



ESSA courier

No. 8 – November 2010

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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

Autumn is always a very busy season for horse people and for the national studs' directors with stallion approvals and presentations, national breeding championships and of course preparation of the next year. It is the same at the ESSA-office, with preparation of the events at Brussels, which will be the first step of our European presence, thanks to the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry for Rural Areas, Food and Consumer Protection and the Representation of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg to the EU.

We are very happy to see the network enhanced with new members. I am sure that our activities will gain more power and efficiency when we will represent most of the European state studs. Especially, we will be able to support the member studs in those countries where the place of a state organisation is still discussed. We will be able to show examples of other European countries and the way our institutions are working in partnership with the horse industry, either for breeding only, but also for teaching, organising events, presenting the horses to visitors, and most of all preserving our cultural heritage!

Reading the article about Lipica, you will see that the battles and fights of European history have often impacted the future of the Lipizzan breed. Today, we are part of a network that tries to have all European countries working together to protect the future and the diversity of our horse breeds.

With best wishes,

Bernard Maurel



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Welcome to our new member: Piber National Stud, Austria

The ESSA network keeps growing. The Austrian National Stud Piber has joined our association.

The function of Piber National Stud is to preserve the oldest breed of horses in Europe in its original form and, at the same time, to preserve living cultural assets. Another purpose is to breed stallions especially fitted for the classic riding tradition of the “Spanish Riding School” at Vienna. As the only national stud in Austria, the stud has the responsibility for the preservation and the continuation of knowledge about breeding, raising and owning Lipizzaners as baroque show horses as old as four centuries.

The first attempts to breed Lipizzaners in Piber go back to the middle of the 19th century. They were not for the emperor but were used as workhorses. The Emperor’s Lipizzaners were bred in Lipica.

The breeding programme of the Federal Stud of Piber is based on the preservation of the 6 classical stallion lines CONVERSANO, FAVORY, MAESTOSO, NEAPOLITANO, PLUTO, SIGLAVY and on the 17 classic mare families. There are approx. 250 Lipizzaners in the stud, about 70 of those are brood mares. Between 30 and 40 foals are born each year.

Only the best young stallions of a generation are sent to the Spanish Riding School. The selection is not only based on beauty or motivation to work, but also on the probability of becoming a breeding stallion concerning his genealogy. After a successful training at the Spanish Riding School and after having gained enough experience during the shows in Vienna and all over the world, the stallion is considered to be mature enough for breeding.

Extensive restoration and a new infrastructure have turned Piber into an attractive modern stud, event location and tourist attraction. Created in 2006, the Lipizzaner World Piber offers visitors a comprehensive and interesting programme which inspires not only horse lovers but families and their offspring. Today, the Federal Stud Piber is not only an important breeding establishment ensuring the preservation of Europe’s oldest cultural horse breed and the stars of the Spanish Riding School, but also an attractive tourist attraction.

You find more information on www.piber.com



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ESSA board meeting at Chantilly

Summary of the ESSA board meeting at the Living Horse Museum of Chantilly in September:

1. Events at Brussels in November

The reception programme and invitation list are discussed. Since only a few member studs have made a financial contribution to support the events, the board decides to send formal invoices.

Due to a lack of funding and initiative by the partner studs the “Day of European Stud Culture” is postponed. It is now scheduled to take place on 7th October 2011 at Lipica.

2. European Heritage Label

The current proposal for the future European Heritage Label is presented. The national and traditional studs might have a chance to be accepted as “European Heritage”, if Lipica stud applies as “transnational site”, representing also other studs.

3. ESSA website

The new ESSA website is work in progress. The ESSA board is looking forward to have an adequate online representation soon.

4. European Horse Network membership

The ESSA board plans to join the “European Horse Network”. Representatives are invited to the reception at Brussels and some ESSA board members will attend the European Horse Network meeting at Brussels on 17th of November.

For more information about the network click www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

5. Europa Nostra membership

ESSA has applied to become a member of the European heritage organisation “Europa Nostra”. Representatives will be invited to the Brussels reception.

You find more information about the organisation here: www.europanostra.org

6. Employee exchange

Lipica and Marbach stud will start exchanging employees this winter. All ESSA partners are encouraged to offer this qualification opportunity to their employees.



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7. ESSA presence at the Avignon horse fair “Cheval Passion”

Bernard Maurel is negotiating conditions for a performance of Avenches, Lipica, Marbach and French stallions with the organisers.

