



# HAUTE ÉCOLE

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of North America  
—L.A.N.A.—  
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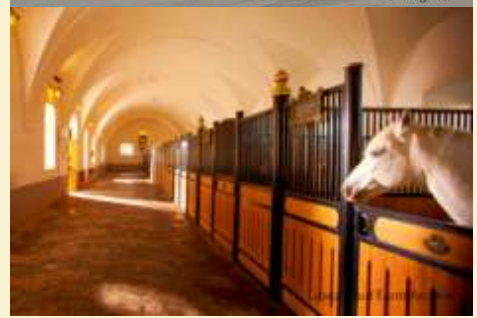
“Pet a Lipizzan”



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with special bonus for early renewal  
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Cover photo courtesy of  
The Spanish Riding School Vienna



# NEWS OF THE SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL - FEDERAL STUD PIBER

from Elisabeth Gürtler

Director of the Spanish Riding School and Federal Stud Piber  
**Member of LANA's Board of Directors**

With a total of 48 healthy colts and fillies, the Austrian Federal Stud Piber successfully concluded this year's foaling season. For the next six months, these perfect little Lipizzaners will be lovingly nurtured and cared for, not only by their dams, but by the ever present and watchful Piber stud employees. The next three summers will be spent growing up into perfect representatives of their fa-



mous breed, with some of them going on to becoming admired School Stallions at the Spanish Riding School Vienna, some remaining at the stud as broodmares, others delighting their new owners all over the world with that unique Lipizzaner charm and character. The Federal Stud Piber has an abundance of experience in finding that very special horse for a hopeful new owner. Every year stallions, mares and geldings find new homes not only in Austria and all over Europe, a great many Piber born Lipizzaners have been successfully exported to the USA and have created a solid breeding base there.

mous breed, with some of them going on to becoming admired School Stallions at the Spanish Riding School Vienna, some remaining at the stud as broodmares, others delighting their new owners all over the world with



[All photos are courtesy of the Spanish Riding School Vienna – Federal Stud Piber.]



The look of the baroque Winter Riding School has been supplemented with the addition of an artistic lighting concept developed by the ingenious artist André Heller. The lighting concept emphasises the unique baroque architecture of the Winter Riding School and turns the performance into an even more memorable experience. The beautiful and moving presentation of the Lipizzaners and their riders, blended with the exquisite baroque architecture, is now enhanced by the lighting, all irresistibly drawing the audience under its spell.

After the excitement and anticipation of the foaling season every spring, Piber looks forward to another highlight in its annual event calendar: the traditional Autumn Parade, which this year takes place on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. This event, for horse-lovers from far and wide, offers a delightful program which includes not only carriage and riding performances with young Lipizzaners demonstrating their diversity and skills, but also presentations by Lipizzaner stallions from the Spanish Riding School Vienna. Following the Autumn Parade, a “Kulinarium” at Piber castle offers guests the opportunity to sample culinary delights from the local region of Styria. Proceeds will provide financial support to ensure continuation of traditional breeding of the distinctive Lipizzaners from Piber.

While the Lipizzaner stallions enjoy their summer break, the brood mares and their young colts and little fillies will come from Piber to Vienna, bringing with them their light-hearted high spirits. This popular program, *Piber in Vienna*, will run from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>, daily except Mondays from 11:00 a.m.– Noon.

From Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the “Vienna Masters” bring top-class international champions to the heart of Vienna. For four days, the world’s best dressage riders and show jumpers compete in a total of 16 competitions in front of the incomparable backdrop of Vienna’s Town Hall. One of the highlights of this prestigious event is a performance of the Lipizzaner stallions from the Spanish Riding School in the evening of the opening day. Of course the Spanish Riding School itself also holds its classical performances in the baroque Winter Riding School of Vienna’s Imperial Palace that weekend as well.

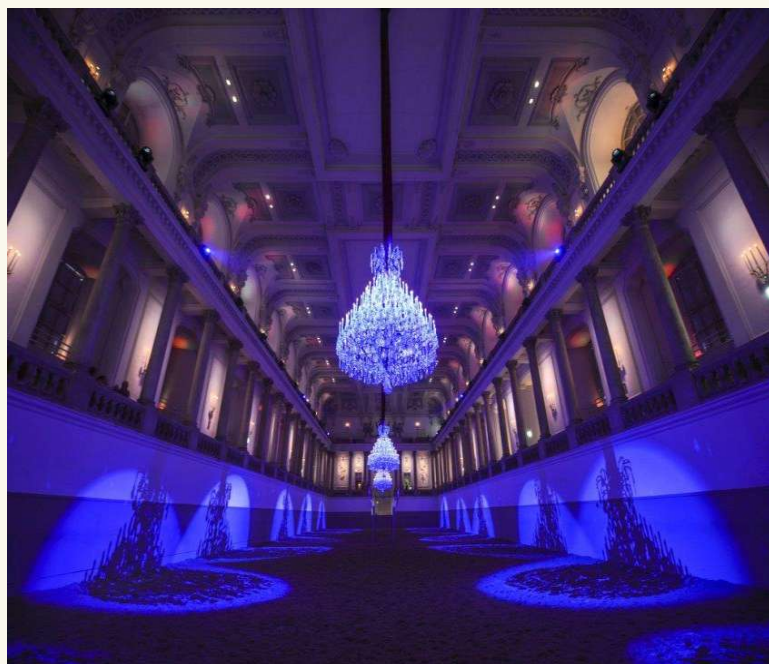
For further information and reservations at the Spanish Riding School or Federal Stud Piber:

Piber Horse sales:  
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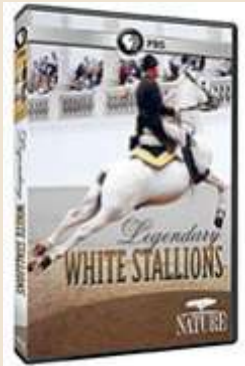
Autumn Parade and Kulinarium (September 21<sup>st</sup>)  
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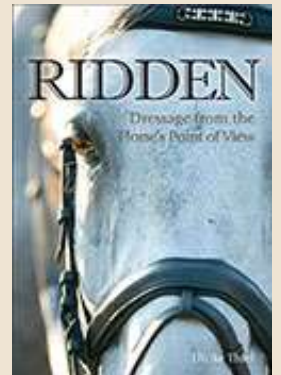
# New items in The Lipizzan Store



