Welcome to your new Haute Ecole!

As we enjoy the beginning of Spring, it seems a great time to take stock and begin a-new. With this issue of Haute Ecole, LANA too has new beginnings, with new Board Members and also a new Editor for this, your quarterly Newsletter. In volunteering and being offered this position, I must say I felt a pride and an excitement, but also a bit of fear. What a daunting task for anyone to undertake. But this Magazine is important in so many ways, and the reason I volunteered to help out with anything at all was that I love the Lipizzan as a breed and I cherish its uniqueness and importance in History. So what better way to help preserve this, than to take this publication and use it to link all of us closer together. No matter what our involvement, what discipline we follow, how many horses we have or if we breed or not, we share one thing in common, and that is our love of the Lipizzan. Is the Lipizzan "just another horse"? NO - and anyone who has ever spent time with them knows this. Not only unique in their personality and characteristics, both physical and mental, they are unique in the world for their heritage. A living link to the Baroque, the last remnant of a by-gone time, and a true living Classic. Is this important? Well, could we live in a world without Mozart, Bach, and Beethoven, without Art, without the glory of the past? Of course we could - but what kind of world would it be? There was a time when all that is beautiful was lost - and we refer to it as "The Dark Ages" because that's what it was, dark and cruel and barbaric. We climbed from that and re-discovered the beauty and the magic of art. That re-discovery led to creation of more beauty in music, art, architecture and even in our beautiful Lipizzan horses. Sure, the world could continue along without Lipizzans, but what a loss it would be. We are the care-takers of these beautiful creatures and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are there for future generations - rare and wonderful and valued for their uniqueness and beauty.

I hope that you will all join in the preservation and promotion of this wonderful creature and will become an active part of LANA. This Newsletter is yours and we want to hear from you. Do you compete with your horses in some discipline - let us know and share with your fellow LANA members. Are there health subjects that you'd like explored further - ask and we shall find! Anything and everything that deals with the Lipizzan is of interest to us all. So, let us hear from you - LANA is the preservation of these horses, and its strength is in its members.

Samantha Martel, Editor
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A Letter About LANA

Dear Fellow LANA Members:

A new publication year is beginning with this issue of LANA’s *Haute École*, the Official Publication of the Lipizzan Association of North America. There are many changes in the new LANA organization and many exciting things coming.

LANA has added another international member to our Board of Directors: Mrs. Elisabeth Guertler, the Managing Director of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. We are thrilled to have this remarkable and accomplished woman join our Board.

Our Board of Directors now includes former Director Dr. Jaromir Oulehla, current Director Elisabeth Guertler, and former First Chief Rider Johann Riegler. In addition, Chief Rider Andreas Hausberger will be a regular contributor of articles for *Haute École*, including an article in this issue. We are honored that these significant people from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna have chosen to participate in our Lipizzan organization. LANA represents North American Lipizzans but our international Board and international members create a worldwide presence for our Lipizzan Association.

LANA will soon have the pedigree records available on our website, so that members may log in to review current and historic pedigree information for breeding, for research or just for fun. LANA’s pedigree database/studbook, containing data on almost 5,000 Lipizzans, is the only one recognized and accepted by the LIF for the USA and for North America. This “Members Only” area of our website will also contain a LANA Membership Directory and access to prior issues of *Haute École*.

LANA has expanded its online store (www.lipizzan.org/store.html) with new Lipizzan-related merchandise, including several new or newly reissued classic books and DVDs. We carry some out of print books and DVDs that are not available elsewhere. As a perk of membership, when you renew you will receive a password that gives you a 10% discount on all purchases from the LANA online store throughout the next year.

Our website, www.lipizzan.org, has had about 220,000 visits, presenting the world with a highly visible information source on the Lipizzan breed and on those who own, breed, show and sell Lipizzans. Those who have advertised their horses or farms on our website have reported many inquiries and successful sales. When you type in “Lipizzan” in any search engine, LANA’s site is the first or second site to pop up. Consider advertising your horses for sale on our website, especially in this tough market. Members receive discounted advertising rates.

We have reorganized LANA with now clear administrative roles for each Director. This structure will make it easier for members to become involved in LANA and for members to contact someone directly when they need help, want information or have concerns. Input from our members and involvement by members is the key to LANA’s future. As a start, this issue of the magazine features contributions from some of our members, and we invite any of you to submit articles and photographs for future issues or even to submit ideas for articles you would like to see.

Any LANA member who would like to become more involved in the organization’s activities, or business operation, or in the governance of LANA, please just speak up. Your involvement is welcomed and appreciated. Let us know what you would like to do. You may contact me directly anytime at Delphi@Lipizzan.org or by phone at 330-607-3750 or you may contact any of the other Board members whose contact information is listed on the website and in this issue of the magazine.

LANA wants to continue to meet the needs of our members. Our primary focus as a breed registry has always been the horses, and the maintenance of accurate, verifiable pedigree data in order to preserve and promote the Lipizzan breed in North America and abroad. Again we are grateful to have had these magnificent horses touch our lives, and again we are reminded of our responsibility to insure the perpetuation of this historic breed. But we are also reminded of the joy in communicating and sharing with fellow enthusiasts. Welcome to the new Lipizzan Association of North America.

Dr. Delphi Toth
Chair, LANA Board of Directors
Delphi@Lipizzan.org
330-607-3750
Mrs. Elisabeth Guertler, the Managing Director of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, has joined the LANA Board of Directors.

It is an understatement to say that Mrs. Guertler is a remarkable and accomplished woman. She is an experienced equestrienne and was a member of the Austrian Dressage Team before retiring from riding. For many years she was Chair of the Vienna Opera Ball. Mrs. Guertler and her family own and manage the Hotel Sacher in Vienna and Hotel Sacher in Salzburg. She continues to enlarge and expand the family holdings of this prestigious and elegant hotel business.

