

PICTURES FROM THE HUNGARIAN THOROUGHBRED BREEDING AND RACING

by Prof. dr. D. Fehér



Count István Széchenyi (1791-1860)

Count István Széchenyi, who took part in Napoleon Wars as a well decorated Hussar officer, travelled in England in 1815. After his arrival home he said: „there are three things to be learned from England: the constitution, the machine industry and the horse breeding”.



Stud Szenttamás, Horse Museum – Picture: by König Robert

In 1816 he made purchased 21 full pedigree horses in England, and they arrived at his Nagycenk estate.

Széchenyi together with his aristocrat companions decided to organize horse-races also in Hungary in order to improve the quality of horses by selection. In 1821 he elaborated the rules and regulation of races on English method and asked for permission from the Emperor. He got it for Pozsony (Pressburg, now Bratislava), near to Vienna in 1826.



Stud Szenttamás, Horse Museum – Picture: by König Robert

The first races were run in 6. June 1827 at the Pest Turf (Pesti Gyep) with complete success. The most part of horses were trained by trainers engaged from England and ridden by English jockeys, however there were farmers' races at the first day as well.

The results were published at the end of the year in a so-called „Gyepkönyv” (Turf Book). All the experiences were summarized in Széchenyi's book „Lovakról” (About Horses) in 1828. The book was translated even in Danish, it was so succesful at that time. According to the rules of General Stud Book the first Hungarian Stud Book was published in 1832 (edited by count Tamás Nádasdy) and it has been published regularly up to now.



Buccaneer bay 1857 (Wild Dayrell-Mare by Little Red Rover)

The stallion Buccaneer was purchased for the in 1853 established Kisbér State Stud and he was there in service for 21 years. His son Kisbér (out of mare Mineral) made his name famous at home and all over the international sport life by having won the Derby in Epsom.



Kisbér bay 1873 (Buccaneer-Mineral 4, Rataplan)

Epsom Derby winner

The horse-races based on English example were succesful, the number of breeders and owners increased and horse-races were organized in more and more country towns.



Kincsem ch (Cambuscan-Waternymph 4, Cotswold) and Robert Hesp trainer

RACING CAREER

Kincsem started in six countries in 13 race courses.
54 starts, 54 wins



1876.	2 age	10 starts	10 wins	Hamburger Criterium, Zukunftspreis
1877.	3 age	17 starts	17 wins	Trial Stakes, Nemzeti díj, Hazafi díj, Austrian Derby, Großer Preis von Hannover, Großer Preis von Baden, Pesti St.Leger, Pesti Kancadíj
1878.	4 age	15 starts	15 wins	Goodwood Cup, Grand Prix de Deauville, Großer Preis von Baden
1879.	5 age	12 starts	12 wins	Großer Preis von Baden

The Thoroughbred breeding and racing got a new impulse by the victories of Kincsem, the „Hungarian Wonder” born one year after Kisbér in 1874. By the victories of this excellent filly, the horse and her breeder Ernő Blaskovics and Hungary became well known all over Europe. Kincsem started in six countries in 13 race courses. She run 54 times and she won all her races (for details see the table). It seems to be an unbeatable record, because nowadays no owner run a risk of following races after an unbroken series of some dozen victories.

Kincsem gave 4 progenies at the stud and but only the fillies (Budagyöngye, Ollyan nincsi!, Kinics) established still living families. The number of offspring out of these families up to 1988 is 3773 and 1599 won altogether 5730 victories, from which 303 were breeding races and 114 Group-Races. It means that the genes of Kincsem are living, (she was born in family 4o of Bruce Law, where racing and inheritance both are in high level). According to the investigation of talented Gábor Vesztényi in the former Soviet Union 1132, in Hungary 940, in Germany 631, in France 322, in Poland 173, in Romania 175, in England 74, in Austria 47, in Czech Republic 39, in Italy, 39, in Ireland, 21 and in other countries also some Kincsem progeny are carrying the genes of the Hungarian Wonder. There were and there are many good horses in this family, however none of them could reach the performance of the foundress according to the genetic rule of Galton’s regression.



Pázmán bay 1916. (Pardon-Patrie 22, Gaga) and Pretzner Imre jockey
Austrian Derby winner

Conforming to the common opinion of practical breeders the imported stallion lines from England lose their ability to improve the performance of Thoroughbred horses after some generations. In general the grand sons of an imported improver can not produce good progeny equal to the required quality. This phenomenon is explicated by the problems of acclimatization. Besides Kincsem family, however two stallion lines can be mentioned producing classic winners also in eighth and seventh generations in Hungary. After the Austro-Hungarian compromise of 1867 the Hungarian State Studs were directed by Ferenc Kozma an excellent specialist.

1.) In 1899 Morgan, a six year old bay stallion was imported from England to Kisbér. The progenies of this high producing stallion survived through the two World Wars of the 20th century and members of Morgan-Pardon-Pázmán-Duce-Dukát-Direktor-Dárius-Rádium stallion line are producing winners and breeding stallions up to the last years.



