

Stallions of the F-W Line

The third article in a series by Sue French, exploring the Hanoverian bloodlines with particular reference to their influence in the development of the Hanoverian horse in New Zealand



Son of Fling - Feiner Kerl, founded the F branch of the modern day F-W line

All modern stallions of this line go back to **Fling**, a descendant of a Pomeranian TB, **Zernebog**, which stood in the mid 1800s. **Fling** stood from 1913 – 1922, and his descendants today trace back to one or other of two of his sons – **Feiner Kerl and Flavius**. For some time in the mid 1900s, F-line horses were often given a W name, hence we have the rather confusing issue of Ferdinand's sons, for example, whose names begin with W. But from 1989 the line was officially separated into the F and W lines. Now, all stallions licensed in and since 1989 and tracing back to Feiner Kerl, belong to the F-line; all those going back to Flavius form the W-line; which is how Ferdinand's W-sons now have F-named descendants.

The Feiner Kerl F-line Ferdinand



Ferdinand, descendant of Feiner Kerl and grandsire of NZ's first Hanoverian stallion

Feiner Kerl stood at Celle from 1922 – 1943, producing 114 licensed sons, of which the most famous is **Ferdinand**, whose line still exists today. He stood from 1944 – 1967. His descendants thrilled showjumping audiences all over Europe in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Ferdinand's performance progeny amassed earnings of well over DM1,000,000; most well remembered among them include, in jumping, **Ferdl**, which, as a relatively inexperienced youngster, went to the 1960 Rome Olympics with Alwin Schockemoehle - part of the German team, which won gold; the diminutive **Flipper**, ridden by Hugo Simon, won prize money of DM290,000; **Pomme d'Api** with Belgian Eric Wauters won more than DM100,000. In dressage competition, a Ferdinand son, **Mehmed**, ridden by Reiner Klimke, went twice to the Olympic Games as part of the gold winning West German team - 1972 in Munich and in 1976 at Montreal, where **Mehmed** also won individual bronze. In 1974, **Mehmed** and Klimke won the World Dressage Championship.

Ferdinand's line continued in Germany through three of his sons – **Wendekreis, Winnetou and Wedekind**.

Of these three, the one that has had the most lasting influence, has been **Wendekreis**.

Wendekreis:

Offspring of Wendekreis have won almost 1.4 million DM in competition and he has produced 49 approved breeding sons. His influence has extended largely through his son, **Werther**, whose dam, by the Thoroughbred stallion Marcio xx, exerted a refining influence. Werther produced offspring for dressage and for jumping. According to the 2005 Hanoverian Stallion Year Book, Werther's progeny had earnings in sport of over 1.4 million Euro. He had (at that time) 11 offspring with prize money



The Ferdinand son, **Wendekreis**, has had a lasting influence

of more than 10,000 Euro in dressage competition; in showjumping, six of his get had won more than 15,000 Euro. Werther has 41 licensed stallion sons and was himself named Hanoverian stallion of the year in 1992.

Other important sons of Wendekreis were **Wagner** (from a Gotthard mare), which sired **Wanderer**, and from a Duellant mare, **Wendulan**.

Wanderer had 29 licensed sons, among them **Kasting Horses Wait and See**, which won more than DM172,000 in jumping competition, the breeding stallions **Falkland**, **Wanderbursch I and Wanderbursch II**. **Falkland**, born in 1987, is still an active breeding stallion and is sire of the modern time stallion, **Frenchman** (from a Weltmeyer mare), which gained second place in his performance test in 1999.

Wendulan, according to the 2009 Stallion Year Book, has only one licensed son, but that son, out of Agmara (Azur/Leutnant P.B.) is the dual talented **Fabriano**, which won his stallion performance test at Adelheidsdorf in 1990. **Fabriano** is sire of **Fisherman's Friend**, imported into Australia in 2006.



The Ferdinand son, **Winnetou**, was sire of the first two Hanoverian stallions to come to NZ.