LANA has always maintained a strong international profile. We continue our close relationship with the Spanish Riding School and the Piber Stud Farm, as well as with the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF). LANA, through its original organization, the Lipizzan Association of America, was the first American Lipizzan organization recognized by the Lipizzan International Federation. LANA’s studbook is the only USA or North American book recognized by the LIF.

The current LANA Board now has three Directors who are tied closely to the Spanish Riding School in Vienna:
* former Director Jaromir Oulehla (who served as Director from 1983 to 2001),
* current Director Elisabeth Guertler (who assumed management of the School in 2007),
* former First Chief Rider Johann Riegler.

We are all very excited that Mrs. Guertler has chosen to join LANA in supporting and perpetuating the Lipizzan breed across North America. We will all benefit from her valuable advice and guidance.
An Early History of Lipica - the Stud, the Horses, Breeding

by Andreas Hausberger,
Chief Rider, Spanish Riding School

Since the time of the Romans, for whom horse breeding was of great importance, the region by the Timavus river and near Aquileia has been known to be well suited to horse breeding. It was here that a temple was built in honor of King Diomedes of Thrace, who was known for his steeds, in particular the man-eating ones. The sparse landscape of the Karst mountains became famous for developing robust and hardy horses.

The founder of the stud, Archduke Karl, became ruler and regent of Inner Austria due to the division of the German Habsburger lands after the death of Emperor Ferdinand I. He chose Graz as his city of residence. He had relationships with Spain, and with Spanish horses. Following the example set by his brother, the Emperor, other relatives, and the European princes in general, he decided to found a state stud in his own realm. He visited Trieste with his wife in 1576, and seems to have considered building a stud facility in the vicinity of the city. Although general criteria were probably a factor in this, a more likely reason for the choice of location was the option to claim a property from the Bishop of Trieste as a hereditary lease. The options were, a small estate that had already been leased by the Bishop of Trieste, a villa, or a Meierhof with houses attached to it.[1] The Meierhof was named Lipizza (Lipica) after the Slovenian word for Linden, lipica. Three years after the rulers visit to Trieste, the Imperial cabinet of Graz and the chief gamekeeper, Hanns Khiesl, resumed negotiations with the Nicholas von Coreth, the Bishop of Trieste. Shortly thereafter the acquisition was complete and the documentation was finished in Graz on May 19, 1580. Valvasor wrote: Among other things, in year 1580, he had a royal stable and stud erected in the village of Lipizza in the Karst region. Here the best horses were bred and raised for use at the Imperial court. They are the most carefully chosen horses with the best stamina that one can find: they roam and graze on hard rocks, where there is little grass. The Roman scripts bore witness to these meager lands housing the most resistant locals and, so do its sparse fields also produce the bravest and even most steadfast and hardworking horses.

The stud fell under the authority of the head stable master for inner Austria, who was based in Graz. Pankraz Freeman from Windisch-Graetz served as head stable master since 1573, Georg Ruprecht Freeman from Herberstein took the position after him. Lipizza was clearly initially affiliated with the Stud of Adelsberg (Postojna), and it wasn’t until 1585 that Franz Jurco was elevated to his role of the first Master of the stud in Lipizza.

After the acquisition the necessary construction was undertaken, buildings, walls, water ditches and cisterns for the collection of rainwater were built. The previous residents of “3 Huben” received compensation and were relocated. This is known thanks to information from tax collectors of Trieste in reference to the subjects moving off of the Stud grounds. These actions were later criticized by a village leader in Trieste, since it left the town helpless in the face of a fire or other such disaster. Topsoil from the Dolomites was brought in to improve the condition of the grazing fields. Grain and hay had to purchased elsewhere. The water shortage was the biggest problem, but a steady supply of firewood was also not always possible. In July of 1581 the Imperial cabinet in Graz forbade unregulated tree felling by the residents for this reason. The purchase of dogs as a preventative measure taken by Jurcos to protect the herds, proved itself in the winter of 1589, as Carniola and the coastal lands were plagued by wolves.

The year the stud was founded, the Imperial ambassador in Spain, Freeman Hanns von Khevenhüller, was given a mandate to buy breeding stock. The request was for Andalusians. In January of 1581 he bade his deputy stable manager, Pedro Fuerte, go to Andalusia in order to buy several Spanish horses. Fuerte reported going to Andalusia, Granada and Cordoba to search for and purchase horses. He compiled a detailed record of the costs of his trip and horse care ranging from April to November of 1581. The first recorded transport of horses to Austria took place in December of that year. Pedro Fuerte traveled to Cartagena with six Spanish horses for the Archduke Karl and two more horses for Khevenhüller’s brother, the journey to Austria started from there. The descriptions of these six horses were recorded. Their names were stated as was their color, height, age, and even their character was described. It was added that they were foaled in strey in March and/or April of 1581. Even the price paid for each