DVD:

*Legendary White Stallions*

Released in June 2013



Book:

*Ridden: Dressage from the Horse's Point of View*

Published in May 2013

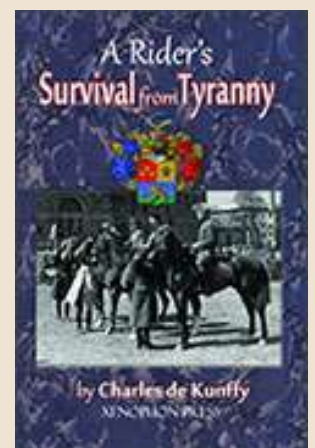
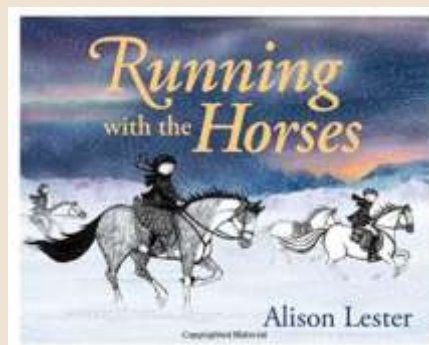
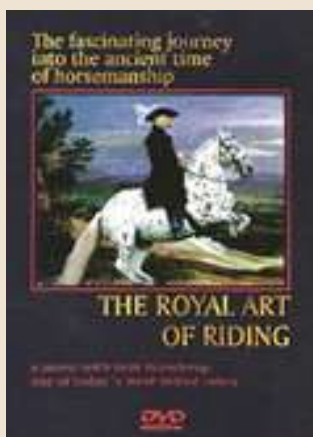


Scarves:

*Blue Horse I*

*Empress Elisabeth on Horse at a Hunt*

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# Training the Horse for Dressage, Part IV

by Hildegarde Gekiere

Dressage Rider/Trainer of the Classical French/Portuguese School  
Founding Member and Former Secretary General of the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF)

Many riders buy or collect equestrian books and magazine. However, in my experience, only about 20% of the riders ever bother to read these books or the articles in the magazines. With my own students, I have to make the greatest effort to push them to read at least the most important books and articles. And this reading they will do only reluctantly, even though they know the leading authors of the art of riding; I should say that they know them by name: La Guérinière, Podhajsky, Steinbrecht, Baucher and, more recently, Oliveira. All of these names, in some way, filter through the minds of riders who try to do something other than just sit on a horse. They just don't actually read all these wonderful works.

With all that has been written and published, you would think that everything about the art of riding has likely already been written. No contemporary author is really able to equal the insights and instruction of La Guérinière, or Steinbrecht, or any one of the other classical authors, for that matter.

So, why am I still writing about the subject - particularly as I have spent my entire life reading those classical books on the art of riding? Because, occasionally, I again read one of the classical books when I think and expect that **they can help me with a problem I'm having with a particular horse or its rider.** Naturally, it is the latest **problem that I can't seem to solve which causes the greatest concern.** It's then that I go through all the books, **trusting that I'll find exactly what I am looking for.** Most of the time, I am able to put my finger on the exact solution to the problem at hand. But, a lot of times it is very difficult to find clear descriptions and solutions for **the specific problem I'm encountering.** This always strikes me as rather strange, since these same problems appear, and must have appeared in the past, during work with a lot of horses and riders. When this occasional blank wall has appeared through the years, it has been very frustrating for me.

Steinbrecht is the trainer-writer who has frustrated me the most. I have read him in German, in French, and recently also in the Dutch [Flemish] translation. In none of those languages, has he become any easier to understand. After a few sentences I will have to start over, questioning his



exact meaning. However difficult he is to understand, I would not overlook his instructions for the world; he always seems to be able - after a while - to bring me back in the right direction when I look for solutions for particular problems. Steinbrecht is a brilliant trainer. I believe his book is the best that has ever been written on **the subject.** It's just that you have to plod through his instructions paragraph by paragraph, after a strong night's rest.

Oliveira, on the other hand, is exactly the opposite. You can drink in his soaring philosophy of the horse from each page. He describes the discipline of dressage as a divine gift and talks about it with an immense respect. **Between every line you can see the image of Xenophon's triumphant free stallion, and read the respect and love for the horse!** It is a shame that so many trainers are far removed from his principles nowadays. If only a few rays of Oliveira's sun would shine into the depraved hearts of some of today's trainers.

A great part of the problem may be that trainers are not capable of correctly interpreting the classical books. The reason for that, of course, is the fact that trainers who just start out in their training careers have no classical master to explain the correct interpretation to them.

In training horses, it is very necessary to know exactly - and to follow - step by step the progression in the exercises that the horse has to learn. For that, you need a riding/training master to follow! There are no automatics in training a horse to the highest level. Of course, not every horse can be trained to the highest level. But that cannot be known until after you start to train the horse. Each horse that is to be trained in dressage starts out, on day one, equal **in the trainer's mind**. And if the horse is to achieve the highest level, it must receive correct training, physically and psychologically, in order to make it an easy and supple horse, totally under the control of the rider in all circumstances. In order to educate the horse thusly, it is important that the starting trainer has insight into the purpose and the result of each exercise, that the trainer knows exactly why the horse has to learn certain movements before others and, most importantly, the trainer must be able to listen to the horse and to understand when the horse tells him that it is enough, that it is not able to do this any longer, today, or ever. When a horse becomes mentally stressed, it is not able to learn anymore.

What are some classic exercises for young horses, exercises that have often been described by the great writers on the art of riding?