8. The ESSA General Assembly 2011 is scheduled for 3rd and 4th of May at Le Pin.

ESSA receives grant by Ministry for Rural Areas, Food and Consumer Protection Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany

ESSA's application for a grant at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry for Rural Areas, Food and Consumer Protection was successful. The ministry appreciates the cooperation of the network on European level and supports ESSA with 17.000 Euros. The money will be used for promotion and communication, namely the new website, and to work out further applications for funding.

The ESSA board is extremely grateful for the financial support and the political statement connected with it.

Reception and exhibition at Brussels: *“Horses – a European Heritage The cultural heritage of Europe's National Studs”*

The preparation for the exhibition and opening event at the Representation of Baden-Wuerttemberg to the EU from 10th to 25th of November are in their final stage. Invitations have been sent to 2000 addresses including EU-politicians and representatives of the horse, agriculture and culture sector. The response is positive and the ESSA board is looking forward to make valuable contacts at Brussels.

Programme of the reception on 10th of November:

18.30 APERITIF

18.45 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

Rudolf Köberle MdL



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Minister of Rural Affairs, Food and Consumer Protection Baden-Wuerttemberg

19.00 PRESENTATION AND PANEL DISCUSSION

“Equine Research and Knowledge Transfer in Europe”

Dr. Ing. William Martin-Rosset

President Equine Sciences Board, INRA

“Principal and Federal Stud Marbach and the European State Studs Association (ESSA) – Cultural heritage, future prospects”

Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck

Director, Principal and Federal Stud Marbach

PANEL DISCUSSION

Elisabeth Jeggle MdEP, European Parliament

Dr. Alf-Eckbert Füssel, European Commission, DG SANCO

Katerina Xethali, EACEA, Agency of DG EAC

Bernard Maurel, Head of ESSA

Dr. Ing. William Martin-Rosset, INRA, Research Centre, Clermont-Ferrand

Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, Marbach

Moderation: Jan Tönjes

Vice editor ST. GEORG Equestrian Magazine, Hamburg

AFTERWARDS BUFFET AND VIEWING OF THE EXHIBITION

Marbach stallions perform at Avenches open day

On 18th and 19th of September the Suisse National Stud and the country's biggest equestrian centre at Avenches celebrated a large horse festival. There was much activity at this weekend and thousands of visitors spent a day out. Sport, show, breeding, education and a huge programme for children were on offer and it was not easy to decide whether to watch breeding classes with proud stallions, pretty mares and lovely foals, horse races, dressage, driving or show jumping competitions, even special ones for “Freiberger” horses, the typical local breed.



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Marbach stud supported the festival with a sulky quadrille in cooperation with Avenches horses and staff. Avenches performed with eight Freiburger stallions while Marbach had brought eight Blackforest Coldblood stallions. Both breeds were endangered to become extinct after the motorisation of agriculture, but could be preserved thanks to the engagement of the national studs. Today, both breeds are increasingly popular, especially for carriage driving, leisure riding and as school or therapy horses.

We hope that the success of the festival can contribute to a positive decision regarding the future of Avenches National Stud.

Excursion of vocational schools to France

As part of the international collaboration of vocational schools from France, Slovenia, Hungary, Germany and the Czech Republic, the third meeting took place in France. The project is funded by the EU programme for lifelong learning “Leonardo da Vinci” and aims to exchange experience for the education of future horse professionals. Trainees from Bábolna, Kladruby, Lipica, Marbach and Pompadour stud are involved.

Travel destinations were the city of Montmorillon with the partner school „Site Agri`Nature Jean Marie Bouloux“ and the National stud of Pompadour. Roughly 300 pupils attend the school, 80% of them residentially. The school-premises of 270 hectares include stables for horses, goats, sheep, cattle and a breeding station for dogs. The equestrian education takes place in a riding-centre in direct proximity to the school.

Education is offered in the fields of agriculture, ecology and nature preservation. As pre-condition for a qualified diploma the pupils need to spend minimum of four weeks in selected European countries. Thus, the school collected much experience cooperating with partner-schools on European level.

Endangered horse breeds are in the centre of the project. In France the participants focused on “Anglo-Arabs”. At Pompadour National Stud they could experience Anglo-Arabian horses in dressage, jumping and eventing competitions. The group also attended a foal show and observed the French evaluation system. In addition the international visitors were taken to



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the stallion depot and the technical centre at the “Jumenterie Nationale de la Riviere” and a private stud.

The famous “French Cuisine” and a final day at Paris completed the French part of the programme. The next meeting with a focus on Shagya-Arabs, will take place at Bábolna (Hungary) in December.

