

## **Monogramm: Polish influence 1995 to 2005**

By Jeffrey Wintersteen

In October of 1988 at the US Nationals in Louisville Kentucky, two distinguished guests from Poland sat in attendance for the Futurity Colt Finals; Michałów Director Ignacy Jaworowski and Inspector of Horse Breeding in Poland Izabella Zwadska. In the ring, their eyes were focused on the epitome of Arabian type and motion, the uniquely bred grand son of world renowned Bask, the dynamic chestnut colt Monogramm. The young stallion made an indelible impression on them both, for he was the end of a search by the Michałów Director to bring to Poland the blood of Bask -- never before used at the State Studs. As a bonus, the colt also represented the tail female of Mammona, lost to the Russians in 1939. Izabella and Director Jaworowski approached Monogramm's owners, Bill Meredith, and Shilo Bishop about the possibility of leasing him to Poland. Finally, in October 1992 Monogramm boarded a plane for Poland, marking the first time an American bred sire would be used at the State Studs. The following spring of 1993, Monogramm covered 55 mares with the resulting foals of such a high quality; he covered 77 the next year, more than any other stallion in the history of Polish breeding. Additionally, an extension to the lease was made to include more mares via frozen semen.

In the spring of 1995 at Bialka Stud, the first of the Monogramm foals in Poland unceremoniously entered the show ring for the Polish Spring Show. The results, while unheralded internationally, were convincing evidence of Director Jaworowski's wisdom to lease Monogramm. My parents and I were fortunate to visit Poland shortly after the show, and still have a clear vision of standing in the colt pasture at Michałów, waist deep in grass and surrounded by some 60 yearling and two year old colts. A steel grey was an absolute standout, and we asked Roma Skrzydlewska who was assisting us for the day about him. Roma, relatively new to the stud was not completely sure of his parentage, but figured he was a Monogramm, as a majority of the yearlings were from Monogramm's first crop. Roma was also sure the gray yearling was Junior Champion of Poland. We were so taken with the colt we actually waited around the barn for the grooms to bring in the colts in from pasture so we could verify his pedigree. Roma had been correct and instructed one of the grooms to bring him out for closer inspection along with a timid bay stable mate. Before I left, I scribbled in both colts' names with their dams into my notebook.

When Roma informed Director Jaworowski of our choices, he congratulated us in German, "Sie haben gute Augen!" [You have good eyes!] We left the next day, but the gray colt was still very much on our minds and we asked Roma a personal favor to "keep an eye out for him" over the next few years. Hindsight reveals what a silly request it was, as I look back at the names scribbled down in haste as I left the barn that spring: "EKSTERN out of Ernestyna and GANGES out of Garonna (both by Monogramm)".

EKSTERN would insist that the entire world take notice, not just a few breeders from the United States. He is, perhaps, Monogramm's greatest success in the show ring, having retired undefeated. After having won Junior Champion Colt of Poland that spring in 1995, EKSTERN amassed an enormously impressive string of wins including European Champion, World Champion, Polish National Champion Stallion, along with various

other regional and international wins. He returned to his native Poland after his lease to Belgium in 2000 -- a memorable event at the Polish Nationals. He is also proving himself a sire, having sired the beautiful Michałów filly WILGA, who won her yearling class at Polish Nationals in 2000. Wilga is also proving herself a broodmare of extraordinary merit as her daughter WILDA, was class winner of yearling fillies in the 2005 Polish Spring with an outstanding score of 93.00, including three 20's! Other class winners for Ekstern at Polish Nationals include WIEZA MARZEN and DROGA MLECZNA. On the colt side, Ekstern sired the very similar looking ESPARTO, Reserve Polish National Junior Colt in 2004. Also SZANTA was Reserve Champion at an international show in Denmark and Best in Show for Polish Private Breeders National Championship.

GANGES was certainly a timid youngster, in stark contrast to the showy Ekstern. He did, however, boast the best racing dam of all the Monogramm get with the Oaks winner and Junior Champion Filly of Poland Garonna. After his Reserve Junior Polish National Colt Championships in 1995 and in 1996, GANGES began turning heads at the track in Warsaw. His most notable accomplishment was winning the Kohelian I Stakes, making him the best racing progeny of Monogramm. What returned from the track, however, was anything but timid! This classic Kuhailan stallion was a favorite of Polish National show goers long before he finally won the Stallion title in 2001. He also won All Nations Cup Reserve Champion before arrangements for a lease were then negotiated and he was warmly welcomed in the US for a two-year run that netted US National Reserve Champion Stallion. As a sire, most notably is his ultra exotic WIEŻA WIATRÓW, class winner and 2002 Reserve Champion Filly of Polish Nationals who then sold for the unprecedented sum of \$250,000 USD in the annual sale.

