

Stallions of the F-W Line

Part two of 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

In part one of this article, we saw how all modern stallions of the F/W line go back to Fling through one or other of his two sons, Feiner Kerl and Flavius. We looked at descendants of Feiner Kerl, in particular Ferdinand, whose grandson, Witzbold, stood at stud in New Zealand from 1978 to 1986. Modern Hanoverian stallions licensed in and since 1989 and tracing back to the Feiner Kerl branch of this line, now bear F-names.

In this, the second part, we will look at the Flavius branch of the F/W line. Modern descendants of this branch of the F-W line carry W-names (e.g. Weltmeyer).

The Flavius W-line



Woermann



World Cup I

According to Christian Freiherr von Stenglin, in his book "The Hanoverian", **Flavius**, who stood at stud from 1918 to 1935, produced mainly farm horses. However, his most prepotent son, **Flugelmann I** (out of an Alderman I mare), passed on very energetic paces, and so the line still survives today. Over the last two decades, descendants of this line have had a profound influence on the breeding of horses for dressage throughout the world. This is the line that produced the legendary **Weltmeyer**.

The Flugelmann grandson, **Woehler**, (who carried Flavius on both sides of his pedigree), founded a mainly dressage bloodline through his son **Woermann**, who stood from 1975-1988. Woermann passed on his very good conformation. His most important sons were **Wenzel I**, out of a Matador/Don Carlos mare, and **World Cup I**, from a Sender/Lugano I dam.

Wenzel I was winner of his performance test at Adelheidsdorff in 1979, and best young Hanoverian stallion of his age group in 1980. He has 34 licensed stallion sons to his credit and 71 state premium mares. In performance, his most well known offspring include Louise Nathorst's **Walk on Top** and Emma Hindle's Dutch bred stallion, **Lancet**. He is damsire of Isabell Werth's **Anthony FRH** and **Warum Nicht FRH**, and paternal grandsire of **Jongger's Weydon**. Wenzel I was the WBFSH leading dressage sire of 1997/1998.

A year younger than Wenzel I, **World Cup I** repeated his older brother's success, winning his performance test at Adelheidsdorff in 1980, best young Hanoverian stallion of his age group in 1981, and was proclaimed Hanoverian Stallion of the year 1996. Of his 18 licensed sons, the most well known are **Walt Disney I**, **Warkant**, and **Weltmeyer**. Of these three, **Warkant** and **Weltmeyer** have had the more far reaching influence.

Warkant, (out of a mare by Grande/Pik Koenig) is blessed with exceptional movement and good type. He was one of the stars of the Celle stallion parades because of his excellent basic gaits and his expressive trot. He has sired 55 State Premium mares and 18 licensed stallion sons; his performance offspring include **Wahajama** (successful in Grand Prix dressage with Ann-Kathrin Linsenhoff), **Wansuela Suerte** (part of the winning German team at the Aachen WEG), and **What a Feeling**. In competition his offspring have earned more than 830,000 Euro (Hanoverian Stallion Yearbook 2009). **Warkant** was Hanoverian Stallion of the Year 2002.

Warkant is often found as the damsire, as in the case of the outstanding Celle State Stud sire, **Londonderry**.



Weltmeyer at 14 years of age: Hanoverian Stallion of the Year 1998



Like peas in a pod: Four Weltmeyer sons in a ridden display



Wolkentanz I (Weltmeyer/Ludendorff)

born as a result are now being used for breeding, including the first Weltmeyer foal to be bred in NZ, bred by the Hewittsons and sold to Fiona McCrostie.

In Australia, the Woermann son **Winter Koenig** stood for many years at Kinnordy Stud and so we also find some Winter Koenig daughters in our NZ brood mare band.

Weltmeyer. This breeding stallion phenomenon is a legend in his own lifetime and must surely be remembered as one of the great stallions of the 20th century.

It is not possible to do justice to this dynasty in a small article such as this.

According to his breeder, Herman Meyer, Weltmeyer created excitement right from his birth in 1984; at his licensing in 1986 he became Champion and won his performance test at Adelheidsdorff the following year. He was best stallion of his age group in 1988, in fact, **Weltmeyer** won everything that there was available for him to win; the Federal Championship and the DLG exhibition. He is trained up to Grand Prix level in riding. Many of his stallion sons have also been champions of their licensing and gone on to win their performance tests and his daughters also have been well placed at mare shows.

Weltmeyer's offspring have won almost 2 million Euro in competition; they include **Warum Nicht FRH**, **Weltall VA**, **Wie Weltmeyer**, **Weserperle** and **Wallstreet**. Weltmeyer also appears in the pedigree as damsire of many successful performance and breeding horses.

In 1998, **Weltmeyer** was awarded the title: Hanoverian Stallion of the Year".

Weltmeyer has 416 State premium mares and 85 licensed breeding sons, and at the age of 25 is still a serving stallion. He passes on to his offspring his very good conformation, his outstanding trot and canter and powerful hock action. (statistics taken from the Hanoverian Stallion Year book 2009).

The Woermann line in New Zealand

The genes of **Weltmeyer** first arrived in New Zealand with his daughter, the German State Premium mare candidate **Wel Kantje**, out of a Pik Bube mare, imported by Judith Matthews in 1996. I well remember witnessing a demonstration of the powerful Weltmeyer trot when Wel Kantje, under rider Louisa Hill, was shown under saddle at a Hanoverian Open day north of Auckland.

Wel Kantje started her broodmare career while still a competition horse, thanks to modern equine reproductive technology. Her first foals were the result of successful embryo transfer. She competed successfully up to Medium level before retiring to the broodmare paddock full time.

Judith and Peter Matthews have two other Weltmeyer daughters – **Weltliebe**, out of a Dobrock mare (Donnerhall bloodline) and **Witsun**, out of a Golfstrom mare. **Witsun**, who has a licensed breeding son at stud in England, was originally imported as a riding horse by Jo McNicoll. She has produced three **Anamour** daughters for Jo and another by **Earl**, before the Matthews purchased her.

Another imported mare from this line belongs to Janine Scott of Otaki. She is the **Waterford** daughter, **Wiona B**. Waterford is by the Weltmeyer son, **Wolkenstein II**.

No Hanoverian approved breeding stallions from Woermann's line have been imported into New Zealand, but some of our breeders have used frozen semen from **Weltmeyer** and his sons, **Wolkentanz I & II**, and **Worldly**. Some of the fillies