

RAMZES, The Century Sire

By Donna Coss

CUMANO, was the winner of the 2006 World Equestrian games in Aachen, completing ten tough rounds with only one fence left down! This stunning and formable, white Holsteiner stallion from Belgium, had already won the Calgary Grand Prix.

It seems that in order to compete in International Show Jumping you have to ride a grey Holsteiner whose name begins with C. The Holsteiner society would be thrilled to see how much the breed has permeated the show jumping scene. One after another beautiful grey horses came into the arena- Cartier, Coster, Curtis, Clinton, Camiro, Cayak, Cavalor Cumano and Campus.

What is interesting is almost all of these horses have the Century Stallion, RAMZES in their PEDIGREE. How did a Polish stallion, born in 1937, come to have such an influence in the Grand Prix show jumping scene, even in to 2006.

Then one compares the dressage world and the famous "R" line, the "R" standing for RAMZES. It seems while in Holstein, Ramzes bred show jumpers and in Westfalia, he produced dressage horses. How is it that a stallion sired by a Throughbred, RITTERSPORN and out of a SHAGYA ARABIAN mare, JORDI, came to have such a powerful influence upon the Warm Blood stud books following WWII?

RAMZES was born on the estate of the Countess Marie Plater-Zyberk in Poland. At the age of two, following the occupation of Poland by the German army, he stood at the regional stud farm of Janov Podlaski. During the war, many horses met unfortunate ends, but RAMZES was one of the favorites, first being driven in a

team of four and then ridden under saddle as a hunter.

RAMZES became the property of Baron von Nagel about the same time his estate, Vomholz in Westphalia, was becoming known as a producer of fine performance horses.

The show jumping rider and trainer, "Mickey" Brinkmann, campaigned RAMZES as a jumper, until a pastern fracture ended the stallion's riding career. In 1951 and 1952 RAMZES stood at the Holstein state stud of Neuendorf as a leased stallion, where he sired such excellent horses as RETINA, ROMANUS, and RAMONA. These three horses were the foundation of RAMZES fame in Holstein and were the impetus for a further two season at stud in 1959 and 1960.

One of RAMZES offspring is the Holsteiner mare, VASE, who seems to represent the common factor that has contributed to the "C" line dominating the world jumper scene. CAPITOL I is intensely line bred to RAMZES three times in the close up pedigree. It seems that "on paper" the recorded pedigree has been disputed. Vases's grey son, Grand Vicar, a brother of FOLIA and VASE daughter, was seen frolicking with RETINA in the paddock! If the suspicions, which were never substantiated by appropriate genetic tests, are true, then CAPITOL would be the product of intensive in-breeding, and RAMZES blood would be in his genes via RETINA and VASE, and a third time via his grand-sire.

Even without this knowledge, it is noteworthy that of the 2004 sires of WEG Grand Prix jumpers, RAMZES appears in 48% of the pedigrees and in 2006 a "C"

line stallion, CUMANO, was the WEG winner!

RAMZES dam, JORDI, is a Shagya Arabian, that is a breed, that was developed in 1789 by the Austro Hungarian monarchy who recognized the need for a superior riding type horse, suitable for the Army and for Military tests. They derived a blue print for this IDEAL sport horse, a hot blood, refreshed with pure Arabian blood every four or five generations. This breed was tested to meet stringent standards like none seen, even in today's world.

Before WWII they were known as the DIAMONDS of the horse world and were in great demand throughout the world. After WWII only 300 of the Shagya were left, but their influence has been felt throughout the sport horse world. Almost every WARM BLOOD registry welcomes Shagya blood. Even the TRAKEHNER has seen the influence of RAMZES through stallions such as CONDUS. CHRYSOS and TEMPELRITTER

The RAMZES son, REMUS won individual dressage silver and team gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Two years later, another son, MARIANO, won the World Dressage championship and REMUS collecting another silver medal. MARIANO, won silver at the 1968 Games, and four years later at the Munich games, another son, ROBIN, was a member of the German gold medal winning show jumping team.

The RAMZES son, Radetzky established in Westfalia a line that led to RMADOUR II and in turn to his gold medal winning son, REMBRANDT

RAMZES produced five licensed sons, while at Holstein, including RAIMOND

and RIGOLETTO, RAIMOND was the sire of RAMIRO, one of the most successful jumping sires of them all.

The 1989 AHSA jumper of the year, SALUUT II has RAMZES on both sides of his pedigree and in 1990, the RAMZES grandson, CHYRSOS was named the USDF Sire of the Year. REMBRANDT, another "R" line stallion received the high score of 76% at Grand Prix.

RAMZES passed on a more baroque conformation type, lending to more suppleness, and making it easier to do the collections for the higher level movements in dressage. At the same time, this added a roundness of frame that provides a higher more swan-like neck set to enable a horse to lift it's knees higher, and to give a rounder frame for more bascule over the jump and slightly more natural break at the knee for a tighter front end over jumps.

All this RAMZES provided, plus a larger eye, more expressive face, rounder musculing, denser bone and increased endurance. RAMZES did not stand at stud for many years, having only four complete breeding seasons. His influence is, he still founded one of the great stallion lines of Holstein. He himself sired a huge number of beautiful, supple performance horses. He was known as a producer of great brood mares and much of his influence carries on through these grand old mares.

Once in awhile, something comes along like RAMZES. He was the most spectacular horse of the 20th century in many ways. He sired 195 offspring from mares of varying quality. Most of these were in the upper 25th percentile of national competition. And to do it in both the dis-

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ciplines of jumping and dressage is really quite remarkable.

RAMZES blood has also been successful in New Zealand through RAMZES II, who goes back to this blood twice. Also successful is RAMIREZ with again two lines to RAMZES. It seems that a little RAMZES is good, but the true test is when it is added and found even four times in a pedigree. Not surprising, when one realizes the refined and distilled Shagya blood through his dam, JORDI, which already was a result of intensive line breeding.

Today, RAMZES influence is real, but the Thoroughbred X Shagya cross is rarely seen! Probably because the Shagya breed is still in small numbers with only about 2500 seen world wide.

It is a powerful cross, just as potentially competitive as it was before RAMZES death in 1963. This F-1 cross appears to enhance and blend the best from both breeds. The Shagya still produces and modifies into a rounder and more supple appearance and best of all, tempers the flightingness and reactive mode of the Thoroughbred mind.

This produces a competitive sport horse that is perfect for the Hunter and sport horse market. It seems a perfect combination!

How does this cross differ from the Anglo Arabian? The French Anglo Arab may have either a purebred Arabian or a purebred Shagya as one of the parents, which in the U.S. is not a registered cross. Because the Shagya is an Arabian breed, but a breed without any of the typical, quickly, reactive temperament, it is, and seems to be an ideal cross. The Shagya was line-bred to be a

calm, steady mount under military stress and this is one of the most inheritable aspects the breed offers to any breeding program.

The American Shagya Arabian Verband made the decision to form a registry for this amazing breed type. Performance records can be kept and breeders will have recognition for this significant cross. And perhaps the Shagya half of RAMZES bloodline will be recognized for its own worth.

The Anglo Shagya must be from registered Thoroughbred and Shagya horses and any combination of one fourth to half is acceptable. This breed cannot be used for purebred Shagya breeding, but will represent its own unique genetic value.

Information about registering your Anglo Shagya cross can be found on the web site www.shagyaregistry.com