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The President's Editorial

Dear friends,

Just a short word to make you aware of all the information you can get in this newsletter; it shows clearly the multi-orientation of our network. Don't hesitate to participate at this communication tool, giving us some short text about a partnership in between two studs in different countries, a technical exchange about breeding horses or genetic, a scientific project in cooperation with laboratories or universities, a success of a training program at European level, a project to improve the attractiveness of your stud for the public, a development action to promote your stud's heritage...
- anything that can enhance the visibility of our cultural heritage is good for our National Studs!

Because our sites are very different and because our network is regularly growing, it's very important to have occasions to meet and to present to each other our hopes, our progress and our difficulties in every European country; either as a historical monument open to tourism or as a simple link in the horse industry chain, our sites have to be protected and be used as well as possible. Most of the time we face the same situations; that's why we have to share our experiences; that's why it will be a great pleasure to meet most of you at our next General Assembly in Romania!

With my very best regards,

Bernard Maurel

New ESSA partner institution: National Stud Sieraków, Poland

It is our pleasure to welcome Sieraków National Stud as third ESSA partner institution from Poland, after Janów Podlaski and Michalów National Stud.



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The National Stallion Depot at Sieraków, located around 180 kilometers east from Berlin, was founded 1827 by the King of Prussia within the large stable facilities of the Leszczyński family. Thus, it is considered to be the oldest national stallion depot of Poland and the oldest national breeding center in Western Poland. The main task of the stallion depot was to improve the stock of horses for agriculture and military purposes in the Poznań area. During the first years of existence, breeding was based on German sires, then Thoroughbred stallions became fashionable. From time to time also heavy draught horses were used to meet the demands of agriculture. The average number of stallions used to be around 170.

Today, Sieraków is one of the most important breeding centers for native Polish breeds. The depot participates in several programmes to preserve genetic resources. Stallions of the following breeds are on offer: Sport horses (Warmblood), Malopolska, Wielkopolska, Konik Polski (Pony), Slaska (Heavy Warmblood) and Arabian horses. The traditional focus is on Wielkopolska horses, a multi-purpose breed praised for its stamina, grace and beauty. A herd of the rare Konik Polski horses is also part of the stud.

Besides rich history and breeding success, sport plays an important role at Sieraków. The stallion depot is a regional center for equestrian sports. Successes of stud horses include medals of the driving World Cup. Visitors are welcome, accommodation is offered in the historic palace.

Coming close: General Assembly 2012 in Romania

From May 7th to 9th the ESSA partner stud directors and personal members will meet at the General Assembly. The National Forest Administration Romsilva, which manages all Romanian stud farms and stallion depots, has invited to Bucharest and Jegalia National Stud. In addition to the conference, a city tour to Bucharest with festive dinner, a presentation of the different breeds of the Romsilva stud system as well as the presentation of a new film about the National Studs Sambata de Jos, Bábolna and Kladruby nad Labem will be part of the programme.



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The Swiss Institute of Equine Medicine in the National Stud in Avenches develops a foal behaviour test for Swiss breeding associations

One of the most important criteria for the evaluation and sale of horses is its temperament. As this is also a heritable trait and for a modern selection of young horses, the Association of Swiss Breeding Federations wants to develop a behaviour test for very young foals still with their mothers. The test should be standardised, repeatable, representative and easy to carry out in the stable. It also should work for all breeds.

In collaboration with the Swiss national Stud and the Universities of Berne and Basel, Anita Christen, a master student, developed some already existing foal behaviour tests and generated some new tests. These were then put together into one foal behaviour test existing out of eight small tests. In each small test the foal got one to three marks ranging from one to nine. Reaction towards humans, reaction towards an unknown object, fear reaction and physical sensibility were measured. The whole test was divided into two parts with a break in between because the young foals cannot concentrate for a long time.

In this first ESSA collaboration research work, tests were then carried out in the National Stud Lipica with horses of the Lipizzaner Breed, in Marbach State Stud with Warmblood (Württembergischer and Trakehner) and Arabian Horses and in Nuville, Switzerland, with Franches-Montagnes horses of the family Waeber. Totally 59 foals were tested in the period from August 2011 to March 2012 for four or three times, respectively. Statistical analyses are currently in progress and results are following soon!

by Anita Christen

Stallion exchange between IFCE (Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Équitation = French Institute for Horse and Riding) and Marbach State Stud

Long time ago such a partnership already existed with a French Anglo-Arab named "Too Much", who was exchanged with an Arab Thoroughbred called "Ruala Faisal". But it was last year in September at the Marbach Stallion Parades that Astrid von Velsen, director of Marbach, was enthusiastic about the presentation of ICARE d'OLYMPÉ, a former international eventer, well-schooled in dressage and with