Winnetou

In Germany, Winnetou's name can still be found in a few pedigrees, mainly in the dam's side, but he has left a strong foundation in New Zealand in our mare population. A Winnetou son, **Winnebago** (out of a Wulf mare), was the first Hanoverian stallion imported into New Zealand. He served for only three seasons, before fertility problems ended his breeding career. Gelded and sold to America, he had a new life as a successful showjumper. His total branded progeny, which numbered only 38, included advanced dressage horses **Felicitation**, **Flair and Waldebago**. **Gabana**, Louisa Hill's mount at the 2004 Athens Olympics, was out of the Winnebago mare **Woodfield Wychwood**. In showjumping, **Bago**, which went to the 1988 Seoul Olympics as the mount of Mark Todd, was by Winnebago; Winnebago also sired **Tempo** (bred by Mrs P.A. Pickin, out of the Oakville mare, **Nipsey xx**), which was part of Blyth Tait's eventing stable in England, and Neil Sharpe's advanced eventer, **Winter Oak**, bred by Judy Wear. out of her good thoroughbred mare, Arctic Oak xx (also by Oakville xx).

Without a doubt, this is an impressive number of talented progeny from such a small pool. The loss of Winnebago must have been keenly felt by NZ breeders of his time.

Fortunately, his daughter **Felicitation** and others have carried his genes through to the present day.



Left: The Winnetou son, **Winnebago**, was the first Hanoverian stallion imported into New Zealand.



Above: Another Winnetou son, **Witzbold**, replaced Winnebago

a Witzbold mare.

For eventing, Witzbold produced the highly successful **Writzmarc**, which was sold to Holland and represented that country at the Barcelona Olympics, finishing 15th individually.

The F-line in NZ Hanoverian breeding in the 21st century

Limonit (Lancier/Weltadel/Salvano): his sire, Lancier is out of Wendekrone, by **Wendekreis**. Limonit passed his Performance Test at Adelheidsdorff in 2002, scoring 135.10 (third place) for dressage and 112.73 (thirteenth place) for his jumping. His total score of 130.10 placed him third out of fifty stallions. He was imported into NZ in 2005; his first crop of NZ foals was born in 2006.

Anamour (Aalborg/Lombard/Dunkel): his sire, Aalborg has **Wendekreis** in the fourth generation. Anamour passed his Performance Test at Adelheidsdorf in 1994, scoring 112.64, placing 11/40. He has been serving in NZ since 1995 and also has foals in Australia by transported semen. The success of his progeny here in dressage has been well documented; such names as **All Black II**, **Avante Garde**, **Winter Acacia** and **KH Arvan** are familiar to NZ dressage enthusiasts. As well, Anamour has several offspring proving themselves in eventing.

Fabriano: breeder Jo McNicoll imported **Fabrice**, a mare by Fabriano from which she has bred two foals by **Anamour** and one by **Wolkentanz I**; all three owe their existence to the technique of embryo transfer.



The Wendekreis son, Fabriano, has been used with success in NZ, by frozen semen.

Winnebago was immediately replaced by another Winnetou son, **Witzbold**, who had Lugano II as his damsire. Witzbold has had a lasting influence in the New Zealand Hanoverian breeding programme, having served for 18 years, producing 173 registered progeny. His daughters have almost all finished active breeding, but their daughters and granddaughters remain in our mare base to continue his legacy.