...
horse was noted: in total the six horses cost 13,079, a sum that is equivalent to 1,189 ducados. Gassebner wrongly reported that Khevenhüller traveled to Spain in 1580 to buy breeding stock, and brought back 3 brincos. This message was proliferated by later authors. The budget records used as source for this information can be found in the Styrian regional archives in Graz, and were incompletely or incorrectly read by Gassebner. The record was referencing three jewelry pieces, not horses, so it had nothing to do with Lipizza. However, Gassebner’s claim that a transport consisting of 24 broodmares and 6 Stallions in the following year, has been verified. In 1582 and 1584 there were two further shopping trips to Spain, the payments for these purchases were managed by the Ilsung and Fugger banks. During these early years the managers of the stud also acquired horses from the nearby province of Rovigo (Polesine di Rovigo), this is where the dukes of Mantua acquired the horses for their famous royal stables. Soon the stud in the Karst region was able to deliver horses to the archduke’s royal stables in Graz. In 1595, for example, Juan Caprina, the trainer of the royal stables (?) brought 30 foals to Graz. Caprina had been assigned to travel from Lipizza to Graz in 1591 to lend assistance to the Stud manager. At this point the constantly repeated claim that the horses were being bred for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, must be addressed. Archduke Karl had founded the stud in order to fill the demand for horses of the court at Graz. He was certainly not acting on any orders from his brother, Emperor Maximilian II, for he had hundreds of horses in his stables in Vienna and Prague, and also owned two lovely stud farms, one in the Czech region of Kladrub and the other Mönchhof in Hungary. These studs were breeding his Spanish and Neapolitan horses. Archduke Karl died in the Summer of 1590 in Graz. Since his son, Ferdinand (1578-1637) was still a minor, Ferdinand’s mother became his regent. In 1594 the stud farm was expanded through the purchase of greater expanses of land. The growing certainty that the main bloodline of the Imperial family wouldn’t have an heir, steered the “styrian” Ferdinand’s political maneuvering for the throne. Ferdinand II was elected Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1619. Vienna and Prague became Ferdinand II’s administrative centers.

Other stud farms sprang up in the Carnolia region which played a role in the history of Lipizza. In Adelsberg (Postojna), the most important family of the duchy, the Freemen (Freiherren), who had been Earls of Auersperg since 1630, had a large stud farm. They also had another property in Poelland in lower Carnolia. The Freemen of Engelshaus(en) also built a stud farm at Sonnegg Castle. Stallions from Lipizza were lent to these other stud farms. Neighborly relations with these other stud farms only existed because the royal stud farm at Karst didn’t have enough food for its growing number of horses on its own small territory. For example, in 1636 “the breeding stallions at Karst at Lipizza are to be sent after use to Laybach by the stud manager, since they have bad living conditions in Lipizza. They are to be kept at the ‘Vicedomhaus’ in Laybach and are to be carefully tended. In particular care should be taken that the stable hands are consistent and conscientious in their duties.”

Mares and Foals, by George Stubbs (1724–1806)
In the early eighteenth century the horses of the royal stud farm were Andalusians, also known as Spanish horses, they had a high percentage of oriental blood, as can be proven by looking at the paintings of Johann George of Hamilton, which in contrast to the horse portraits of Ridinger, actually provide an accurate assessment.

Relationships between the old and the new imperial stud farms can be found as early as the reign of Ferdinand II. Foals from the Mönchhof stud were sent to Lipizza when they reached a certain age, in order for them to develop toughness and stamina on the Karst fields before being sent to the Imperial riding school in Vienna for training. The link to the imperial riding school is evident, and carried great importance for the stud farm at Karst. It led to the development that was so important for the breeding and performance goals of the Lipizzan horses. The Spanish Karst Horse (Spanische Karster) was introduced to the festive circles of the Vienna court, the Spanish stables and the imperial riding school. This was where the stallions of Karst were to test their strength, endurance and agility. Who can deny that these performance tests contributed to shaping the “Karster” breed to be as powerful and energetic as he can be seen today? Lipizza was not subjected to far reaching changes due to the change in rule, but Mönchhof, as the stud farm closest to the Vienna court, was. Mönchhof was clearly considered a Spanish stud farm because of the origin of the horses, although it stayed under Italian management after 1592 when Marco Rubico replaced the Spanish stud manager Ottavio Spinola who had run the farm since 1583. In the following years, Christoph Bernstaller (1603), Pietro Paulo della Grangia (1605-1617) and Vincenzo Rizzi (1635-1652) are known to have held the position of manager of the stud. Rizzi also filled the role of head rider of the imperial court, so he was simultaneously the Manager of the stud farm in Mönchhof and the head rider at the Vienna
court - an indicator that at the time the horses of the riding school still came mainly from the stud farm at Mönchhof. Despite this, the decline in influence of the Mönchhof stud was not far off. It was moved to Prague in 1652. Following the move, in 1672 many of the remaining stud farm workers in the Mönchdorf area moved to the neighboring town of Halbthurn because of economic difficulties. They built up the village that had been in decrepit condition for more than 100 years, and in doing that they laid the groundwork for the founding of a new imperial stud many decades later under the rule of Emperor Karl VI.

We can glean a good picture of the scope, assignments and day to day business of the Lipizza stud from an instructive document released by Emperor Leopold I (1640-1705) in the first year of his long reign, on the 7th of December 1658. As a highly educated and cultured ruler with a taste for music, he founded not only the tradition of musical theater in Vienna, but also made the city into a cultural center of east and south-central Europe. In 1660 took his entire court, including the Spanish representative, on a visit to the stud farm in his “Kingdom of Karst.” In his instructions, the Emperor commanded not only the obedient compliance of the mandated tasks and a constant presence of the stud farm manager, but in his 6th point of the instruction he also tasked the facility with exact monitoring of the stallions and mares along with notations concerning their covering schedules and fertility cycles or pregnancy. He wanted all the mares to have their own unique name, and a registry for the brands. In the 7th point, he commanded the establishment of a foal registry in which the name of the sire and the dam was to be noted for each foal. Also to be found in the instruction are the oldest entries about branding: the yearling foals were to be “branded with our symbol on their cheek, but only receive the full brand when they reach the age of two years, and all this shall occur in the presence of the stud manager and a notary.” What constituted the “our symbol” for the yearlings and the “full brand” for the two year olds? There is little doubt that the Emperor meant his initial “L” (for Leopold) with the crown when referring to “our symbol.” In other words, the L that was at least for the most part used as the stud brand in the 18th century and is known today as the traditional brand for...
the Lipizzan breed, was originally the Imperial initial. However, there are no pictures of an imperial horse of that period, as the incomparable horse portraits of Johann George von Hamilton were not painted until half a century later. These portraits enabled informative finds, for example, in 1720 he painted the eleven year old black Kladruber Curioso performing the Capriole, Curioso was an important stud, and he was branded with a crowned “J” on left side of his neck, this was Emperor Joseph I’s brand. The bay stallion from Karst, Maskalan, had the same brand, however his was placed on the right side of the neck. Curioso also had a C brand on his left cheek, possibly the brand of the Kladruber stud. On a large painting of a herd of mares from 1727, one is able to recognize the stud brand on 13 horses. One could even already start calling them “Lipizzans,” however the studbook still classifies them traditionally as “original Spanish horses of the stud farm Karst.” In the 20th point of the memo, the emperor encourages the weaning of the foals as two year olds. Included in this point is also the order to send the horses to the imperial court in Vienna at three years of age. Emperor Leopold I created a historic monument with his Instruction, but even his contemporaries knew of his interest in horses. George Simon Winter of Adlersflügel dedicated his books The Art of Riding (Reitkunst) in 1674 and Mare management (Stuterei) to the Emperor.