Direktor ch (Dukát-Rio Ritta 4-o, Balbinus) and Keszthelyi István jockey
Hungarian 2000 Guineas, Hungarian St.Leger

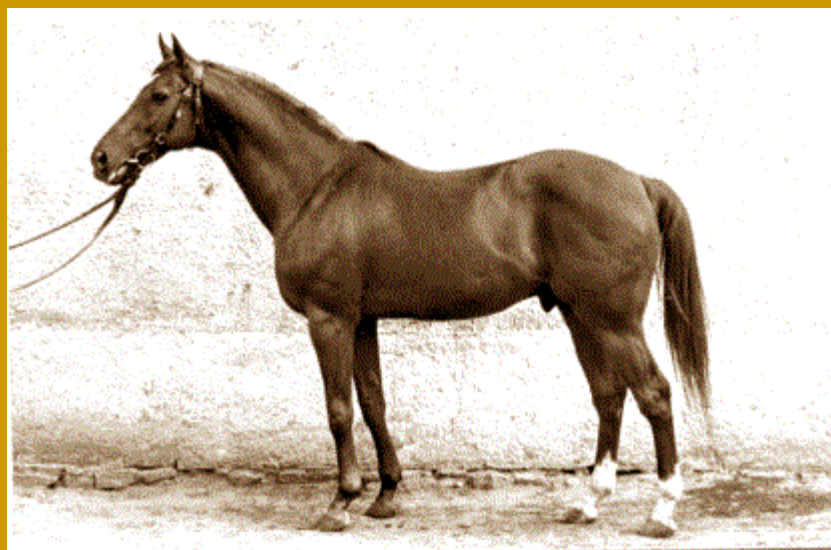


Rádium bay 1980. (Dárius-Rejtjel 2, Julius)
Budapesti díj – Horse of the Year

2.) For the Ászár Stud the five year old stallion Caissot were purchased from the stud of Lord Derby in 1928. According to opinion of the breeder and owner of this horse Hungary could solve the problem of its Thoroughbred breeding for half a century by the use of this stallion.



Caisot chesnut 1923. (Gay Crusader-Keysoe 2, Swynford)



Intermezzo II. chesnut 1944 (Caisot-Alcyone 1, Artist's Proof)
Austrian Derby, Hungarian St. Leger winner



Imi bay 1953. (Intermezzo II.-Minci 3, Mannamead)
Hungarian Derby, Cena Moszkva, Central-European Cup winner

The English breeder could not, however predict that after the second World War only a chestnut colt of Caisot survives carrying the line and realizing the prediction: the line: Caisot-Intermezzo II.-Imi-Imperial-Rustan-Turbo-Taurus.



Imperial chesnut 1961. (Imi-Hurry 8, Canot)
Hungarian Derby, Austrian Derby, Großer Hansa Preis winner



Rustan bay 1968. (Imperiál-Rhapsodie 43, Bürgermeister)
Hungarian St. Leger, Millenniumi díj winner

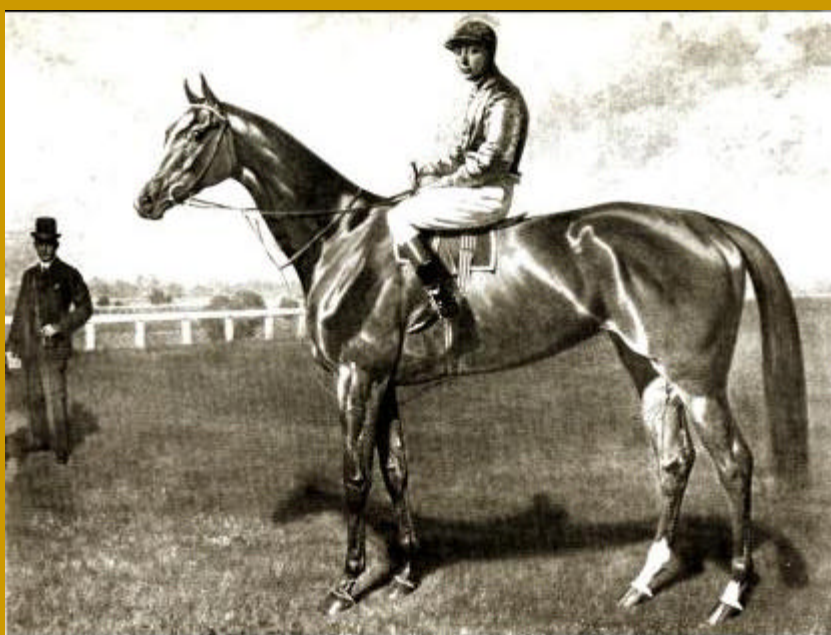


Turbó darkbay 1978. (Rustan-Tribunka 17, Balto)
Hungarian Derby, Austrian Derby, Austrian St. Leger winner



Stud Szenttamás, Horse Museum – Picture: by König Robert

As it was mentioned before the trainers and jockeys came for England for the training and racing of horses like in England. From the first immigrants the Benson and Hesp family must be emphasized. Robert Hesp was the trainer of Kincsem. The names of Taral-Milne-Smart former jockeys, later trainers, the Kincsem rider Madden (42 victories) and Wainright and Busby and Planner and Huxtable (riders for the Festetics stable) must not be forgotten.