For more information on the project see <http://www.horsebreeding-partnership.eu/>

Lipica National Stud communicates: “430 years of history”

On 2nd and 3rd of October the Slovenian National Stud of Lipica, invited to the central jubilee celebrations of its 430th anniversary.

On Saturday, October 2nd, an international competition of obstacle driving for singles, pairs and four-in-hand for horses and ponies, as well as the national championships in obstacle driving for singles and pairs attracted many visitors.

Sunday, October 3rd was dedicated to Lipica and its famous horses. The peak of Slovene political, cultural and economic life was present and celebration speeches were given by the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Borut Pahor and Dr. Tomi Rumpf, director of the stud. The Slovenian parachutist and World Champion, Irena Avbelj, brought the flag of 430 years from the sky to the hippodrome with more than 10.000 visitors. The performance of the Lipica classical riding school was added by the herd of Lipica and a performance of guests from Germany and Hungary. Top artists inspired the show and the national TV station brought the 430 years of Lipica message to all Slovene homes.

ESSA congratulates its partner stud and sends best wishes for the next 430 years!

Country in focus: Slovenia

The year 2010 marks the 430th anniversary of Lipica stud. Reason enough to take a close look at the history of one of the oldest and most famous European studs in this issue of the ESSA courier.



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The Slovenian National Stud of Lipica is located in the picturesque Karst region of Slovenia, in the shade of century-old lime trees and oaks, just a stone's throw from the Slovenian–Italian border. The stud was founded in 1580 and since over four centuries it follows the tradition of breeding and selecting Lipizzaner horses.

The history of Lipica is closely intertwined with the Habsburgs who ruled over an extensive part of baroque Europe and relied upon the use of horses. At that time, the Spanish horse was considered an ideal breed which is why the Archduke Charles, the third son of Ferdinand I of Habsburg, chose to build the royal stud farm in the Karst due to its soil and climate being similar to that of Spain.

When the Turks left this territory after their final invasion in **1545** the summer manor of the Bishop of Trieste was damaged and then gradually abandoned. The Archduke decided in **1578** to establish a royal stud farm and on 19 May **1580** signed an agreement to restore the estate. In **1581**, twenty-four broodmares and six stallions were bought in Spain.

Under the reign of Emperor Joseph (**1705–1711**) new buildings were erected in Lipica, among which a stable for stallions (Velbanca) and a chapel with a chaplaincy. In the same period, meadows, roads and forests were prepared.

The period under Emperor Charles VI (**1711-1740**) was very important for the development of Lipica. The manager at that time, Maks pl. Oblak, later to become Baron Wolkensperg, took the lease on the former estate of the Auerspergs in Postojna. In Vienna the construction of a riding school, the purpose of which would be to supply horses for court ceremonies, started in **1729** and the school soon became famous all over the world. In **1735** 54 stallions from Lipica performed at the inauguration of the Vienna court riding hall. The stud farm in Lipica was gradually expanding when three new estates in the vicinity of Postojna were bought: Poček, Bile and Prestranek.

The Lipizzaner breed, such as it is known today, was developed in the time under the Empress Maria Theresa (**1740-1780**). It was her husband Francis Stephen, Duke of Lorraine, who took great interest in horse breeding. Of 22 stallions from the 18th century today's descendants belong to just four breeding lines: Pluto (Denmark, **1765**), Conversano (Italy, **1767**), Favory (Austria, **1779**) and Neapolitano (Italy, **1790**).



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In the period between **1797** and **1815** the stud farm was afflicted with a series of hardships and calamities. On 22 March **1797** a herd of over three hundred horses had to flee for the first time to escape Napoleon's army. The herd moved to Székesfehérvár in Hungary until the Campoformi Agreement was signed on 17 October **1797**. After that, the herd was returned safely to Lipica. Soon afterwards, in **1802**, the stud farm was damaged by an earthquake in which some buildings were destroyed and several elite stallions died.

Following the **1809** Schoenbrunn Peace Agreement, the town of Trieste and the region of Carniola were annexed to France, forcing the Emperor to withdraw for the second time the herd of 289 horses from Lipica to Peczko near Mesöhegyes in Hungary. The horses arrived in Peczko on 27 June **1809** and stayed there until **1815**. In the period under French occupation frequent epidemics decimated the herd. The original studbooks and complete documentation were lost during Napoleon's wars.

After the Vienna Conference (**1814-1815**) Lipica again fell under the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The herd returned to Lipica, the destroyed stables and other buildings were reconstructed and the almost devastated landscape restored.