In competition, Witzbold's daughter, **Waikare**, out of a Rocky Mountain xx mare, bred by Mr B & Mrs M Pyke, took NZ's Kallista Field to 15th place in the dressage at the Sydney Olympics; **Mosaic**, from the stable of Eric Ropiha, took Australian Mary Hanna to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, also in dressage; the showjumper **Monopoly**, bred by John Cottle from a thoroughbred mare by Abridge Member xx, partnered Canadian Beth Underhill in International competition from 1990 until his retirement in 2001 at the age of 21, during which time he won over \$1,000,000 in prize money. The nationally successful showjumping daughter of Allermund, **Antipodes**, was out of

By Frozen semen,

Exploring the pedigree backgrounds of some of the stallions available by frozen semen, I quickly realized that to find a Hanoverian pedigree that did NOT include descendants of Fling is like finding a thoroughbred pedigree that does not include descendants of Hyperion – almost impossible. However, the most obvious examples of F-line stallions used successfully in NZ by frozen semen includes, but is not limited to

Fabriano (Wendulan/Azur/Lanthan) his sire, **Wendulan**, is a son of **Wendekreis**. On Fabriano's dam side we find descendants of both **Feiner Kerl** and **Flavius**.

Fabriano was Champion of his 100-Day Test (133.02), placing 4th in dressage (128.55) and first in jumping (132.37). He has gained a listing in the Hanoverian Stallion Yearbook and is included in the Hanoverian Verband's "Toplist" for passing on outstanding qualities in both dressage and jumping. He already has fifteen approved breeding sons and 120 State Premium mares to his credit.

His offspring are reputed to have wonderful temperaments, willing attitude and a good work ethic. In competition, progeny by Fabriano or out of Fabriano mares are successful in Germany and in America, and have won over 460,000 Euro.

Brentano II (Bolero/Grande/Ferdinand) whose sire **Bolero** has **Fling** on his dam's side and whose dam, **Glocke**, was out of a **Ferdinand** mare. He has 20 licensed breeding stallions and 101 State Premium mares. In sport he is represented by Debbie McDonald's medal winning Olympic dressage mare, **Brentina**, Brentina's full brother **Barclay II**, ridden by Swen Rothenberger, and others. He was the damsire of **Poetin**, who was twice German National Champion (2003, 2005) and was the 2003 World Young Dressage Horse Champion in the six-year-old division. His progeny have total earnings of over 472,000 Euro.

Brentano II won the dressage section (score 141.41) of his Stallion Performance Test in 1986 and came second overall. In 2003 he was named Hanoverian Stallion of the Year. He himself was trained in dressage to Grand Prix level.

Gymnastik Star: his paternal grandsire is out of a **Wendekreis** mare; his second dam is by **Werther**. He was imported into Australia where his first foals were born in 1999. His oldest progeny are starting to show their worth, especially (in NZ) **Geldof MH**, bred by Matthews Hanoverians from an **Allermund** mare. Ridden by Sarah Matheson-Reay, Geldof has risen up the ranks this season and been winning dressage championships at Medium level.

De Niro: his dam **Alicante** has **Ferdinand** in the third and fourth generations. De Niro placed second overall in his Stallion Performance Test at Adelheidsdorff in 1996, winning the dressage section convincingly with a score of 145.41. In competition, De Niro himself is successful at Grand prix level, and his offspring have won more than 438,500 Euro. He has 25 Hanoverian approved breeding sons, (including the 2004 Licensing champion, **Dancier**), and 108 State Premium mares. He has been awarded the title Hanoverian Stallion of the Year, 2008.

Don Frederico: his third dam is by Wendekreis

Arguably the most outstanding breeding son of the mighty dressage producer, Donnerhall, Don Frederico won the dressage section in his Stallion Performance test at Adelheidsdorff in 2000, with a score of 151.67, gaining second place overall. He already has 20 Hanoverian approved breeding sons, including the current World champion Young Dressage Horse, Dramatic, and 111 State Premium mares.

Information for this article was taken from a lecture by Dr. Ludwig Christmann during the Breed Orientation course 2002, a talk by Dr. Jochen Wilkens during his NZ tour in 2005, the Hannoveraner Jarbuch Hengste (various years), The Hanoverian by Christian Freiherr von Stenglin, published by J.A.Allen and Der Hannoveraner by Arnold Schlie.

Photographs of Ferdinand and Winnetou are from the Hanoverian Stallion register.

In part two of this article, we will look at the Flavius branch of the F-W line.