

breeding

European Bloodlines in Canadian Sport Horse Breeding

By K.A. MacGregor

There is a current impression that Canadian Sport Horse breeders are new to the use of European warmblood bloodlines in their breeding programs. This notion is far from reality. While the CSHA has always coveted the great Thoroughbred bloodlines available to us here in North America, new breeders in Canada have been led to believe that inclusion of warmblood animals in the studbook is relatively new. A quick, educated perusal of the almost 80-year-old CSHA studbook reveals that there is a history rich in European breeding that harkens back over *four decades*.

It is a great disservice to the forward-thinking sport horse breeders of the past 45 years to suggest that warmblood breeding in the CSHA studbook is a recent phenomenon.

A cursory study of the early studbooks reveals that quite a number of breeders of the CSHA (at that time the Canadian Hunter Improvement Society) were importing some of the first European warmbloods into North America and actively utilizing these classic bloodlines in their breeding programs in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Throughout the ensuing years, we see judicious crossing of the warmblood mares and stallions onto the Thoroughbred and Foundation Stock - - those horses tracing back to original breeding stock of the 1920s to 60s. Let's look at some examples. By simply browsing through the stallion lines alone, one can easily discover the impact of European influence early on.

Forty-five years ago, during the early '60s to the late '70s Wigwam (Winnetou), Weimar (Firn), Sextus (Servus), Sandsturm (Sendbote), My King (Martell) and Denar (Duft II), began the infusion of German bloodlines into Canadian breeding programs. Duft II (1958) was the son of Duellant, a stallion of powerful action



Dezember

whose descendants are to be found in almost every sport horse breeding country in the world. The Duellant sons and daughters excelled equally in both jumping and dressage. Duft II, a Celle stallion, further influenced the CSHA studbook through another famous son, Darling, whose great influence as a broodmare sire is undisputable. In the CSHA studbook, the Darling daughters and granddaughters carry on the genetics of this famous 'D' line. His well-respected son, Dezember ('65), who stood for many years in Western Canada, also represents Duellant.

Weimar ('58) was imported from Germany in the early 1960s and his bloodlines continue to permeate through the CSHA studbook over 40 years later. Voodoo of Weimar ('67) by Weimar was the dam of Dresden ('84) by Demosthenes who in turn was the dam of Rampage ('99) by Riot and Lugar K (2001) by Lynx, both bred and owned by Kirsten Keene. Weimar also sired Faust ('60s) who in turn sired the F2 son Black Magic II von Faust ('71). Coincidentally, Black Magic II von

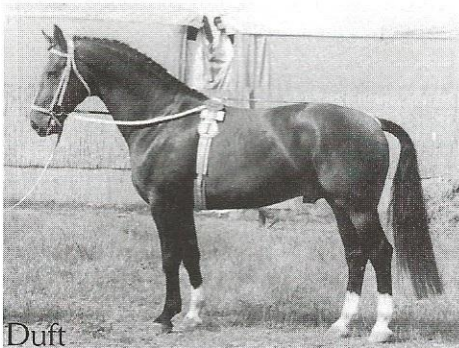
Faust's dam, Lucky Voodoo, was by the aforementioned Denar. Black Magic II von Faust went on to sire a number of good horses, among them the mare Going My Way ('87) out of Summer Fun ('78) a granddaughter of the legendary War Doe. Going My Way, when bred to Albit (Demokrat van den Hoefstal), produced WC Artisan ('03) & WC Addictus ('04), both bred and owned by Steve Wright of Uxbridge, Ontario.

Stallions such as My King ('66) by Martell and his F1 sons, My Friend ('73) and Mister Meaner ('76) carried the Rheinlander blood into the studbook. My King, bred by Ed Rothkranz was twice Canadian Dressage Champion and 1976 Olympic Dressage Team horse. My King is the dam's sire of the F1 stallion, Argus (by Goldschlaeger out of My Fair Lady) who stood for several years at Cornell University's Equine Research Park in Ithaca, NY. My King's blood carries further on in Argus' F2 daughter, On Cloud Nine ('91) who produced the 2004 filly Sky's The Limit (owned by Carrie Gauvreau) by Kirsten Keene's F1 stallion, Riot.