In **1816** a pure-bred Arab stallion, Siglavy, born in **1810**, was introduced to the herd. The fifth classical line of Lipizzaner stallions originates from his descendants and is still being bred today. The surviving studbooks were restored. These books were then kept in duplicate; the stud farm used the first copy as a working record, while the second was kept in the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna. The oldest entries in the studbooks refer to horses born in 1810 and also contain notes on their progenitors. The oldest entry concerns the mare Golomba, born in **1738**.

At the order of Emperor Francis II the breeding stock of the stud farm was enriched by new bloodlines of predominantly Arab origin. The Arab mares gave birth to two of the total sixteen classical families of mares: Mercurio (**1806**), Djebriin (**1824**). Among many stallions introduced in the 19th century the stallion Maestoso X deserves particular attention, as he was bred in the Hungarian military stud farm Mesöhegyes. He arrived at Lipica in **1837** to form the sixth classical line of stallions which started with a stallion named Maestoso Buda (Lipica, **1821**). Among many new mares of predominantly Oriental origin another two of the sixteen classical families were formed: Gidrane (**1841**) and Theodorosta (**1870**).



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As Lipica was located relatively far from Vienna transport costs were high. Thus, the management proposed to move the stud somewhere closer to the capital. In **1848** Emperor Francis Joseph I decided to keep the stud at Lipica. The renovation was managed by an extremely efficient general, Count Karel Grünne, who lived in Lipica until **1875**.

In **1892** Emil Finger was appointed the last Austrian manager of Lipica stud. He began extensive land improvement and organised the renovation of the stables and riding grounds.

On 18 May **1915**, when Italy entered the World War I, the emperor ordered the immediate evacuation of the Lipica herd. The core herd had to abandon its homeland for the fourth time; the last train left the station on 29 May **1915**. The stallions and mares were moved to Laxenburg near Vienna and 137 foals to Kladruby nad Labem.

At the end of the war the newly-established Czechoslovakia kept all the horses from Lipica, while an international committee held negotiations on the return of part of the herd – which had been transferred to Laxenburg – back to Lipica which at that time was occupied by Italy. After marathon negotiations Lipica welcomed back 109 horses (2 stallions, 42 mares and 65 foals), representatives of all six classical lines of stallions and thirteen of the then fifteen known classical families of mares (but without any mares from the families of Gidrane, **1841**, and Rava, **1755**). Italians used the acquired breeding stock to renew breeding in Lipica. Together with the breeding stock, Italy also received the second copy of the studbooks which had been kept at the Vienna Hofburg from **1816**.

Following the capitulation of Italy, the German army occupied the region of Trieste and the Adriatic coast was annexed to the Third Reich. The Karst was the location of a partisan attack on Trieste and on 12 October **1943** the German army withdrew all 179 horses (6 stallions, 54 mares and 119 foals born between **1940** and **1943**) to Hostinec (Hostau) in the Sudetes in Czechoslovakia. The headquarters of the German cavalry added another herd of 108 horses from Piber (2 stallions, 36 mares and 70 foals) and a great number of horses of other breeds from occupied countries.

After the Yalta conference (February **1945**) Czechoslovakia was ruled by the Soviet Union. The German garrisons were disbanded and the displaced inhabitants were left to the squalor



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of post-war devastation, meaning that the breeding stock of the centuries-old Lipizzaner stud was also at stake.

The head of the US cavalry intelligence, Colonel Reed, proposed to General Patton to carry out a brisk military operation to save the horses. The American supreme military command denied the request for an operation on territory which was controlled by the Red Army. General Patton took the initiative and on 28 April **1945** the Americans conducted a bold military operation and transferred the horses to an area governed by Allied Forces.

Following the withdrawal of Allied Forces in **1947** Lipica became part of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. It only received 11 horses from the herd which was confiscated by the Germans during the war. The studbooks and 80 horses (5 stallions, 42 mares and 33 foals), which were confiscated during the war by Germans, were assigned to Italy on 18 November **1947**. The Italians first took the horses to Pinerola in Piemonte and at the beginning of **1948** they moved them to the military stud farm Montelibretti near Rome. The studbooks were used here until **1952**. Today they are kept as an important part of the heritage in the Italian state stud farm of Lipizzaners in Monterotonda near Rome.

In **1949** the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry allocated 54 Lipizzaners to Lipica. In **1950** the stud passed from federal to republican administration. It lost its estates in the vicinity of Prestranek and a large number of the best stallions and broodmares.

In **1952** a Department of "Haute École" and classic dressage riding was established. At its helm was the renowned Russian dressage trainer Akarov.