Leg yielding: the first exercise after the circle - **and don't expect a perfect circle with a young horse - is leg yielding**. The reason leg yielding is so important is the very construction of the exercise itself. The bending of the **horse's neck and back is in the opposite direction of the movement**, this while he is going forward. The horse does this exercise naturally, in the meadow or paddock, when he sees an object that makes him nervous and he wants to step away from it. He keeps looking at the



object while he is going forward and to the side away from it. To say it simply, *“the horse looks to the left when going to the right.”* This is the easiest first exercise for a horse's beginning gymnastic work. A slightly heavier outside rein and a little help of the inside leg (at the girth) and *volla*: leg yielding. Note: the leg at the girth is **important, otherwise the horse's backhand** will go too quickly and too far out to the side, resulting in only going sideways, which is not correct. He has to go forward and to the side. His shoulder always has to precede the backhand. Remember that: always the shoulder first.

**And, please, always remember: don't push him when he doesn't react immediately and properly. Patience. Go back. Start again. The horse's output cannot be wrong; check the input!**

It is clear that we have to go into further detail on this exercise later, but I want to mention the next exercise, which is the shoulder-in.

Shoulder-in: I want to keep these two exercises together because they are very much alike. You might say, and quite correctly, that leg yielding is the preparation for the shoulder-in. Both have the bending (from ears to tail) in the opposite direction of the movement. Leg yielding is forward and to the side. Shoulder-in is on a straight line or a circle - which is also a straight line by the way! A straight line means that the lateral pair of legs stay in the same track. Back and fore legs of each side cover the same line, they are not going out or inside. Therefore, you can say, it is a round straight line! This exercise is already more demanding for the young horse, because the outside rein is limiting the bending and keeps control of the backhand by maintaining, or freeing, the shoulders.

Both the above exercises can be executed in the walk, trot and canter.

[In all photos, the rider is Yentl Durodie and the horse is Deussa, a five-year-old Lusitano mare.]



I want to again talk about the relation of horse and rider. It is the most important factor throughout the training of the horse. The trainer and the rider must **always keep in touch with the horse's natural behavior.** A young starting horse is subjected to unusual, unnatural, and uncommon stresses when he begins being trained. He was not born for this function; he is not a hunting dog created for hunting (M. Henriquet). **On the contrary, a horse's instinct for self-preservation** pushes him to escape from this extreme encounter by physical flight or, absent that, by mentally freezing. The movements of the rider, even if they are unconscious, can provoke contractions and even worse. The more sensitive the horse, so too must the rider and trainer be.

As already said, flight away is a natural behavior when something frightens a horse. This natural instinct must, above all, be taken seriously. Sprinting away being a horse's first line of defense, naturally, the horse must be more perceptive than other animals, because his life depends on his capacity to sense and run. Inexperienced riders often fail to recognise the horse's acute perceptivity. Horses have the incredible capacity to detect stimuli that are too vague for us to be aware of. So, for us, a horse's sudden flight - reacting to slight stimuli we don't perceive in the same way - seems inexplicable, and is often interpreted as "stupidity."

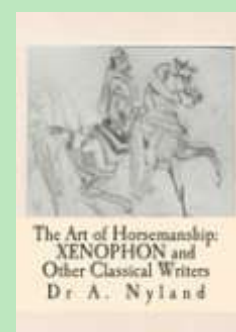
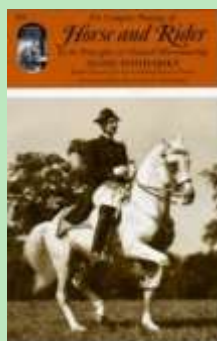
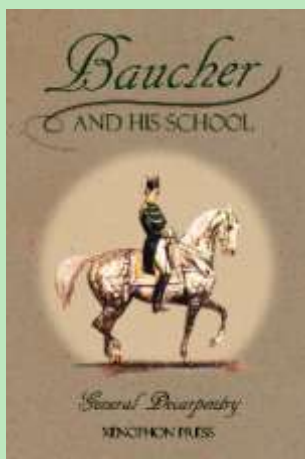
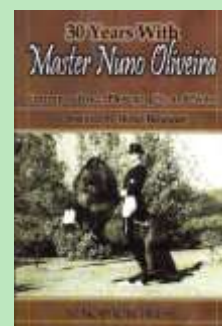
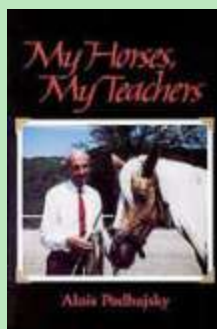
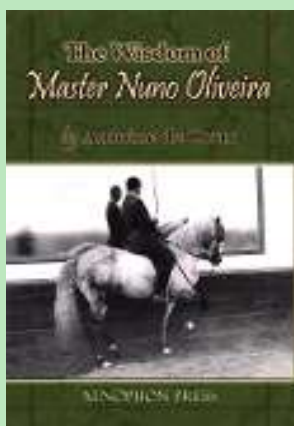
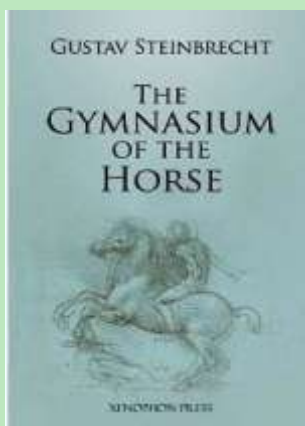
It is not. It is sensitivity, i.e., sight, hearing, smell, taste and feel, only in a much more sensitive way. We sometimes wonder that such a large animal can have such quick reactions. However, in the wild, he has to react instantly and at high speed, otherwise he is injured, perhaps eaten.

In all this, it is the task of the trainer to desensitize the horse of his natural reaction to flee. Lucky for us, the horse very quickly responds to being calmed, desensitized. The horse is an intelligent creature; he very quickly learns the difference between "frightening" and "frightening but harmless." This is a necessary lesson every horse learns eventually, whether in the wild or in the arena. If he did not learn from his experiences, in the wild he would not have time to eat, to drink, or to rest. He'd be on the run all the time. Likewise, in the arena, when he learns the difference between "frightening" and "frightening but harmless," he begins to respond to his lessons.