Emperor Joseph I was the only Habsburger to use the wasteful lifestyle of the Versaille court as an example. However, in terms of the extraordinary estimated value of horses, his brother and successor, Emperor Karl VI outdid him. Head rider Johann Christoph von Regenthal noted that under his rule there always had to be 800 horses at the disposal of the Viennese court.
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304-724-1286
My Dream Horse - Pluto Fantasia

by Susanne Desai, LANA Member

Nine months ago something amazing happened to me - I bought my dream horse, Pluto Fantasia. I have been around horses since I was a child and they have always been a part of my life. In December of 2009 I lost my childhood friend of 29 years. His name was Rob and he was just a horse to many, a financial drain to others but meant more than the world to me. He was part of my life from his age 7 to 36 years old. I did not expect him to live forever but I was not ready for him to be gone that year 2 days before Christmas. He lived a very special life, one of amazing recoveries. With luck he survived a surgery to correct a torsion colic at age 16 and then at age 32 he jumped up from anesthesia to remove a lymphoma and 2 feet of gut. The surgeon was amazed at his recovery and I could resume my life with my friend still there. This equine friend was a life partner and we learned many things together. I learned by hours of lunging how to ride a horse in a position that was correct for dressage and then I learned how to ride a horse so that his back would swing and he would listen to every slight movement of my back and seat. I did not know this at the time but this was classical dressage and would become a lifetime passion.

Many years went by and my partner Rob and I did very well. We boarded him at a local farm that was actually a soybean and corn farm in central IL. It was very rustic but there was a nice covered arena and we had outside clinicians come give us extra lessons. I was still a child and I rode with many people including Tom Poulin and Curtis Sage. They did not care what kind of horse I rode but they wanted the dressage to be accurate and knew it took time. We had a dressage club where I and mostly older women studied videos of dressage and discussed accurate riding. I went to see Tom Poulin ride at Temple farms a white Lipizzaner stallion and that was the epitome of dressage at the time. I rode in local shows and remember Hilda Gurney commenting on one dressage test “Nice pony”. Rob was not a pony but a Polish Arabian horse at 14.2 hands. He was solid and an old style Arabian which would often be mistaken for other breeds like a polish warmblood later in life. In Illinois in the early 80’s there were many breeds of horses but warmbloods were just becoming popular. I did get some nasty looks when I would get higher ribbons then the larger warmbloods but that did not mean anything to me because my horse was not just a means to ride in a show but a true partner. He was terrified of water and any puddle on the ground would mean a huge jump so that he did not get near the water, but as a good partner he forgot his fears that one weekend when it had rained and the show ring was full of puddles. To my amazement he listened to me. So instead of selling my friend and getting a horse that would be easy to show on I continued to take clinic lessons at home with Curtis Sage and together we learned dressage as our means to communicate while riding. After years of working as a pair my horse and I could anticipate each other with pinpoint accuracy. I could think flying change slowly, move my leg gently back and it would happen. Half halts were a mere tightening of my seat and back, and collection was just an intention or mere thought. Through osmosis I would direct him and our communication became purified. It was after years of work and it was something we both enjoyed. In 1986 I went to the World Championships in Toronto to watch Robert Dover and Reiner Klimke ride and we moved from IL to San Diego, CA.

As my riding progressed I would go to Tom Poulin’s farm in St Charles, IL with my horse to stay for awhile. The place was amazing. It was a new building with an attached covered arena with piped music and beautiful tack rooms full of well cleaned saddles. It was a far cry from the converted grain silo barn stall of 4 horses that I was used to. Rob did not enjoy it at all. He did not like walking on concrete or drinking from automatic waterers and he was a very nervous anxious mess. It was suggested that I needed to get a new horse. I rode other people’s horses there. That was fun but we did not have the money to buy a second horse and board it and there was no way I would give up my first horse. He was already more than just a horse to me. So instead of selling my friend and getting a horse that would be easy to show on I continued to take clinic lessons at home with Curtis Sage and together we learned dressage as our means to communicate while riding. After years of working as a pair my horse and I could anticipate each other with pinpoint accuracy. I could think flying change slowly, move my leg gently back and it would happen. Half halts were a mere tightening of my seat and back, and collection was just an intention or mere thought. Through osmosis I would direct him and our communication became purified. It was after years of work and it was something we both enjoyed. In 1986 I went to the World Championships in Toronto to watch Robert Dover and Reiner Klimke ride and we moved from IL to San Diego, CA.

