

# HORSES & HERITAGE

## Activities 2018

### January

The year started splendidly with the conference of the American Carriage Association in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. I was invited to speak about *Beauty in Harness - The imperial coach horses of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, their decline and their renaissance*. The organisers did a brilliant job, it was an absolutely perfect event in the atmosphere of the early United States.



### February

The fair *Pferd Bodensee* at Lake Constance in the very south of Germany was a good occasion to meet partners and friends.

At the end of the month I was asked to give a presentation about *The European State Studs - yesterday and today* at the support club of the former court stud Bleesern in Saxony-Anhalt.

### March

In March the symposium *Horses and Courts – The Reins of Power* took place, organised by the University of Kent's Centre for Studies in the Long Eighteenth Century and the Society for Court Studies in the wonderful atmosphere of the Wallace Collection in London. The three-day event was packed with presentations about the significance of the horse in history, art and literature. I received a lot of positive feedback for my contribution about *the Oldkladruby horses as living monuments* and could gain much new inspiration from the other presentations.



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The exchange with scientists from all around the world was fantastic! The programme also included visits and receptions at the Royal Mews, the Household Cavalry Museum and the Hyde Park Barracks. If you think that you are good in grooming horses and cleaning tack, those guys will proof you wrong!

## April

As in the previous years it was my pleasure to comment the International Driving Event CAI\*\*\* Kladruby nad Labem as English speaker. In contrast to the “winter event” the year before, the organisers and the athletes could enjoy perfect spring conditions.

## May

May is a busy month every year, in 2018 there was hardly time to breathe.

At the beginning of the month I travelled to England again. The Badminton Horse Trials and the Royal Windsor Horse Show took place on two weekends in a row and exceptionally didn't coincide with Whitsun, when I'm involved in the Wiesbaden Horse Show.

At Badminton I learned that eventing is not the same in Britain and in the rest of the world. It is a happening, something like Woodstock for horse lovers. Around 150.000 people appear on the estate, some kind of migration to the countryside with tea-time under ancient oak trees and picnic in perfection. It turned out to be the last public appearance of the millennium-horse Sam under the saddle of multi-champion Michael Jung. How often got us this incredible team excited during the last years? Good to have seen them galloping a last time.



Fortunately, the fantastic days as in the *Country Life* magazine continued. After Bank Holiday Monday with an early morning visit at Stonehenge and an afternoon at Salisbury, the Royal Windsor Horse Show started, where besides the stars of the dressage and the show jumping scene the four-in-hand and the traditional drivers had their turn. There were horses and ponies in all variations, large, small, thick, thin, single or multi-coloured, noble, robust, quick, slow, elegant, powerful..... the row could be continued forever. The same applies to riders, drivers, grooms, owners and the audience. A colourful crowd suffering from horse addiction in the shade of Windsor Castle – absolutely awesome! I participated as journalist, wrote diligently and was very pleased about the huge demand for my photos, which were published in different magazines. As additional highlight the Queen's Coaching

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Instructor gave me a private insight in the Royal Mews of Windsor Castle. No, Her Majesty was not present, but I was more than happy to pat the noses of her horses and ponies. What an experience!



From England I went straight to Wiesbaden. The 82<sup>nd</sup> PfingstTurnier was waiting, the sportive and social highlight in the event calendar of the Hessian capital. After the usual preparation run everything went exceptionally well. No unpleasant weather surprises as in the years before, great spirit and great sport. My prize-giving team is meanwhile perfectly organised. We managed 51 ceremonies and different special tasks with fun and in style.



At the last weekend in May I was invited to the Day of the Oldkladruby Horse by the Czech National Stud. It is always special to see all those wonderful horses in a diverse show programme in the main stud yard. The event was accomplished by a wonderful evening concert in the church of Kladruby.

## June

A comparatively calm month with only one trip to the competition at Riesenbeck, where Ludger Beerbaum and Madelaine Winter-Schulze invested a lot during the last years in order to provide best conditions for the athletes on two and on four legs. On the way back to Cottbus I stopped at the Courtly Riding School of Bückeberg, which had been on my list for a long time. After I met the daughter of the house, Diana Krischke, on the London symposium it was really time for a visit.