Patience chesnut (Bona Vista-Podagra 22, Galopin)
Austrian Derby, German Derby winner

It is worth to mention that many of the members of these families became Hungarian and they are living in Hungary, however some of them returned to England after the outbreak of First World War. Maybe people even at Newmarket do not know the origin of the name of the trainer's living house „lodge Balaton” . Frank Butters was the trainer of prince Festetics at Keszthely, at the capital of the

lake Balaton and he got such a rich pecuniary compensation that he could build such a nice house and training center.



Frank Butters



Szigeti trainer, Prince Festetics, Esch jockey

On the other hand, at the beginning of the 20th century, the Hungarian owners sent some excellent apprentices in Newmarket for trainer apprentices: Ferenc Bonta, Géza Janek, Pál Bocskai. It was a successful mission, because also the home remaining apprentices could learn from them. Between two World Wars the Hungarian jockeys were popular in neighbouring Austria and Germany (Ferenc Friedrich, Sándor Sajdik, Vendel Vasas, József Sejbal, Gustav Hozang etc.)

In World War II the Hungarian Thoroughbred industry suffered enormous damages in both, horses and riders.

Many of the jockeys left the country and enhanced the reputation of the Hungarian Thoroughbred breeding in Germany, France and Skandinavian countries. Count János Pejacsevich as trainer of Gestüt Röttgen won laurels, Albert Klimscha earlier as jockey, later as trainer earned fame for countess Margit Batthyányi in Germany and France. József Klimscha, Mihály Weissbach, József Kajári, János Seres worked in the Skandinavian countries with success. From the young generation Pál Bocskai jun., his son György, Péter Alafi, János Tandari are riding with good results all over Western Europe and even Péter Alafi took part at some meetings in Hon Kong as well.

The first race course, where also the founder, count Széchenyi has ridden, was in function from 1827 up to 1880 between the Üllői and Soroksári streets in Budapest. From 1880 to 1919 the next race course was at the City Park. It was a very nice place, because people could get there through the elegant Stefania road by beautiful carriages... Between 1920 and 1925 the Thoroughbred races were organized at the Alag trainig center similar to Newmarket. In 1925 a new race course was opened and it has been called Kincsem Park from the 150. anniversary of gallop races in Hungary.

At the initiatives of English and French leaders and specialists of Thoroughbred World a 3 day conference has been organized, near to the date of the famous race Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for the Thoroughbred breeders and owners of the world. The first conference was held in 1968. Hungary was invited in 1972 among the 23 participants of that time as the first from the east countries. At these conferences all the problems of Thoroughbred breeding, racing, finacement and health are discussed. When discussing the use of horses'names, in 1978 the Hungarian delegat resulted in protecting the names of excellent Hungarian horses Kincsem and Imperial (the Derby winners'names, like Kisbér's, are authomatically protected).



Rodrigo brown 1997. (Bin Shaddad-Ritmus 14, Imperiál)

78.Hungarian Derby 2000: 1.Rodrigo (breeder Kertesko Stud)

jockey: Kállai Pál (67 years old)

Hungarian people like very much horses, well the Hungarian conquerors arrived on horse back into the Carpathian basin.



Horatio Luro (USA) bay 1987. (El Gran Senor-Solo Haina 4, Solo Landing)
Owner: Magyar Lovaregylet (Hungarian Jockey Club)

Hungarian Sires Champion (2000)

The Thoroughbred horse must be grown up, to be liked and kept as a member of the family. Nowadays there are more and more people dealing with Thoroughbred breeding and racing.



Farkas Tibor jockey, dr.Fehér Dezső, Varga Ferenc jockey, dr.Hesp Edwin,
Otto Wilhelm, Mátyus György trainer, Aperiaov Zakariás trainer

The End

Dr: Fehér Dezső:

PICTURES FROM THE HUNGARIAN THOROUGHBRED BREEDING AND RACING

Budapest, 2001 – Copyright: Dr.Fehér Dezső és Vesztényi Gábor
Szerkesztő: Vesztényi Gábor

Fotók: Pendragon Fotótár – Grafikák: König Róbert

Ez a CD-ROOM az Állatorvos Tudományi Egyetem, Állattenyésztési Tanszéke, a Magyar Lovaregylet, a Nemzeti Lóverseny Kft., és a Pendragon Pedigree Service, együttműködésével készült.

Köszönjük
dr. Bodó Imre professzor úr,
Pécsi István úr (Nemzeti Lóverseny Kft.)
Péter Csaba úr (angolteliver.hu webserver gazda)
Szécsi Rezső úr (Magyar Lovaregylet)
segítségét.