In **1953** Lipica lost its status as a state institution and fell under the jurisdiction of local and people's councils. These councils were not interested in preserving the stud and were planning to shut it down until the then president Josip Broz–Tito used his personal influence to keep it running.

In spite of difficulties, the first appearance on the international stage followed in **1956**. Alfonz Pečovnik with his mare Thais IX performed successfully in the international tournament at Vienna and one year later at Aachen.



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In **1959** Lipica was taken over by the company Jadran Sežana which covered the losses of the stud farm in the following decade. In the **1960s**, Lipica opened to the public and set the foundation its tourism development. As the costs increased, the company Jadran Sežana severed the stud farm and transformed it into the Horse-breeding Institute of Lipica. The number of horses decreased to only 59 in **1963** and the activities focused mainly on the development of tourism.

To accommodate the increasing number of visitors, Hotel Maestoso was built in **1971** and a dressage riding programme for visitors was launched. In the following year the Ministry of Agriculture cancelled the grant to the stud farm and in the same year the grant from the then republican budget was also cut. A decade of self-management, planned budget and intensive construction followed. In this period a large and a small riding hall were constructed, three outdoor riding grounds, a stable featuring a riding hall, a stable for private horses, hay barns, a hippodrome and blocks of flats for the employees. The historical appearance of Lipica changed substantially due to these new structures which today are questionable from an architectural point of view.

In **1974** the first international tournament in dressage riding was organised. Towards the end of the seventies, the life of Josip Broz–Tito was nearing the end. He tried to preserve the unity of the Yugoslav state, which was a patchwork of several nations and cultures, through his strong personality and persuasion. The internal political crisis at that time deepened as a reflection of the anticipated death of the president. Disintegration of Yugoslavia was drawing closer. Lipica was in dire straits because of the cancelled governmental support. Under the patronage of Tito, the communist government decided to build another hotel in Lipica to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the stud.

In **1980** the construction of Hotel Klub was completed and Lipica celebrated its anniversary. The representatives of all Lipizzaner stud farms and breeders attended the central event. Horses of the Vienna Spanish Riding School performed. In **1984** the Lipica team successfully performed at the dressage competition at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. In **1985** the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) dressage tournament for the World Cup took place in Lipica for the first time. In **1986** the Lipizzan International Federation (LIF) was founded at Lipica.



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The Balkan-war in **1991** slashed the number of visitors. The herd decreased drastically. Losses piled up. In **1993** Lipica organised the European Championship in dressage riding. Then, the stud's financial situation worsened and the real estate, equipment and herd of horses were ceded to the Municipality of Sežana. The latter undertook to meet the obligations of running the estate, but were unable to provide sufficient financial resources.

A government committee was established to draw up a bill on Lipica. When the “Lipica Stud Farm Act” was adopted in **1996** the stud became a public institution owned by the Republic of Slovenia. In the same year the Lipizzan International Federation celebrated its tenth anniversary in Lipica. Since the establishment of the public institution, the stud farm made significant progress. The architectural core of Lipica, which is under monumental protection, was renovated and the herd was enlarged.

In **2002** Lipica stud was recognised as a breeding organisation holding the original studbooks of the Lipizzaner breed. At the beginning of **2003** the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the “Lipica Stud Farm Protection and Development Programme for **2002-2005**”.

Today, Lipica is a jewel among the cultural and historical monuments of the Republic of Slovenia and a famous recreational centre. Visitors can choose between two hotels and are entertained by golf course, tennis courts, mini golf, saunas, swimming pool, gym and casino. The stud is home to 400 horses. Visitors can enjoy guided tours, riding lessons, carriage-rides, classical dressage performances and a look at the art gallery of August Černigoj, who used to live and work at Lipica.

Lipica is an appreciated scene of great international equestrian events. In 2010 the stud organised besides different home events the qualifiers for FEI World Cup in dressage and show-jumping and an international competition for carriage driving. In September 2011 Lipica will host the Pony World Championships in carriage driving.

ESSA dates 2010

- November 10th Reception at the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg at BRUSSELS, Belgium
- November 10th-25th Exhibition at the seat of Baden-Wuerttemberg at BRUSSELS, Belgium



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ESSA dates 2011

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| January 19 th -23 rd | Presence at the horse fair “Cheval Passion” at AVIGNON, France |
| March 12 th -20 th | Presence at the horse fair “Equitana” at ESSEN, Germany |
| May 3 rd -4 th | ESSA General Assembly at LE PIN, France |