While these two are, without question, the ambassadors of the Monogramm sons, the list of other champion sons is truly noteworthy. EL MUNDO made the most of his brief show ring appearances and netted a "Triple Crown" with Scottsdale, US and Canadian National Championships Stallion AOTH. Another typey and athletic gray that has had enormous success in the halter ring is KORDELAS, World Champion Top Ten, All Nations Cup Top Five, and British Regional Supreme Champion Stallion. After his arrival in the US, he began his second career under saddle after his nice success on the track, this time in reining -- one that has proved extremely promising. Already he has a US Regional Top Five Reining and a US National Top Ten Reining to his credit. Kordelas's sons and daughters are also amassing regional show wins.

Besides Kordelas, another European success would certainly be PREMIER. With his flamboyant motion, Premier is a standout in true Monogramm tradition. Having a World Champion Top Ten, European Top Five, and Reserve British National Championship to his credit. Premier was also named Champion at the Bloomerod show in Sweden and Reserve Champion at the UK International. FURIAT, Swedish National Champion, Polish National Junior Champion Colt, would eventually make his way to the US to stand at Sherwood Forest Farms. FERNANDO also has some Swedish credentials, recently named Reserve Champion at the All Scandinavian Open. Other stallions needing mention with European wins would be EMFATYK, Austrian National Champion Stallion and NORMAN who won the Baeleric Championship in Spain.

It is not just Americans and Europeans that have been noticing the show and breeding potential the Monogrammm sons, Brazilians have also had great success, in particular ERBIL, the Polish National Junior Champion Colt that went on to win a Brazilian Nationals Top Ten. Another imported Polish Monogrammm son to Brazil is the striking, long necked DĘBOWIEC, while not entering the show ring, he is demonstrating great promise as a sire, most notably his son QUIEW MRT, recently named Brazilian Reserve Champion Colt and full brother THYAR DE WIEC already on sire duties himself.

Certainly Monogrammm's influence through his Polish born sons has been felt globally, but it is perhaps through his daughters that Polish breeding will be most profoundly affected. Indeed, the first group of yearling Monogrammm fillies was shown in the 1995 Polish Nationals and only the Janów's stellar Albula was able to stem the tide of a complete sweep of the 1-5 positions. While Albula went on to win the Junior Filly Championships and Best in Show, it was the Reserve Champion Michałów Monogrammm daughter ZAGROBLA that would eventually enchant show rings on two continents. For after two Reserve Junior Filly Championships in Poland, she would cross outside of Poland for unprecedented success in Europe, capturing All Nations Cup and World Champion Mare titles. Her exploits did not go unnoticed across the Atlantic and a lease arrangement with Jeff Wallace of the US was made for a US show ring tour that culminated in a US National Championship – the second straight for a Monogrammm daughter from Poland.

The first, of course, was the '95 Monogrammm daughter, KWESTURA, who entered the Polish Nationals ring for the first time in 1996 to a resounding win of Polish Junior Champion Filly. This exotic chestnut female version of her sire is fittingly out of the Russian influenced Kwesta, like Monogrammm himself. Thought by many to be the crème de la crème of the Monogrammm daughters, Kwestura amassed an enviable show record in Europe of All Nations Cup Champion Mare, European Champion Mare, and World Reserve Champion Mare along with Reserve Champion Mare in her native Poland in addition to her Junior Championship. As mentioned, she also made the trip to the US a year earlier than Zagrobla and won the prestigious Buckeye Mare Championship and US National Champion Mare, capturing in process a new generation of American breeders hearts, and redefining Polish "type".

While certainly Zagrobla and Kwestura are the shining stars, there still remains an abundant riches of Monogrammm daughters. 4<sup>th</sup> in Zagrobla's 1995 yearling class at Polish Nationals was the excellent EKSCELLA, Polish National Champion Mare and a 2004 Pride of Poland sale graduate for 120,000 Euros. The 5<sup>th</sup> place finisher was PALESTYNA, winner of All Nations Cup 4-6 year Old Mares sold in 2004 for 300,000 Euros, a Polish sale record for a mare.