So, keep in mind, in every step of training, that you have to take into consideration the horse's natural behavior and sensitivity.

In the next article we will talk about the half pass exercises and why they are more demanding for the horse than the leg yield or the shoulder-in.

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## From a Bucket List: “Pet a Lipizzan”

by Patti Cook



[Sometimes getting an email can lead to wonderful life experiences. Recently an email came into the LANA office from a woman who was asking our help to fulfill a

*into the house but he got stuck in the kitchen doorway...It took many neighbors and the local police to get him to back out and back down the 4 steps up to the wee porch leading into my kitchen...It was more comical than dangerous...but we never forget such things....do we...??? Being a horse lover I knew I would get a reply from you...and I can't thank you enough...*

*Blessings and God Bless...*

*Always, Vivian”*

“bucket list” request. She wrote,

*“I know I could never own a Lipizzan any more mostly because of my age...88... 89 come May 15, this year... BUT...I am hoping I can find a place near enough for me to travel to ... to see a live Lipizzan... In my lifetime I have owned many back-yard nondescript horses...loved them all...all of my life...Now I have no idea where I could go to even see one, hopefully get close enough to pet...don't want to die without ever even getting that close to one...*

*Many Thanks for a reply  
I am Vivian McGraw”*

We wrote back and told her we would try to find someone nearby. She replied:

*“I still drive...I have a pick-up truck...I have lived a fuller life than most...but that is what makes me still long for some activity... I have always admired the Lipizzan as most do...but they were always out of my reach... Just love to be near all horses...There is a small stable located a few miles from me...where I go regularly just to smell a horse and pet one that is turned out to graze in a corral... Of course they love the cube of sugar and the carrots I take along...that brings them to the fence as soon as they see my truck turn into the driveway of the stable...smile...and I enjoy that too...I never had a riding lesson in my life...I just bought the two horses and we managed to make friends... One time someone left the rail down to the corral...and my one horse followed me and tried to get*

We forwarded this request to LANA members Patricia and Charles Cook, who live near Vivian McGrath. The Cooks agreed to contact Vivian to arrange to fulfill her wish to see a live Lipizzan and to get close enough to pet a Lipizzan. [Patti Cook takes the story from here.]



I was experiencing a typical work day at the office, when suddenly an e-mail from Dr. Delphi Toth appeared on my PC. I was wondering why she would be writing to me? Little did I know what a fun adventure was about to take place.

Dr. Toth, of LANA, had received an email request from an elderly woman, living in Brick, New Jersey, who wanted to meet a Lipizzan before she died. Since my husband and I were the closest LANA members with a Lipizzan, Dr. Toth asked if we could grant this woman her wish. Without hesitation, arrangements were made to host Vivian McGraw on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the farm in Colts Neck, N.J. where we board our two stallions: Lipizzan, Pluto Ballestra, and Lusitano, Favorito de Negrito.

After bubble baths and lots of primping, the horses were finally clean and awaiting Vivian's arrival. As a few hours passed, we were beginning to worry since Vivian insisted she could drive herself to the farm. And so we waited ... and waited ... the two stallions dancing and prancing in their boxes anxious to get out to their pastures. Finally, here comes Vivian slowly driving up the road in her SUV, cigarette dangling, with a new Polaroid camera in hand that she had just purchased for the occasion. Vivian explained that was why she was late. She just had to have a camera and the lady in the camera store had to teach her how to operate it; unfortunately, Vivian promptly forgot the instructions as soon as she left the store. That was our introduction to the remarkable Vivian McGrath.



Patti Cook — Vivian McGrath — Pluto Ballestra — Charlie Cook

Vivian could not have been more entertaining and vivacious. Frankly, we were not prepared to meet such a spry octogenarian. She has lived an amazing life, always one to “dare to be different.” She regaled us with her many adventures. Formerly married to Gordon Harvey, one of the original NASCAR Drivers, Vivian “Lucky” Harvey was a two time Women’s Stock Car Champion in the early 1950s. The women’s division was then called the “Powder Puffs,” but this delightful woman was anything but a powder puff. In 1950, her championship



trophy was presented to her by Frank Sinatra at the Latin Quarter nightclub in New York City. She is truly an amazing lady with a wonderful outlook on life.

A consummate horse lover, having owned several backyard horses over the years, Vivian wanted to meet a real live Lipizzan, up close and personal. And

thanks to LANA, Vivian got her wish. Pluto Ballestra was very gracious and charming as Vivian offered him a carrot or two or three. We explained the history of the Lipizzan, as well as of the Lusitano. She was intrigued and listened very carefully. We rode a little presentation for her in the indoor arena and Vivian managed to suddenly remember the camera store instructions and click off several Polaroid photos—a remembrance of her fun day with the “white haired professors” as we so fondly refer to our horses.

We send a very big thank you to LANA for putting us all together and making it possible for us to share the blessings of two beautiful horses with a woman who wanted only to touch the soft nose of a horse once again, to pet a real Lipizzan, and to experience the magic of the “gift of the gods!” It was a wonderful experience for all!

[P.S. After her visit with Patti and Charlie Cook, Vivian McGrath sent a note to LANA, thanking us for helping her fulfill her wish to pet a Lipizzan and give her what she described as a wonderful “interlude.”]

# Life Lessons from Slovenia's Lipizzaner Stallions

by Meg Pier (Travel/Inspiration Writer and Photographer)

*"Will is to grace as the horse is to the rider.."*  
Saint Augustine (354 – 430)

Slovenia's Lipizzaner stallions gave me hope that even the most headstrong and high-strung of creatures can acquire grace under pressure. In fact, the Lipizzaners' spirit and sensitivity are what make them so beloved and extraordinary at their work. This week, more than a month after my visit to the Lipica Stud Farm, I was able to navigate a few high hurdles thanks to life lessons from the lovely Lipizzaners.

