman (founder of Freedman Harness of Toronto) was “in heaven making harness so that when I meet Saint Peter I will be able to drive again.” Here are your gloves, here is your whip. Your Lipizzaners are in beautiful Freedman harness. Your carriage awaits. May your next journey be as wonderful as this one.
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Who would imagine that a classical dressage trainer and a USDF award winner would also be able to effectively demonstrate equestrian styles of riding down through the ages. Anyone interested in Roman cavalry riding in the four horned saddle using sword, bow and pilum (spear), or how about Scythian archery, Sarmatian two-handed lance work, Mongolian cavalry techniques, jousting, and even the garocha? LANA member Carol Popp can do all these plus her official credentials are impressive as well. She has received the USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals with over 100 USDF National All Breeds Championships, and she has worked with various breeds from Training through FEI. Carol, needless to say, has a wide range of equestrian interests.

Carol Popp, together with her husband of thirty years, Charley, own Hidden Bridge Farm in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Carol specializes in catering to the needs of adult amateurs who are busy professionals and parents, require flexibility in their schedules, and want to assured that their horses are well care for. She is also willing to work with riders just starting in the discipline of dressage as well as advanced FEI riders. Carol always starts by correcting a rider’s seat and teaching him/her to ride relaxed without restricting the movement of the horse. Carol believes that a good foundation produces good upper level riders and horses. Everyone, including novice riders, learns to time his/her aids correctly, and, most importantly, everyone, including the horses, has fun learning and improving. Students arrive regularly from Italy, England, Australia, France and Brazil, and they spend anywhere from a week to a month at Hidden Bridge Farm. Both working students and riders who wish to trailer in for lessons are welcomed as are those who arrange for a session on one of the bomb proof school masters. Foreign and long distance students keep in touch with video critiques or “lessons” that are submitted for review.

A certified trainer and test administrator for the Classical Dressage Riders’ Association, Carol accepts horses of all breeds, at all stages of development for correct training. The horses in training with her are very happy in their work and enjoy learning because of the playful way she teaches them. All horses are started in the cavesson over the snaffle in the Austrian way and trained up through the levels in the snaffle. This training is done without dropped or figure-eight nosebands or any other pain inflicting devices. The equine students eventually learn to do all movements in the full bridle and the bitless bridle equally well. Carol never asks a horse to do more than he is capable of and explains the training methodology and procedure to the owner. Some horses show the talent for airs above the ground; others like the work in hand and the short reins. Some are not able to do haute ecole movements at all but excel in other areas. They all enjoy work with the weapons because the horses think of it as a fun game and a good change of pace.

The correctness and success of Carol’s training and instruction are demonstrated by her exhibitions with her stallions -- Siglavy Wera 14 and Pluto Fabia VII as well as Arrogant Image, a Thoroughbred. With each, Carol can ride the classical movements with nothing but a string in the horse’s mouth. This method works because the horses are classically trained to respond to Carol’s correct, flexible seat. During musical freestyles, the relationship she has with her Lipizzan stallion Siglavy Wera 14 is amazing. No one can see her aids. It appears that they communicate telepathically.
An author and an experimental archeologist, Carol with the help of her students gives exhibitions of historic riding styles to school children, riding clubs, museums, and dressage enthusiasts. They also help with fundraisers for nonprofit groups. These exhibitions have been a tremendous source of fun and a lot of hard work. Carol makes all of the gorgeous, historically accurate costumes. She enthusiastically teaches the various riding seats and the work with the weapons--lance, sword, and archery--on horseback for those brave enough to try something a little different. Fortunately, Carol’s husband Charley is a good sport; he usually gets to be the foot soldier during Carol’s practices and exhibitions.

Carol’s lifetime fascination with equestrian history has given her a deep understanding of the development of modern day equestrian equipment, riding styles, and training techniques. Carol regularly constructs historic bits, bridles, saddles and weapons and uses these with her horses in order to feel what the ancient horsemen experienced. This hands-on approach helps her understand the ancient forms of riding and the historic development of tack and training. Not only has Carol built and ridden in the major types of historic saddles and bridles, she is a collector as well. She owns antique saddles, bits, stirrups, and other equine artifacts from all over the world including a Roman snaffle bit and a Roman spur found in Germany. In the far distant future, Carol has made arrangements for these antiquities to be donated to the Kentucky Horse Park.

Carol always tells her students that, "Knowledge of the various techniques used by our ancestors helps us to understand how the seat of the rider affects the way the horse performs. Throughout history man learned to sit in different positions and developed different saddle designs to meet his needs. Whether it was the seat of the Eastern archers or the original classical seat of the Greeks and Romans, ‘la jineta,’ or the seat used for lance work or jousting, ‘la brida,’ man has always found the best way to sit his horse to get the job done efficiently.”