Little did I know that the barn just miles down from my new house in San Diego was the home to Guenter Seidel and Steffen Peters. My poor horse arrived at a new barn that was very busy and had lots of people riding at once on big horses. He did not like it and my immediate reaction was what are these people in California doing?? It did not seem like the same kind of classical dressage riding I had grown up with. Plus they had even less appreciation for my horse than the people did in Illinois. At this point we were a team and there was again no way we could afford to buy another horse and board another horse in the expensive huge community of horses in San Diego. But for me I was content to ride my horse and we progressed to an advanced level, not in the show ring but in day to day riding, and it was for the love of the art of dressage I rode. I did not need to show off when I knew what I had was unique and surpassed many in ways they did not understand. My horse moved with a rounded back and happy movement up in dressage with a new horse… it was too expensive boarding one horse at $800 a month and I would not give up on our relationship to retire him when he could still be ridden. One of my last rides at the big barn was bareback with him and me finely in tune showing him off for my soon to be husband.

As my horse got older and we could not ride as much we moved slowly to a barn that only had trail horses but we enjoyed the low key nature of it and I did not miss the large dressage horses as much as I missed seeing others enjoying dressage. Eventually we ended up buying a small farm ourselves where my horse could enjoy his last year of life being out in turnout with a harem of beloved mares. It was very peaceful and amazing to have him at my doorstep so I could more easily maintain his life of luxury while taking care of my 2 young children. Not having to drive to the barn really cuts down the time. At this point I started looking at a website called Dream Horses. I knew that I would be able to convince my husband to get me a new horse since we did not have to pay for boarding anymore. The budget was still small for a new horse and the world economy was in bad shape. I gladly took on boarders so we could have a small herd of horses here that would be fun to play with and paid for themselves. I dreamed of...
getting a new horse I could ride that I could communicate with and that would somehow be different than Rob. I looked for Spanish horses. I looked at trips to Portugal to buy well trained Lusitanos that were less costly than here in the US. Then I put in Lipizzaner. Remembering the days of watching the Lipizzaners at Temple Farms and my husband had just visited the Spanish Riding School in Austria as a side trip from a work trip... I started to dream of getting a white stallion myself.

Few months later and my dear horse friend had lost his life suddenly one morning. I was not prepared to move on without him. I felt like I was not being faithful to him by looking at other horses. I quickly moved a boarder in his stall and moved on. I had a dream of getting a new horse, one that had potential to passage and piaffe with natural skill and I had hope that I could move on past the loss and find inspiration to return to the art of dressage which I love. Then I found a Dream Horse ad for Lipizzaners in Arizona not too far from San Diego. I put forth the idea to my husband and he was finally prepared to welcome a new family member. So I spoke to the seller a soft spoken young girl who had just lost her father suddenly to cancer. Looking up the seller on the internet I found information on John Gliege and how he had rallied around the breed and supported LANA. This made me more comfortable to buy a horse from afar and spend less money in doing so by not traveling there. It was a risk I was willing to take. The gelding she had for sale had been sold but she had a Lipizzaner stallion named Dash - would I be able to handle a stallion? Yes, I thought to myself, I had many memories of stallions at the barn being good horses and being able to board at big barns with some restrictions. My old horse was a very animated gelding who for all intents and purposes would at age 35 try to be a stallion even though he had been gelded at age 6... to me it was very cute. Rob was bred as a stallion and gelded the year before I got him. His behavior included everything a stallion would do except for mounting and he had a good attitude towards most other horses with an amazing ability to woo any mare he was put next to.

The deal was made and site unseen I purchased Dash, aka Pluto Fantasia. He arrived shortly by transport and traveled well. We thought we were prepared moving the boarder’s mares into positions so a stallion could be as far away as possible from them. Unfortunately I underestimated a few things. First thing I underestimated was a young stallion’s desire to do what comes naturally to him in times of change and the second thing was my grief for my lost horse. Pluto came and he was the epitome of the ultimate Lipizzaner Stallion. Classic neck... huge hocks and strong stature at 14.2 hands. I was amazed with him but stunned all at once. He was completely wild. He decided he must kill the gelding next to him and he jumped out of his stall to do so quickly getting sidetracked by a beautiful white Arab mare that had come into heat the moment he arrived. He nearly broke down her stall to breed with her and the other mare was not as receptive. The next mare kicked and broke a wood rail defending herself from Pluto’s bite. It was chaos and I was distraught. I missed my old horse terribly still and it was hard to connect to a new horse that was so out of control. Pluto was in no way a replacement for my old horse and although he was everything I wanted on paper it was becoming a dangerous situation. We figured out in moments that our fencing would not work as Pluto could hold a levade for nearly 2 minutes looking for a way out. He was terrified in the enclosed stall and our last minute attempts to put hot wire up failed. Day three of his being here in his new home, to my husband’s horror, I decided to geld Pluto. That did not stop him from jumping out but slowly at age 4 the hormones of a once stallion changed and he became more relaxed as he was no longer worried about breeding with everything out there. I felt bad that he would not have any progeny but I have never had any intentions to breed horses myself and would need a larger facility.

In the months after his arrival I am still surprised and amazed by my Pluto. He has taken a place in my heart and it is due only in part to his amazing beauty. What I am impressed with the most is his unique personality and the way he is unlike any other horse I have been around. With no experience of starting a horse myself I have found myself lucky enough to have a friend boarding her horse with me who has the experience and skill to
put a great foundation on Pluto. He has been learning Parelli natural horsemanship games and loves them. He wants to please and once he understands what the game is he can easily repeat it. To encourage his desire to please he has been doing clicker training which works quite well with him as he has a huge food drive. After one training session with the clicker to load in a trailer he happily got into the trailer all by himself when he was loose in the ring and he waited to be rewarded inside the trailer. This is something I can never imagine my dear old horse could have mastered. The combination of classical training methods, such as lunging and long reinning, with natural horsemanship and clicker training make Pluto's ground training very thorough and not in the least bit boring for him. Most importantly he is learning to build a relationship with a human where the communication is understood and he knows what is expected of him and wants to please. I have learned that transitions from old dreams to new dreams can be hard but fulfilling. Pluto has found a new friendship with the white Arab mare and they can enjoy hours of turnout together in peace with minimal squealing.