In early April, I visited the Lipica Stud Farm in southwestern Slovenia, which is along the Italian border. While I am not an equestrian—or even a horse aficionado—one sleepless night months earlier I had chanced upon a documentary about Lipizzaners and became enchanted. An insomniac who often lulls myself to sleep with nature programs, the film instead mesmerized me for an hour with astonishing performances by majestic white horses that resembled unicorns minus the horns. The magic lay in the delicate, nuanced movements by the massive, muscled beasts,



with full, leafy trees. The stud farm's name and that of the town are derived from the Slovenian word *lipa*, which means "linden tree," a national symbol of Slovenia. Lipica Stud Farm's staff plants a new linden tree for every Lipizzaner foal born.

Lipizzaners are also considered an emblem of Slovenian identity—a pair of the horses is featured on the 20 cent Slovenian Euro coin. In a 1996 law, the Lipica Stud Farm was declared a cultural monument of outstanding importance to the Republic of Slovenia. Lipica has been breeding horses without interruption since its establishment, over 400 years ago, making it the oldest stud farm in the world. Lipica Stud Farm is government-owned, providing special protection not only to the herd of Lipizzaners, but also to the estate's architectural heritage and the surrounding landscape.



maneuvers that seemed to defy gravity. When invited to visit then write about the Lipizzaners while I was in Slovenia, I jumped at the chance.

Turning into the Lipica estate, I drove down a long lane lined



Lipizzaners are a rare breed of horse with a highly selective pedigree; their lineage can be traced back 2,000 years ago to Carthage. The bloodline includes Pyrenees, Arab and Andalusian strains. Lipizzaners are renowned as powerful and agile, and these traits have made them prized for centuries by cavalry commanders in warfare, as well as among European nobility in the leisure pursuit of dressage riding.

The history of Lipica is closely intertwined with the Habsburgs who ruled for as many as 650 years over an extensive part of baroque Europe. Lipica Stud Farm was established in 1580 by Habsburg Archduke Charles II, son of the Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand I. The Habsburgs founded the Spanish Riding School as a royal program for classical horsemanship, an endeavor that had become popular in that era. It is referred to as Spanish because, at that time, the finest horses for classical horsemanship came from Spain.



Classical horsemanship was described in 400 B.C. by Xenophon, a Greek historian and military leader. The ancient art is based on the principle of harmony between the horse and its rider. In Xenophon's words: "If one induces the horse to assume that carriage which it would adopt of its own accord when displaying its beauty, then one directs the horse to appear joyous and magnificent, proud and remarkable for having been ridden."

That natural exuberance was on full display as I approached the paddock where a herd of foals frolicked with abandon. My guide, Tina Čič, explained Lipica's Stud Farm's philosophy on raising happy healthy horses. "Young horses—both colts and fillies—are allowed to just "be" for the first three and a half years of their lives before they begin training," Tina said. "During these years, they are allowed to play, fight, and develop their spirit and character. The first year of their lives, foals stay together in the herd with their mothers," she explained. "They all live together in the historical stable complex, 'na Borjači,' which has remained practically the same since it was built in the middle of the 19th Century." This is an "active stable" – instead of being kept in boxes, horses are allowed to move around freely and socialize with other horses. This is closer to the horses' natural life style. It also promotes

learning to live together and interact with each other as a community. At the age of one year, colts are separated from the fillies and brought to "Ravne" – a separate unit of the Lipica Stud Farm, where they live in the herd and stay until the age of three and a half years. Tina continued, "Fillies stay in Lipica. In the warmer part of the year they spend their days in the pastures and return to the stables in the evening. In winter they can move in the paddocks in front of their stables."

Tina and I walked across the farm's grounds to the riding hall. I asked Tina how long she had been affiliated with the stud farm and she told me she had begun to ride in the Lipica Riding Club when she was 16-years old. "It was a possibility for local people, teenagers to learn the basic lessons for a very reasonable price and also a nice social point," Tina recalled. "Through the years I have had my ups and downs, but the connection to the Lipica Stud Farm was established and hasn't changed I wanted a varied life-style that could keep my mind fresh, without closing up into one single field. But after my studies, I bought my own Lipizzaner and kept both passions going, also writing for the Slovenian Equestrian Magazine. After more than 10 years as a journalist, I started to feel more and more drawn to Lipica and the transition to my job here happened with almost natural ease."



Entering the training and exhibition space, she explained we would need to keep our voices lowered and no photographs were allowed. "Horses as a species are very sensitive," Tina said. "For thousands and thousands of years they lived in the wilderness as a prey species and so it is in their nature to be very sensitive, to carefully observe what is happening in their environment and run away at any sign of danger. Being so sensitive, horses respond to very delicate movements by trainers," she pointed out." It is necessary for trainers to have discipline and character in order for them to pass these traits on to the horses they are working with."

Inside the riding hall, we sat on bleachers overlooking the ring, in which a half-dozen Lipizzaners and their riders practiced different movements. Two senior trainers stood in the center of the sand-floored hall observing the equestrian duos, striding between the different pairs of horses and riders to offer constructive criticism. “Classical Dressage respects the natural characteristics of a horse—both physical and psychological—to achieve happy, balanced, beautiful, unstressed horses moving in total harmony with their rider,” Tina whispered. “The goal is for the rider’s instructions, known as ‘aids’ in the world of dressage, to look effortless and invisible. For a rider or trainer it takes years to master the correct posture and technical knowledge, which is passed on orally, from

an older to a younger generation of riders.”

On the right of the hall, a horse with its rider astride was led around in a circle by a senior trainer with the use of a long

rein. The horse tossed his head back and forth a few times and Tina told me he was a young Lipizzaner, who was only beginning to learn the ropes of dressage.

“The work of a dressage rider is beautiful, but can also be very demanding, from the physical and psychological point of view,” she observed. “It takes an emotionally stable character for a rider to be able to stay calm, focused and present in all the different types of occasions that happen daily when working with animals. In such situations, good technical knowledge and stability of a rider’s character are the most precious tools.”