(Editors Note: Interested in learning more about Hidden Brook Farm, visit the website at http://carolpoppclassicaldressage.com/ to find out about training sessions and books and videos written by Carol Popp.)

### Iowa Lipizzan Association, Inc.

Dedicated to the promotion of the Lipizzan horse through seminars, clinics, shows and exhibitions and to foster national and international amateur sports competition. The Iowa Lipizzan Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose membership is open to any interested individual, corporation, business or farm.

For more information, please contact:
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Outside of my home office window, snow was falling. Correction: Falling implies motion in a downward direction; this snow was moving horizontally at warp speed. We were in the fourth day of a winter storm… frequent whiteouts, temps in the single digits, and 30 mph winds.

If someone had told me a year ago that I’d be organizing a dressage clinic in Michigan in January, I would have laughed. There’s just no way I’d take that kind of risk! Too many things can go wrong, fairly easily, with a winter clinic in the Snow Belt. Right? All I had to do was look out the window for confirmation.

OK, insert a swirlly “flashback” special effect here to Fall 2006 when Bereiter Seiberl asked me to set up some U.S. clinics for him over a period of about a week in January.

I knew I should send him South, where snow doesn’t regularly shut down airports and highways so that clinicians can’t fly in and auditors and riders can’t make it to the clinic facility. Where riders can ride and auditors can audit without worrying about frostbite and frozen toes.

The thing was - I really, really wanted to ride in a clinic with Herr Seiberl. For me, nothing compares to SRS dressage instruction, and the opportunity to ride with a Spanish Riding School teacher was too good to let go.

So I talked with Julie Arkison, who’d ridden her two mares in the July SRS Rostek clinic, and we decided that we could make a clinic work at her barn (3 hours from me) by filling most of the clinic with her boarders and people who lived very close by.

This was Herbert Seiberl’s first clinic in the U.S., and he did a terrific job. He was so encouraging - if mistakes were made, he’d say, “No problem!” and then work with the rider through the issue. He also has a very soothing demeanor that helped horse and rider relax if they were nervous or tensing up. His English is very good, and many of the auditor evaluation forms had comments about how easy he was to understand.

I’d had surgery in early December and had ridden Blanca maybe 4 times in the month before the clinic - not the greatest preparation!

For my first lesson, Herbert longed me without reins or stirrups, doing leg and arm exercises at the walk, trot, and canter. He quickly saw that I let my inside shoulder drift forward instead of keeping my shoulders parallel with Blanca’s shoulders. To correct this, he had me stretch my outside hand over and touch the inside of Blanca’s withers while continuing to sit up straight. This simple exercise helped to correctly align my shoulders, and I still do this to check my position.

The second lesson was more along the lines of “Gahhh!” Blanca the Wonder Lipizzan was not used to being in a stall all day and had an abundance of energy in his almost 23 year-old body. In addition, he was in one of his über alert “must keep track of EVERYTHING that is going on” moods. The mares, the auditors... He was in ready-to-launch mode the moment I got on him.

Herbert was very encouraging, patient and soothing with his instruction, but it was a little exasperating for me to have Blanca so determined to focus on everything around him and trying to ignore me. After about 15 minutes, Herbert rode him. He was challenging for Herbert, too, but Herbert remained patient and firm, and Blanca improved as the lesson continued.

Friday’s lesson was much better, and Blanca, as one of two Lipizzans in the clinic, redeemed the breed and us considerably. After the lesson and clinic, several auditors told me how majestic and imposing Blanca was, and even more importantly, that they could see that there was a strong connection between us. “He loves you…you can tell he would do anything for you,” one of the auditors said (except, apparently, focus and work when he doesn’t want to, ha!). Seriously, that made me feel so great. Blanca is a sweet soul and I love him dearly.

It became very clear to auditors and riders that basics had to be in place before upper level movements could be worked upon. He often said, “You must be moving forward! If you don’t have forward, you can not do anything.”

Pamela Atkinson, who rode her 13-year-old FEI Lipizzan stallion, Pluto II Samara, said, “Herbert showed the riders subtle changes to make to improve their horse’s performance. He demonstrated compassion for both riders and horses at all times and I personally have not seen that level of integrity and sensitivity in a horseman - ever. He represents the SRS well.”

Pamela has been working on piaffe and passage, but temps have been a challenge. Herbert rode Sam for one lesson; you could have heard a pin drop. He was so focused on the stallion that he pulled the audience into the focus with him.

The ride consisted of a jillion walk/trot/halt transitions, very accurate circles and figures, and some reinback and half-pass. Herbert explained that Sam was very talented but needed to transfer more weight to his hindquarters and not be so heavy in the hand. Herbert focused on correcting the basics and helping Sam to understand that he had to carry himself and not lean on the bit.