In his eyes you can see his regal strength and feel the years of training of his ancestors before him. He is meant to be a strong leader and a horse that can easily understand even the smallest cues from his master after they build a relationship of trust and mutual admiration. Under saddle he knows he is meant to be ridden and works so hard to please. He loves to perform and show off his airs above the ground when new horses walk past the arena. My dream was to have a new horse that could passage and piaffe and Pluto can easily do caprioles, levades and pesades. Do I love him more because he is one of only a few thousand left in the world...no. I do wish the everyday dressage rider would see what they can learn from a horse like him instead of a common warmblood...yes. I feel sad that he will not have a chance to replicate himself but I know that for many years he will give us a chance to see the splendor of the Lipizzaner breed and what they are uniquely capable of doing in a dressage community full of other breeds.

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Moving Lipizzans to Costa Rica!

by Renata Nemec, LANA Member

While sitting this warm February evening on the stable porch overlooking Talamanca Mountains in the heart of Central America, I am thinking of my hometown 10,000 kilometers away, where cold winter is now in full swing. It is also very cold in Canada where I spent most of the past 18 years, and just returned from a short stay.

My heart and homes are in three very different places around the globe: in my native Croatia, in Vancouver, and here in Costa Rica. I like to be in Vancouver between April and August, then in Croatia until December, during the winter at my Alegria farm, to enjoy camellias and rhododendrons in full bloom in the Pacific Northwest, fresh figs and grapes in Dalmatia, theater plays and roasted chestnuts in Zagreb, New Year’s under palm trees on Uvita’s sandy beach...

Three young Lipizzans are just finishing their dinner. They are as far from their birthplace in Slovenia as I am from mine, but I am quite positive they also like this quaint, lush green South Pacific highlands at the edge of a tropical rainforest, in the company of toucans, parrots, sloths, monkeys...

Luna (549 Gaeta XXI), born on the night of a full moon, will be five in two months. When I first saw her, a filly prancing through the snow, I immediately knew she was THE one, not only because of her dark bay coat color and proud carriage. There is something specific in every horse beyond visible physical appearance. It is their soul that we can feel. Luna’s soul and I felt as if we already know each other. She has traits of her Arabian ancestors - beautiful head, expressive big eyes. Luna is free spirited, bold, with a strong will and equally strong body, powerful inside and out. She is the warrior. Stela (497 Bonadea X), an elegant mare, with white color coat and fine golden mane, will be five this month. Very much like her mother, with the same feminine physique, soft eyes and kind personality, she is noble, calm, patient, and loyal, with impeccable manners. Stela is an example of the best qualities in this breed. She is the princess. Cezar (566 Neapolitano Stornella III), a handsome young stallion of my favorite line, strong, sure footed, well balanced with a thick wavy mane, will be four next month. He is the last offspring of 36 Stornella III, an exceptional brood mare of nowadays rare bloodlines, who sadly had died while foaling. His coat is now an uneven combination of all grays, from light to salt and pepper, dappled and dark grey. He is affectionate, gentle and polite, yet fiercely protective of Luna and Stela. He chased away a Criollo gelding up and down the mountain at full speed, through slippery mud, too many times.

I have a natural connection with Lipizzan horses, my background and upbringing predetermined me to love and keep this precious breed; they are an integral part of my heritage. I was born and raised in Zagreb, my paternal grandmother was Slovenian, her uncle was an army officer in Vienna... But when asked what I do, I often intentionally downplay my deep attachment by saying only: “I very successfully train horses - to eat carrots.”

Bringing Lipizzans to Costa Rica was in the making for decades. My late father, an environmentalist who loved all animals, adored horses, dogs and birds, and had a great appreciation for this peaceful country and its people, especially coffee growers. He was my teacher on what truly matters, he enabled me to have traditional values and respect for nature as a way of life, to have Alegria, and to bring the horses here. Dad, I miss you.

My friend Jana Jasovic managed this project from Slovenia, and did such a great job. Her article (http://www.jjlipizzans.com/1201/1336.html) is here, a bit shortened:

“Lipizzans to Costa Rica
In December of 2007, a complex project of selecting young, breeding quality horses and exporting them overseas has started in Slovenia. An international team of over 20 Lipizzan enthusiasts gave their valuable contribution in successful completion of this project, while a happy and grateful new owner of the horses, continued working on establishing her “Alegria Lipizzans Stud” in Costa Rica. By mid September of 2008, three beautiful horses were ready to cross the Atlantic, while they will continue a long and noble tradition of their ancestors:

**549 Gaeta XXI,** born 2006, breeder: Janez Čemažar  
Mother: 66 Gaeta XVI after 917 Maestoso Caprice VII  
Father: 231 Conversano X Clea

**497 Bonadea X,** born 2006, breeder: Marjan Verce  
Mother: 301 Bonadea IV after 54 Siglavy Gaeta II  
Father: 859 Neapolitano Allegra XXVI

**566 Neapolitano Stornella III,** born 2007, breeder: Rudolf Veternik  
Mother: 36 Stornella III after 917 Maestoso Caprice VII  
Father: 209 Neapolitano Monteaura XIX

A very special recognition goes to the breeders of those fine horses; many years of hard work and dedication is required to raise such Lipizzans, who will proudly present and carry on the best qualities of this precious breed. Also, to all who gave their contribution and assisted us, especially Rebeka Pipan, National Stud Lipica; Dr. Janez Rus, DVM and associates, National Selection Committee; Dr. Matjaž Klemenčič DVM, Dr. Metka Toplak DVM, Dr. Andrej Glogovšek DVM, Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia; Karolina Jamnik and Ciril Cerk with family, Slovenian private breeding organization, ZRLS-PRO (Slovenia); Tomislav Vučković, CFBL (Croatia); Saskia and Ronald Verberne (Germany); Dr. Adrian M. Solano, DVM and Oscar Picado Garro (Costa Rica).”