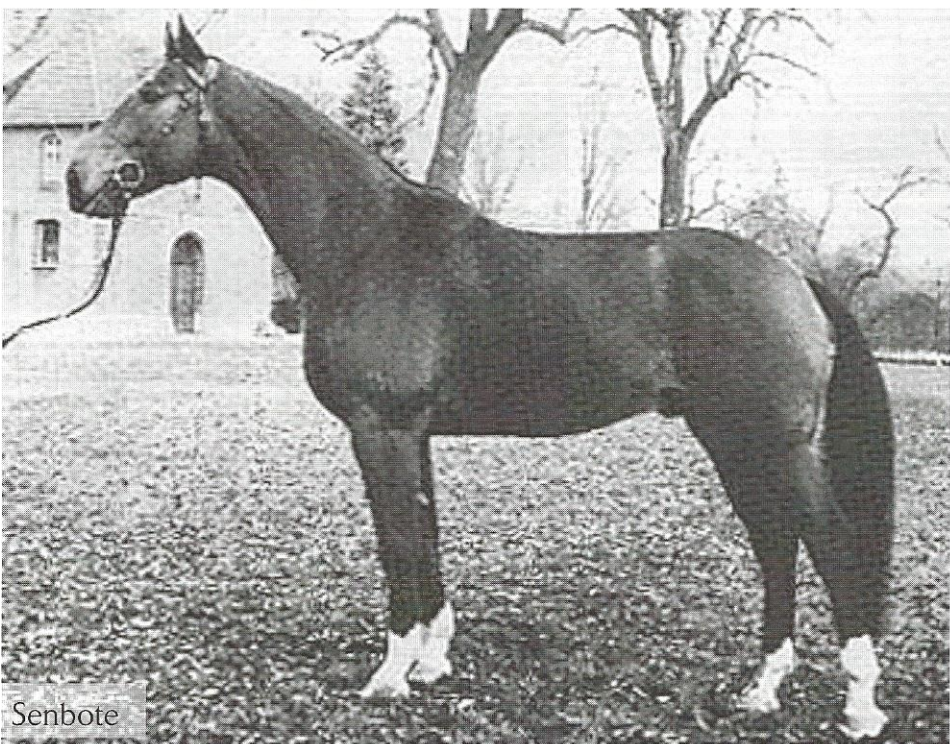
Martell 2, another son of Martell left his mark on Canadian Sport horse breeding in the early 1980s.

The 1970s saw a number of good Trakehner stallions imported and bred into the CSHA books. Here we find stallions like Antares ('55), Boraks ('67), Ceinin ('72), Tannenberg ('66), Handel ('63) and Lolos ('64). Tannenberg, one of 12 approved sons by Sterndueter was considered in Germany to be an excellent breeding stallion with good conformation. Today we can see Tannenberg's influence right up through the approved sons of the mare Allouette, Apache ('86) and Asher ('98) and in the 2004 colt, Prime Time II by the Dutch stallion President II out of Gloria (owned by Jane West of St. Catherine's, Ontario) tracing back to



Tannenberg on the dam's side. Handel continues his influence through his daughters like Magic Melody (dam of F1 stallion Musik Mann) and sons such as the stallions Amiego ('74), Lapland Anjar, Wotann X ('73) and Wotan II ('73). Wotan II (bred by V. Winterhelt and owned by Alexander and Annelise Horn) traces back to Denar (yet again) through his dam Lucky Voodoo. In 1990 Wotan II sired Bay Breeze Duchess (bred by Brian Manion and owned by Bill and Patti Parks) who has produced three registered offspring by prolific Hanoverian, Rio Grande.

In our next issue of the CSHA magazine, we will continue to look at some of the classic sires of European breeding, their breeders and the influence on the evolution of modern sport horse breeding in Canada in the 1980s and 1990s.



For close to 50 years the Canadian Sport Horse Association, formerly Canadian Hunter Improvement Society, has been utilizing evolving European bloodlines (warmbloods) to produce our modern day sporthorse in North America.