Kate Baird, who rode her 2nd/3rd Level TB/Holsteiner cross, was thrilled to have Herbert achieve clean changes with Land-
grant, who’d had difficulty with them after being injured. She said, “Herbert’s kind, quiet teaching style was very helpful to both horse and rider, yet he was not shy about letting the riders know where improvement was needed. He gently insisted on perfection from the rider and compliance from the horse, in a very focused manner.”

Auditors, too, raved on the evaluations about Herbert’s instruction and it was wonderful to see so many people interested in the classical teaching of the SRS: 35 – 75 people sat on hay bale bleachers in the cold indoor arena every day to watch and learn.

The day after the clinic ended there was an ice storm that frosted the world silver and crystal. As Julie said, “I don’t have a chandelier in my arena, as they do at the SRS, but right after the clinic the WORLD was my chandelier! Everything sparkled and reflected the gratitude I and my students had for the experience of learning from Herbert.”

Would I organize a clinic next January with him? In a heartbeat! We were definitely lucky to have had the experience of riding with and learning from Herbert and are looking forward to our next clinic with him – this time, in the heat of summer, when the only ice around will be the ice floating in our glasses of lemonade.

**Top Ten Things Heard at a Herbert Seiberl Clinic**

1. No problem…that’s no problem!
2. Don’t lean forward - sit on your bott!
3. That’s new for him to learn, and for you, too. But when you do this the same way every time, he will learn.
4. You must go forward! If you don’t have forward, you can’t do anything.
5. Ride inside leg to outside rein.
6. Gooooood! That’s good!
7. You have time.
8. Vibrate the inside rein!
9. Pet him!
10. You must show him the way.

(Editor’s Note: Interested in the next clinic? July 11-14, 2007. Bereiter Herbert Seiberl from the Spanish Riding School returns to Michigan for a dressage clinic. Venue and more information will be posted at www.dressageclinics.org, or email Jorie Sligh at jorie@dressageclinics.org )
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**SIGLAVY**

*The Oriental Influence*

Lipica was just recovering from twenty years of turmoil – three separate forced evacuations in advance of Napoleon’s army, epidemics and an earthquake that reduced several buildings to rubble, killing several elite stallions – when the Emperor Francis II ordered the addition of new bloodlines for the monarchy’s imperial studfarms. When no additional purebred Spanish stock was available, predominantly Arab stock was purchased for use at the various imperial studfarms. In 1814, Prince Schwarzenberg purchased the 4 year old, 14.3 h. desert born stallion named Siglavy. The gray stallion was sold in 1816 to the imperial stable master for use as a breeding stallion at the Koptschan (Kopcan, northeast of Vienna, today Slovakia) and Lipica stud farms.

Crossed with Lipizzan mares from both stud farms as well as the purebred Arabian herd at Lipica, Siglavy greatly influenced the Lipizzan breed. His son, Siglavy Trompeta was used as breeding stallion at the Radauzt Arabian state studfarm and Siglavy bloodlines can also be found within the Hungarian Shagya Arabians as well as other imperial studfarms today. Within the Arabian breed, Siglavy offspring were chestnut as well as gray but the majority of the Lipizzan mares produced gray offspring.

Siglavy was not the first Arab stallion added to the genetic base of the Lipizzan herd, nor was he the last. Interestingly, one of Napoleon’s favorite Arab stallions, Vezir, was also used at Lipica as were these stallions: Sultan, 1768; Soliman, 1783; Morsu, around 1790; Araber, 1796; Pascha, 1799; Vezir, 1799; Monako, 1800; Bick, 1801; Forester, 1806; Mustapha, 1808; Siglavy, 1810; Monaghy, 1817; Tradmor, 1834; Gazlan, 1840; Ben Azet, 1851; Saydan, 1843; Samson, 1849; and Hadudi, 1850. The last Arabian stallions active in Lipica were the partbred Ben Azet (b. 1851, fleabitten gray), and Massaud (or. Arab, 1869). You can find these names in the older pedigrees today.

In 1857, Colonel Brunderman purchased 16 stallions and 50 mares from desert Bedouin tribes in Syria and Arabia. Two gray Arabian stallions, Sampson and Hadudi (also Hadudy), remained at Lipica together with 16 desert imported mares and one foal. The other Arabs were distributed among the other studfarms in the Austro-Hungarian empire. During this time Lipica maintained a separate breeding program for purebred Arabians. However, when crossed with the purebred Lipizzan, the majority of the Arab/Lipizzan progeny proved to be too slender and delicate for riding at the court riding school, and only a few of the mares and stallions were used for crossbreeding with the Lipizzans. So as not to lose the original form and characteristics of the Lipizzans, the use of the Arabian for crossbreeding was phased out by imperial decree.