When the horses began their long journey; it was first from Slovenia to Germany at the Netherlands border. After a good rest at Verberne family, they continued by road to Amsterdam, then boarded a cargo airplane to cross the Atlantic. Jana was there all along until they left, and so was Tomislav.
With one stop in Florida, the horses arrived to San Jose airport in excellent shape, I was later told. It turned out I didn’t make it on time for their arrival. I booked a flight to get from Vancouver through Houston to San Jose several hours ahead, but hurricane Ike started shortly before my departure, and my flight was cancelled. I knew the horses would be already near or over the USA, but I didn’t know if they escaped the hurricane or not. I heard later they did avoid it at the last moment.

Shaken up, without any information about the cargo plane, I decided to get on the first flight anywhere towards Central America. All that was available that morning was to Mexico City, with a 24 hour long layover until a connecting flight to San Jose. The Airline representative warned me of the risk: Mexico City is not the safest place when traveling unprepared and alone. Regardless, I took off. Two years later I met the same representative at YVR. To my surprise he recognized me, even asked about the horses... The largest city in the Americas, and the world’s third largest metropolitan area was even more crowded, Mexicans were celebrating their Independence Day. The next day, after getting news the horses were fine, I went to magnificent Castillo de Chapultepec and the National Museum of Anthropology. Kahlo and Rivera art prints, and Aztec stone mask will always remind me of my unplanned, but after all, pleasant visit.

When I left Vancouver, my husband, who had to stay behind, informed our friends in Costa Rica that I would arrive late. Dr. Solano took time from his busy schedule and went to the airport 3.5 hours away for the import procedure. Extensive documentation that Jana and I were preparing for months was luckily in good order. The horses were then transported as planned by a truck, in the middle of the night, over 3,451 meters high Cerro de la Muerte. I finally arrived when the horses were already all comfortable at Oscar’s. Our dear friend, and an owner of over 20 horses, obtained a quarantine license to be able to accommodate them. Thank you all!

During the next two years I had to stay almost continuously in Vancouver. My husband’s health problems caused by a motorcycle accident forced us to change our entire lifestyle, and our short and long term plans. Throughout that difficult period Oscar and his brother Luis were taking exceptional care of the horses and the farm, for which we are eternally grateful.

Since last year, the horses are with us at Alegria. They adapted so well to very different surroundings, food, and the tropical climate. Luna and Stela are now reproductively fully developed, healthy and strong. They have regular monthly cycles due to equal 12 hour night and day length through the year. Cezar is also in great shape, very willing and capable to perform his stallion duties. After we see his offspring, we will start shipping Cezar’s semen to approved purebred mares, and also importing semen for our mares, to broaden the genetics. We are expecting the first Costa Rican born Lipizzans next year, and hopefully more in the future, setting the foundation towards establishing the breed in Central America.

To promote Lipizzans, horsemanship, environmental conservation and our breathtaking surroundings, as of December 2011 we will offer exclusive guided tours in Alegria of the farm, stables and countryside, and horseback trail riding, designed for small groups of nature and horse enthusiasts, in the region with the richest biodiversity on the planet, now enhanced by one rare horse breed, the Lipizzan.
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Producer Gary Lashinsky ©Lipizzaner Stallions, Inc.
This April, I will take another step on my journey toward artistry in horsemanship. My partner is my Lipizzan stallion, Caspar (Favory Fantasia III-1).

My name is Sherry Leväaho, and I operate a boarding and training stable in Delta, British Columbia, Canada with my husband and trainer, Veli-Juhani Leväaho. (Our website: www.levahoclassicalhorsemanship.com) I have been fortunate to find a coach (who became my husband) to guide me to the world of academic horsemanship, and give me the tools to aspire to lightness. I found the horse of my dreams five years ago; I bought Caspar when I was pregnant with our first child, and started him before I became pregnant with our second. While pregnant the second time, I started playing around with circus gym, with the advice of one of Veli’s clients, Jutta Wiemers. The circus-type games have been beneficial, especially when I struggle with finding time to do everything. Caspar will be nine years old this summer, and we are growing together into a satisfying partnership.

Last summer, Veli and I learned that the French master, Philippe Karl, had agreed to conduct a Teacher’s Course of his School of Légèreté in North America, and only about six hours’ drive away! I applied, and then learned that I was one of nine applicants accepted. The course, beginning in April of 2011, consists of three four-day clinics per year, for three years, followed by examinations at the beginning of the fourth year. The course will cover the following: individual dressage training; work in hand, at the longe, and on long reins; jumping; quadrille; theory; and pedagogy. Participants that are successful in the examinations will be awarded diplomas and the right to teach according to the School of Légèreté.
This is the very handsome Siglavy Prescinana II, or Chester as he is affectionately known. His father is Siglavy Aga from the SRS/Piber Stud Farm and his mother is Presciana. Presciana is the daughter by Favory Bora, also from the SRS/Piber Stud Farm. This was a great breeding and our very first bay after 40 years of breeding Lipizzaners.