“Most of the time, the Lipizzaner horses are trying to do what they are being trained to do, but it usually takes years for horses to master the complex movements involved in dressage,” Tina said. “Trainers must have a lot of patience and not push a horse too hard, because a horse needs years of training to develop the balance and strength needed for the Haute École dressage.”

She noted that during this time a close relationship and bond of trust develops between a horse and a rider. To keep the horse motivated, trainers regularly reward the horse when it has performed well with a pat on the neck and some sugar. This approach echoes Xenophon’s work *On Horsemanship*, which emphasized training the horse through kindness and reward.



“Although a horse’s movements look beautiful, the training requires intense concentration and a lot of strength from the horse,” Tina explained. “This is especially true for the most difficult figures of the High School of Dressage, such as airs above the ground, pirouette, piaffe and passage.”

As we watched, a rider atop his Lipizzaner pranced toward us, stopping right below our seats, where the horse engaged in a beautiful movement that appeared both highly disciplined and playful. In a maneuver akin to an optical illusion, the horse fluidly lifted its legs and seemed to march in place. Tina told me this was known as piaffe, which is aptly described as a cadenced trot on the spot. After a few moments of this artistry, the trainer gave the horse an affectionate pat on its neck with a murmur of praise.





Across the hall, I watched a horse execute another remarkable move. Tina explained that it takes a lot of strength and power for a horse to perform what are called “airs above the ground.” By nature, the horse supports about 60% of its bodyweight on its forequarters; only 40 percent of his weight is supported by his hind

legs. With correct training in “collection,” a horse is able to support more weight with the hind legs.

She explained that the “airs above the ground”



and school jumps include movements in which the horse leaves the ground or “jumps.” In the capriole—which means leap of a goat—the horse jumps from a raised position of the forequarters, straight up into the air, kicks out with the hind legs, and lands more or less on all four legs at the same time. It requires an enormously powerful horse to perform correctly, and is considered the most difficult of all the airs above the ground.

The first airs taught to the high school horse are the pesade and levade. It is from these that all other airs are taught. In the pesade, the horse raises its forequarters off the ground and tucks the forelegs evenly, carrying all weight on the hindquarters, to form a 45 degree angle with the ground. With the levade the horse is asked to hold a position of approximately 30-35 degrees from the ground. She explained, “Unlike the pesade, which is more of a test of balance, the decreased angle requires a greater effort from the horse.”

“Neither of these movements is equivalent to rearing, which is an act of resistance or disobedience by a horse,” Tina said. “Rather, the airs above the ground require precise control, excellent balance, and a great deal of strength, and are the product of correct training.”

“The trainers are aware that if a horse is doing the same thing all the time, it becomes bored and loses its motivation,” Tina told me. “If learning new techniques, the horse stays inspired.”

Walking, trotting and cantering are also practiced during training, as well as shoulder-in, pirouette, piaffe and passage. Tina pointed out that the transitions between

these figures are important too. “Transitions can also be a physically challenging part of training, but the riders make the training varied and keep the horse’s mind fresh, so they are positive,” Tina said. “In fact, if we look at the transitions in our own lives from a distance, we can usually realize that they were a step forward and a time of growth – even if we didn’t feel like that when the transitions occurred.”

The truth and timeliness of Tina’s observations proved to be an uncanny comfort to me during my own current transitions. Like the Lippizaners, I am a sensitive soul. Alas, I cannot claim to respond well to subtle instructions from my divine Trainer. My mother used to say “God whispers before he shouts,” and I am often in need of directions dictated via a megaphone.

But I do share with the Lippizaners an eagerness to be taught how to rein in my willfulness and respond with more grace to challenges that stretch my comfort zone. I do recognize that if I am capable of receiving the guidance available, I can perform at a higher level than my sometimes childish temperament allows.

As life situations of increasing complexity arise, collecting myself does indeed require a great deal of concentration and energy. I occasionally astonish myself with a metaphysical air above the ground. In those moments I too find that my innate spirit—and trust in the Ultimate Instructor—grows in leaps and bounds.




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[Meg Pier describes herself as a writer, photographer and proprietor of travel and inspiration website, [www.ViewfromthePier.com](http://www.ViewfromthePier.com), the tagline of which is “connecting with self, others and a sense of wonder through travel.” Meg’s book, *Visions of Discovery: Images and Inspirational Quotes from Around the World*, was published this spring by Four Square Press. This article is an excerpt from Meg’s blog.]



# For All the Lipizzans Whom We Have Lost

## An Old Hungarian Story — by Anonymous

An old hussar (cavalryman) was riding his horse on a dusty, unfamiliar road. The hussar realized that he was dead and that his horse had died many years earlier. He wondered where the long road was leading, when they passed a beautiful gate, in front of a lovely meadow.

A man in white robes greeted them, "Welcome to Heaven." The old hussar was happy and started to ride in, but the gatekeeper stopped him saying, "Animals aren't allowed. The horse can't come in here."

The hussar was stunned. *"What kind of heaven wouldn't allow animals? If my horse cannot come in, then I'll stay out with him. He has been my faithful friend his entire life, and I cannot abandon him now."*

"Suit yourself," the gatekeeper said, "but I'm warning you that the devil is on this road, and he'll promise you anything, but the animals can't go in there either. If you won't leave your beast, you'll spend eternity on this road!"

The hussar thought for a moment, then turned back to the road and continued riding.

After a time, he came to an overgrown meadow behind an old gate that looked as if it had never been closed.

He asked the old man inside, "Excuse me, my horse and I are so hot and tired. May we come in, have some water and rest in the shade?"

"Sure, there's a pump right over there and a bucket for your horse. Help yourself. Make yourselves comfortable."

The hussar filled a cup and the bucket with wonderfully cool water and they drank and rested, then he said, "The man down the road said animals weren't allowed anywhere."

"Would you have come in here if you had to leave your horse?"