Several Arabian mares were crossed successfully with purebred Lipizzans and created new mare lines during this period: Gidrane (b. 1841) founded the Gidrana line (Gaetana, Gaeta, Garafolina and Galanta); Djebirin (b. 1862, Babolna studfarm) (Dubovina); Theodorosta (b. 1886/b. 1870, Bukovina) (Wera); Mercurio (b. 1883, Radautz) (Gratiosa or Gratia); and the most recent, Rebecca (Thais) was added during World War II.

Many Arab stallions were used between 1768 and 1869; and many of these Arab stallions greatly influenced the breeding mares; however, only Siglavy founded a separate stallion foundation line.
**LFA BYLAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

At the time of publication of this newsletter, the LFA Bylaws Committee, consisting of John Gliege and Carolyn Proeber for LANA, Ingun Littorin and June Boardman for ALBA and Tim Foley and Muffin Smith for USLR, has stalled. In accordance with the timetable set at the Oregon annual meeting, John Gliege forwarded the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to the LFA Bylaws Committee members for comments on October 17, 2006. No response was made from either ALBA or USLR until John Gliege again sent out an email on February 24, 2007 requesting that the Committee start its work by providing comments to the attached documents.

On February 26, Muffin Smith responded to John Gliege indicating that the USLR had been working on a response. In fact the entire USLR Board, rather than the two designated USLR representatives, had been working on the drafts to the exclusion of ALBA and LANA, which is two-thirds of the entire Bylaws Committee. This unilateral action was not in keeping with the spirit of cooperation which everyone came away from the October meeting and by March 3, the timetable established in Oregon is totally out the window.

In October the Bylaws Committee consisting of six people were charged to work together to develop Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws which could be submitted to the members of the various organizations. To facilitate their efforts, a timetable was established. Apparently USLR representatives are unable to function independently without total control of their Board, a situation which will create an unworkable situation because of the time it will take to get the Board and its members to approve every change in wording, spelling, punctuation or organizational design.

On March 9, Muffin Smith forwarded the USLR draft proposed bylaws to John Gliege but failed to communicate with all members of the Bylaws Committee. Again a failure in protocol of basic Committee organization structure. Carolyn Proeber reported that on several occasions, she had suggested that the six people on the Committee clarify their email addresses, that only the Committee members work on the draft and set up a chatroom exclusive to the Committee members to expedite the process but the idea was turned down by Muffin Smith and the USLR representatives.

On March 13, John Gliege advised the Bylaws Committee that the draft bylaws sent out by the USLR are not acceptable because they are not compliant with any form of corporate organization and that the Committee as a group needs to begin working as a unit, not as three separate factions.

It should be noted that several Committee members had outside complications since October. ALBA representative June Boardman, lost both her husband, Leonard, last year and more recently a brother in law, and Carolyn Proeber’s mother passed away in March. Both June and Carolyn have indicated that they are ready to again participate. Since the draft bylaws proposed by the USLR were submitted by Muffin Smith, nothing further has been heard from the USLR contingent about the requests which have been made that this Committee begin to function as a committee and be in contact with all its members.

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EVENTS

April 28, 2007: Mid Atlantic Lipizzan Association presents Jean Paul Pare and Lita Hughes for a one day Clinic April 28, 2007 at Cedar Crest Farm in White Hall Maryland. Contact Melanie, madams8550@aol.com; www.malalipizzan.tripod.com

June 15-17, 2007: LFA 2007 General Assembly will be held in Stud Kelebija, Serbia, which is located in the northwest of Serbia, in the area of Subotica, near the Hungarian border. About 2.5 hours driving from Belgrad or Budapest.

July 11-14, 2007: Bereiter Herbert Seiberl from the Spanish Riding School returns to Michigan for a dressage clinic. Venue and more information will be posted at www.dressageclinics.org, or email Jorie Sligh at jorie@dressageclinics.org for more information on riding or auditing.

Fall 2007: LANA annual meeting - Tempel Lipizzans, Wadsworth, Illinois (September date pending).


Update on 2008 Spanish Riding School Tour

The contract for the Spanish Riding School 2008 fall tour of the West Coast of the USA was signed on January 31, 2007 in the SRS offices where Mr. Lashinsky and Mr. Aigner concluded their negotiations. This will be the first return of the Spanish Riding School to the West Coast in nearly two decades.

Thirty horses and ten riders will be brought from Vienna, Austria in November 2008 to tour major markets on the west coast to include, Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles, CA, the San Francisco Bay area, CA., Portland, OR and Seattle, WA.

Tickets will go on sale during May 2008, six months prior to the planned engagements. Specific venues, dates and prices will be announced at that time.

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