Kwestura's classmates in the 1996 Polish Nationals Yearling Fillies was 2<sup>nd</sup> place FALLADA who has captured Polish National Champion Mare, World Reserve Champion Mare, Polish Reserve National Champion Filly, All Nations Cup Class Winner 6-8 years old. This stunning chestnut, while somewhat in the shadow of her sisters, has faithfully carried the Monogrammm mantle in Europe and stands ready for a US debut this fall.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher from Kwestura's 1996 yearling class was the gray EGZONERA, who has also traveled to the US and already garnered show ring acclaim at Region II Championships and the prestigious Scottsdale show, capturing Reserve Champion Mare at both. Before her departure, she had won All Nations Cup Top Five Mare in Europe.

The 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher from the 1996 yearling filly class was PALMIRA, full sister to older Palestyna. Palmira, in addition to many regional accolades also has the title of World Reserve Champion Mare.

Some fillies, though not shining initially, still have gone on to prove their merit in the show ring, of these ESKALOPKA (1994) is probably the most notable. Her accolades in the show ring include Polish National Reserve Champion Mare, World Champion Top Ten Mare, and European Champion Mare. Another mare that has gained recognition across Europe was foaled the following year, ELANDRA – World Champion Top Ten Mare, European Champion Mare 7-9 years old, All Nations Cup Top Ten Mare, and Pozan Reserve Champion. Of those out of efforts with frozen semen, certainly EMMONA is a phenomenal success story. Foaled in 1998, she went on to Polish National Reserve Junior Champion Filly and the prestigious title of World Junior Champion Filly.

Other notables from Michalów that deserve mention are PALASTRINA, British National Reserve Junior Champion Filly and the Reserve Swedish Champion Filly and All Scandinavian Champion Filly ZALOTNA.

It is not only the State Stud Michalów that has enjoyed success. Several private breeders also took advantage of Monogramm's time in Poland; the most successful of these was GRACJA BIS – Polish Private Breeders Junior Champion Filly.

As with any remarkable sire, it is not the first generation of fillies and mares that will have the greatest impact, but how those daughters produce. It is in this function that it appears Monogramm will perhaps leave his greatest impact for Poland. The most noteworthy success so far is EMBRA, who produced the stunning EMIRA by the Israeli stallion Laheeb. Emira, the essence of exotic type, already has a World Top Ten and Reserve European Championship to her credit. She has also won both Polish National Junior and Senior Championships, and in doing so becomes one of only four mares to have accomplished that double, joining legendary greats Emanacja, El Dorada, and Eula.

Also, the afore mentioned Gracja Bis's Pesal colt GIRLAN BEY, was not only Junior Champion of Poland, but was Reserve Junior Champion Colt of the European Championships as well. He remains not only a success story of Monogramm in Poland, but the re-emergence of the private breeders as well. Other winners out of Monogramm daughters are bay colt Polish Junior Champion Colt DRABANT (Spring Show 2004) and the grey class winner MILTON (Spring Show 2005).

One can be sure grand get of Monogramm will make their influence felt globally -- names we have not yet heard, foals not yet produced. Could one of those future stars be the dark bay WKRA out of the Monogramm daughter WYBORNA? While only

attaining a second in her class at the 2005 spring show, she certainly exhibits all the attributes to be able to win anywhere in the world. We shall all enjoy her, and numerous other grand get of Monogramm as they make their presence felt in the future.

Monogramm, like Eukaliptus before him, has made a lasting impression on the Polish Arabian. Monogramm can certainly be credited with enhancing an exotic type, tremendous neck sets, phenomenal motion and perhaps most important, an undeniable show ring presence. Looking back at the "Decade of Monogramm", one cannot help but to feel, amongst a host of emotions, an overwhelming sense of gratitude; for Monogramm's owners the Bishops, to share such a phenomenal sire with Poland, and therefore the world, and most importantly for the extraordinary vision of the late Director Jaworowski -- in whose capable hands Monogramm was entrusted. For truly, Monogramm and Director Jaworowski are inseparable and together they have enhanced the Arabian breed for generations to come.