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one of the best genetic power of French Anglo-Arab breeding. His personality, reactive and obedient is part of his charme. At the same time, Anne Charlotte Le Comte, former dressage rider of ICARE was flashing on SIR NYMPHENBURG (by Sir Donnerhall-Regazzoni), one of the very promising young dressage-stallions of Marbach who was doing the quadrille presentation. He is already father of an agreed young stallion, beautifully build, a very good mover with balance and expression, and a perfect dressage pedigree. After the required contact between the relevant authorities of France Haras (new state company in charge if the stallions in the Haras Nationaux change) and the director of Marbach, the exchange was accepted and achieved last January. Both stallions were licensed for the breeding programmes of their guest countries (Selle Francais resp. Southern German Stood Books and Trakehners). The two stallions seem to be well adapted to their new home and the actors hope that the breeders will be happy to use this new breeding potential represented by top quality horses.

Marbach opens new visitor- and seminar-centre with ESSA exhibition

In April Marbach State Stud opened its new visitor- and seminar-centre, which was established in one of the historic stable buildings in the central courtyard of the stud. The new facility is very well accepted by the stud's visitors and during the first weeks several events took place in the meeting-rooms. The first exhibition on display is the ESSA exhibition which was produced for Brussels in 2010. It can be used by all partner institutions on request.

Exhibition: "1912-2012. Stockholm – London. 100 years of competitive sports with horses" German Horse Museum, Verden

„1912 – 2012. Stockholm – London. 100 Jahre Leistungssport mit Pferden – Galerie der Besten“ (1912-2012. Stockholm – London. 100 years of competitive sports with horses –Gallery of the Best) is the title of the new special exhibition at the German Horse Museum at Verden, which highlights the 100. Jubilee of Olympic Equestrian Games on the occasion of this year's Olympics at London. With memorable illustrations and sound documents, as well as unique objects the exhibition offers a thrilling insight into the world of equestrian sports. It illustrates outstanding careers and idols, shows how demands and standards changed over time and the influence of media.



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Hundred years of horse sport also show the change of the horses' role in society from a farm animal to a leisure and sport partner. Sport became the driving factor for horse breeding and led to new demands regarding selection, training and keeping of horses. This development is also a focus of the special exhibition which accompanies the permanent exhibition about the cultural history of the horse.

For more information see <http://www.dpm-verden.de>

Exhibition: “Runners and Riders - The Rise of Modern Horse Racing”, Harley Gallery, UK

Participants of the “Days of European Stud Culture” at Lipica National Stud in October 2011 will surely remember the impressive images of Welbeck Estate shown by Dr. Peter Burman in his presentation about horse heritage in the UK. Horses have long been associated with Welbeck. In the 17th century, William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Newcastle inherited Welbeck Abbey. He built a grand riding school on the Estate and wrote groundbreaking manuals on horsemanship. Today, Welbeck is an outstanding heritage site featuring the magnificent estate with superb collections and workshops as well as the Harley Arts Studios and the Harley Gallery.

From Saturday May 5th, 2012 to February 2014 the exhibition “Runners and Riders - The Rise of Modern Horse Racing” is on display at the Harley Gallery, telling how the Cavendish-Bentinck family at Welbeck helped develop horse racing to become the sport we know today, accompanied by works by leading equestrian painters. The 4th Duke of Portland (1768-1854), was a devoted follower of horseracing and builder of 'The Portland Stand' at Newmarket. Lord George Bentinck (1802 - 1848) the 4th Duke's younger son, followed in his father's footsteps and was instrumental in developing horse racing to become the sport that we know today. Lord George earned the unofficial title of Lord Paramount of the Turf at Newmarket, and started many reforms including the use of a starting flag. He worked to eliminate fraud following the 'Dirty Derby' of 1844, and invented the horse box to move his horses to races, without tiring them with a long ride to the venue.

For more information see <http://www.harleygallery.co.uk/>



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ESSA dates 2012

May 7 th to 9 th	ESSA General Assembly at BUCHAREST, Romania
May 9 th to 11 th	International symposium “Horses, Tourism and Leisure: continuities, transformations and change” at SAUMUR, France
May 30 th to June 2 nd	European Heritage Congress 2012 in LISBON, Portugal
July 25 th to 29 th	European horse fair “Eurocheval” at OFFENBURG, Germany
August 27 th to 31 st	EAAP annual congress at BRATISLAVA, Slovakia
September 28 th to 30 th	International Conference “EQUUS- New Horse Industry Prospects in United Europe” at WARSAW, Poland