"No, Sir! That's why I didn't go into Heaven. I won't go where my horse cannot go too."

He asked the old man, "What do you call this place?"

"This is Heaven," he answered.

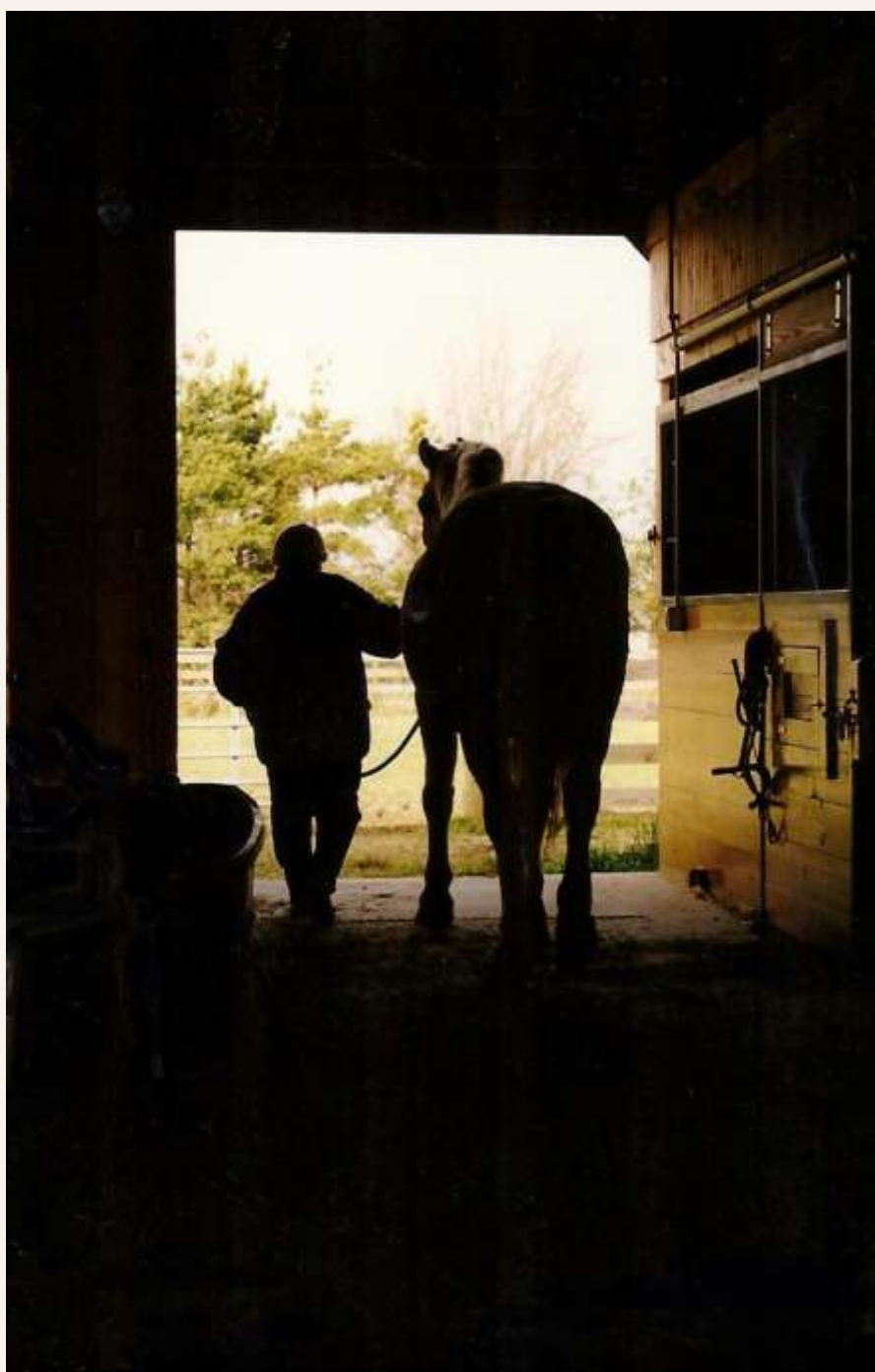
"But the man down the road said that his place was heaven and animals were not allowed."

*"That was the devil. He gets the people who are willing to abandon their animals for their own comfort. When they learn their mistake, it is too late. The animals come here. God wouldn't allow animals to be banned from heaven. After all, animals and man were created as companions in life, why would He separate them in death?"*

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"God forbid that I should go to any Heaven in which there are no horses."

Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham (1852 –1936)





# Lipizzan Farms and Breeders

*LANA Member Farms  
with horses for sale, stallions standing,  
training/instruction/evaluation, boarding, and other services*

## »» Arizona ««



### Rancho Bosque, LLC

8649 E. Woodland Road  
Tucson, AZ 85749  
Phone: 520-760-4468  
email: [info@ranchobosque.com](mailto:info@ranchobosque.com)  
[www.ranchobosque.com](http://www.ranchobosque.com)

Services: horses for sale, training (dressage, western), instruction & clinics (western, combined training), student apprentice program

## »» Arkansas ««



### Pine Mountain Lipizzans

309 CR 3633  
Lamar, AR 72846  
Phone: 479-885-3778  
email: [pinemountainlipis@yahoo.com](mailto:pinemountainlipis@yahoo.com)  
Services: horses for sale  
Stallion standing: Maestoso Millagra

## »» California ««



### Circle Lazy K Sporthorses

3664 Homestead Road  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
Phone: 209-742-7390  
email: [circlelazyk@yahoo.com](mailto:circlelazyk@yahoo.com)  
[www.circlelazyk.com](http://www.circlelazyk.com)  
Services: horses for sale, horses for breeding, training for pleasure and performance  
Stallion standing: Maestoso Precocia

## »» Florida ««



### The Equine Inn

13150 NW 97th Pl  
Ocala, FL 34482  
Phone: 352-351-1550  
email: [stalls@theequineinn.com](mailto:stalls@theequineinn.com)  
[www.theequineinn.com](http://www.theequineinn.com)  
Services: training (dressage, combined training), clinic hosting (various topics, including ground work, long lining, dressage, jumping, western, veterinary continuing education), boarding, overnight horse boarding  
Stallion Standing: Pluto Gisella