contributed by Kat O’Brien
for The “World Famous” Lipizzaner Stallions
& White Stallion Productions

www.Lipizzaner.com
The Romance of Art

"Beautiful spirit
Do you know how much
you mean to me

Your presence
it is so clear

A horse, as you are,
beautiful and full of pride

Takes my breath away
and brings this feeling to eternity,

forever

A legacy of Romance
The White Horse - it holds a fascination for all of us, but why? What is it about White Horses that has captivated mankind for countless centuries? Almost every culture and civilization throughout the time of man on Earth has had a special place and a special feeling for white horses, dating back to Neolithic times, when their images first appear painted on cave walls. The White Horse has been a religious symbol to people as diverse as the Romans, Celts, Christians and Hindus. It has been a symbol of the Reformation, of power, of prestige. It has been made famous in numerous paintings from Constable to Gaugin and it continues to be to this day. Could it be that it is primordial in our minds - another example of our fascination with light and our fear of the dark? We will never know the answer to that question, anymore than we can ever know who was it that first thought of a horse as a partner rather than a meal. What is fascinating is to discover the many different ways in which white horses have been viewed and to see the commonality of the human mind. This series of articles will try to explore The White Horse and its meaning to us through the ages. The creation of the Lipizzan is, of course, another example of this amazement, attraction, and power that the White Horse continues to stir in our minds.

Predating our domestication of the horse, was our fascination with their very being, evidenced by the earliest cave paintings, which date to 15,000 B.C. and are found in France and Spain. In fact, the caves of Lascaux in France have over 360 images of equines and the sheer number shows how important and what a fascination the horse already had in man’s mind. Other paintings in the caves of Altamira show the horse that we would recognize as the Przewalski’s horse, as well as a horse with a distinctive Iberian outline. In Mas, France, not only paintings, but sculptures as well, have been found. Being of bone, they are not only ivory white in colour but also have a very distinctive Iberian profile.
The Uffington White Horse is a well known tourist attraction in the U.K. Located in Berkshire, it has been dated to 1200 B.C., and so predates what most archeologists believe was the migration of the Celts to the British Isles in 200 B.C. This date has been arrived at using optical stimulated luminescence dating (OSL). This technique can show how long soil has been hidden from sunlight. OSL testing of soil from between the lower layers of the chalk which make up the running horse shows that it has been buried since sometime between 1400 B.C. and 600 B.C. Oxford archeologists agreed that this date is probably between 1200 and 800 B.C. This running white horse is over 300 feet long and was created by digging 10 foot ditches and filling them with chalk. Obviously this much work and thought was used because the symbol of a White Horse was very important. Does it have particular religious significance, or is it purely artistic? We will never know, but it remains a fascinating example to this day.

As the eons passed, we learned that to ride and to be one with the Horse was far greater then just hunting and eating them. Somewhere horses entered into our deepest and most profound thoughts, for they became Gods to many and held our spiritual devotions. Both the Greeks and Romans worshipped the Horse, as did the Celts from their earliest known existence. The Gauls, a Celtic people originally part of the vast Indo-European migration from the Asian steppes, brought with them their worship of Epos; she became known to the Romans as Epona. Epona was symbolized as both a White Horse and a beautiful woman who rode upon a White Horse. Her powers encompassed the protection of all equines, as well as fertility, as evidenced by her symbol the Cornucopia. Epona also guided the soul on its final journey to the Other World upon death.

Horses played a very important role in Celtic society with a strong Warrior class who favoured and used the chariot extensively. She was worshipped in Gaul and throughout the Celtic lands, and was adopted by the Roman Legions. In fact Epona was the only Celtic Goddess worshipped by the Romans and who was revered enough to have a temple dedicated to her in the City of Rome itself.

To the ancient Greeks, White horses were also sacred, and were sacrificed to Helios (the God of the Sun) in Rhodes and Korinthos. It was believed that Helios’ chariot was pulled by a team of White Horses and that these horses were Immortals, (the Hippoi Athanatio). These divine steeds were believed to be born of the Four Wind Gods. Helios was the Titan God of the Sun, as well as guardian of oaths and the God of the Gift of Sight. He lived in a golden palace located in the River Okeanos at the eastern ends of the earth. From there he emerged each dawn, driving a chariot drawn by four winged steeds and crowned with the aureole of the sun. When he reached the land of the Hesperides (Evenings) in the West, he descended into a golden cup which carried him around the northern streams of Okeanos and back to his rising place in the East. Although the story is ancient, there is another legend telling how his son, Phaethon, while a youth, stole the chariot and lost control of it, setting the earth on fire.
As has been seen, Roman worship of Epona was adopted from the Gauls, with Epona becoming one of the most revered and respected Goddesses among the Roman Legions and especially the Roman Cavalry. In general, Romans were very accepting of any and all Gods, provided they were worshipped in an appropriate way – the Roman way, involving prayers and the making of vows, the dedication of alters and the building of temples in honour of these vows, the sacrifice of animals, the burning of incense and wine. The Apotheosis adds a reference to divination by inspection of the entrails of the sacrificed animals. The literature does not specify which animals, but a large stone bas-relief of Epona from Beihingen (Baden-Württemberg, Germany) shows Epona in the top panel and in the lower panel, two men sacrificing a pig. Several Epona figurines are small, clay figures, others bronze. Her wide-spread worship was practiced in the home and stables with small temples to her present in most stables, be they humble or quite elegant. Her presence protected the horses within and was believed to calm them as well. Again, her representation was that of a White horse, or a beautiful woman either riding or lying on a white horse. Many depictions of her exist – in a large number of these, the horse has a striking resemblance to our beloved Baroque breed.

Many more stories abound showing our fascination with the White Horse, its special place in our history and lore and even in our religious beliefs. We will explore more of these in our next issue. As you watch your beautiful Lipizzans in the spring time sun, perhaps you will have a new insight into their historical and spiritual symbolism and a more profound understanding of why they seem so very beautiful and why they resonate on such a deep emotional level within us all.
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