## »» Florida ««



### Lipizzaner Stallions

P.O.Box 597  
Goldenrod, FL 32733  
Phone: 407-790-1163  
email: [garyl6988@aol.com](mailto:garyl6988@aol.com), [EALash@aol.com](mailto:EALash@aol.com)  
[www.lipizzaner.com](http://www.lipizzaner.com)  
Services: horses for sale, Lipizzaners retired from "World Famous Lipizzan Stallion Show," also some mares and fillies

## » Iowa ««



### Medicine River Horse Farm

433 Pleasant View Drive, NE  
Solon, IA 52333  
Phone: 319-624-2546  
email: [medicineriverfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:medicineriverfarms@yahoo.com)  
[www.medicineriverfarms.com](http://www.medicineriverfarms.com)  
Services: horses for sale, training & instruction (dressage, jumping, work in hand)  
Stallion Standing: Neapolitano Juwela

## »» New York ««



### Mount Helicon

56 Valley Farm Road  
Millbrook, N.Y.  
Phone: 845-677-9635  
email: [jni@iannuzzi.net](mailto:jni@iannuzzi.net)  
Services: dressage training, boarding (rough or full)  
Stallion Standing: Siglavý Duba (Piber bred)

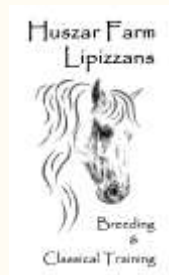
## »» Ohio ««



### Dulcey Anderson

8504 Linnville Road, SE  
Heath, OH 43056  
Phone: 740-323-4144  
Services: horses for sale  
Stallion Standing: Conversano Adina II

## »» Ohio ««



### Huszar Farm

Valley City, OH 44280  
Phone: 330-607-3750  
email: [HuszarFarm@aol.com](mailto:HuszarFarm@aol.com)  
Services: treatment of rider issues, consultation on the seat, dressage

## »» West Virginia ««



### Touchstone Acres

Kearneysville, WV 25430  
Phone: 304-724-1286  
email: [info@TouchstoneAcres.com](mailto:info@TouchstoneAcres.com)  
[www.touchstoneacres.com](http://www.touchstoneacres.com)  
Services: horses for sale, mare lease, boarding, clinics  
Stallions standing: 261 Maestoso Samira XXI (Slovenia), Neapolitano XXIX-18 (Black/Sambata de Jos/ frozen semen from The Netherlands)

**If you would like to list your farm here and on LANA's website,**

contact: [advertising@lipizzan.org](mailto:advertising@lipizzan.org)

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

You may renew on-line through our secure website by going to:  
[www.lipizzan.org/membership.html](http://www.lipizzan.org/membership.html)

Or you may renew by mail and send a check with the completed information form to:  
LANA Membership  
P.O. Box 426  
Valley City, OH 44280

- \$55. LANA Membership, within USA
- \$60. LANA Membership, anywhere outside USA
  
- \$25. Friend of the Lipizzan, within USA
- \$30. Friend of the Lipizzan, anywhere outside USA
  
- \$35. Listing in *Lipizzan Farm & Breeder Directory* on-line and in print for one year

BONUS: If renewed before July 31, 2013:  
\$39. x  Empress Elisabeth on Horse at a Hunt scarf  
\$39. x  **Franz Marc's Blue Horse scarf**

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

## MEMBER INFORMATION

Your Name:  
Farm Name:  
Address:

Phone:  
Email:  
Website:

Renew or add your farm to our *Lipizzan Farm & Breeder Directory* for only \$35 per year. Your listing will be on the LANA website for a full year and your listing will appear in the entire year's issues of *Haute École*. The LANA website has received almost 500,000 visits in the past couple of years, many of those people looking at the listings of farms, breeders, training, stud service and horses for sale. You get great visibility at a great bargain.

Information for *Lipizzan Farm & Breeder Directory*

Services: (circle those you want, and add others if you wish)

horses for sale

training—specify type

instruction—specify type

boarding

other—specify

Stallions Standing: [name of stud(s)]

Please attach a copy of your preferred farm logo or photo.



# L.A.N.A. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is time to renew your LANA Membership. Your membership expires on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year we are offering a nice bonus for early membership renewal. Currently in LANA's online store we sell two beautiful handpainted and handrolled Austrian silk scarves. These museum quality silk scarves are only available in the USA through LANA. If you renew your LANA Membership by July 31<sup>st</sup>, you may purchase either scarf for a greatly reduced price: \$39 each, shipping included (usual prices are \$68 and \$60 plus shipping).



Silk Scarf #1 shows Elisabeth of Austria (1837 –1898) who was the wife of Emperor Franz Joseph of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Elisabeth (nicknamed Sisi) was renowned for her beauty and was considered one of the best female equestrians in the world. This lovely scarf, depicting her jumping sidesaddle, is based on the drawing, *Empress Elisabeth on Horse at a Hunt*, by Emil Adam, 1915. Size: 40 x 40 inches (100 x 100 cm).

Silk Scarf #2 reproduces Franz Marc's *Blue Horse I*, painted in 1922. In this long scarf, there are two images of the painting, so when the scarf is draped around your neck, the brilliant colors of two horses complement almost any outfit. Marc is known for his intense spiritual expressionist animal paintings. *Blue Horse I* depicts the powerful spiritual essence of the stallion, using blue which he regarded as the most mystical of colors. This big silk scarf is perfect to wrap or drape at 16 inches wide and 65 inches long (40 x165 cm).



In addition to receiving *Haute École* magazine, LANA members have unlimited access to our online pedigree database, a 10% discount on purchases from the LANA store, a 50% discount on advertising, and reduced fees on horse registrations and transfers.

Please renew now, and treat yourself to a gorgeous equestrian scarf too.