## July

One of the most beautiful aspects of my current location Cottbus is the wonderful park Branitz which was designed by Prince Pückler. In June I participated in a symposium about the management of historic parks, where I made a number of new interesting contacts including the director of the

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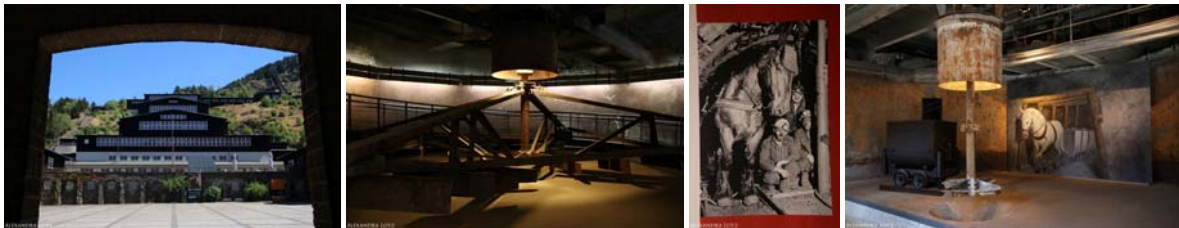
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World Heritage Site Sintra, which contains the Portuguese Riding School in the Palace of Queluz. A destination for 2019...

In the middle of the month I followed the invitation of the German World Heritage city Goslar with the Rammelsberg mines, where the exhibition *Tierischer Bergbau* (Animals in mining) was on display. Naturally, the horse was in the focus of attention of the elaborate presentation. The exhibition was curated by the Zugpferdemuseum (Draft horse museum) / Museum-on-Tour in Lüttau, which is located close to Hamburg. During the second half of 2018 an intensive dialogue started and we are now in the process of preparing a cooperation.



Of course there were competitions, too. The CHIO Aachen is an annual must-go and in Berlin top show-jumping was presented during the Global Jumping event on the fair grounds.

## August

Knowing my schedule for the last months of the year, I used August to build up some reserves. And it was so hot! No problem in the Lusatia region, the giant landscape construction site around Cottbus, where former brown coal mining pits are flooded, which will lead to the largest artificial lake system in central Europe.

## September

September is the month of stallion parades in the German state studs. This year I had a look at the Moritzburg version. The weekend was one of several I spent in the palaces and gardens of Saxony during this year, mainly in order to check-out their horse heritage potential. There is a lot to discover. Therefore, Saxony will be the destination of the Wiesbaden Riding and Driving Club excursion in September 2019.



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The third journey to England in 2018 and the absolute highlight of this sensational year was the study programme *The Horse and the Country House* with the Attingham Trust through British country estates in East Anglia and Yorkshire. Together with directors and curators of significant museums and collections, from Palazzo Pitti in Florence to the Kremlin in Moscow, from Chantilly and Compiègne in France, the Danish royal court, from Australia, the USA and of course from Great Britain, I had the chance to visit impressive estates, gain unusual insights, collect new impressions and learn a lot. The colleagues have become friends during this remarkable journey. With some of them I will meet in May to continue the programme.



## October

Just back from the Attingham tour, my Horses&Heritage excursions started. The horse breeder's club of Neustadt (Dosse) around stud director Uwe Müller had commissioned me to plan and guide a journey to the Czech Republic. Directly after that I organised a tour to Slovakia and Hungary for my Wiesbaden clients. At the Bohemian stallion depot Písek I changed busses; that trains flexibility. All together 90 guest were on board and the feedback was super.



In mid October I was invited to contribute with two presentations to the symposium *Hippomanie am Hofe (Hippomania at Court)* organised by the Foundation of Palaces and Gardens of Thuringia on Heidecksburg castle at Rudolstadt. Finally happens what I'm waiting for since years: the culture scene (re)discovers the horse! The publication of the symposium contributions in the yearbook of the foundation is in preparation and the corner stones for a working group on equestrian heritage are laid.

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## November

In November I followed an invitation to the Museum of Transport in Dresden, where as in many other cultural institutions of the Saxon capital preparations have started for the 300. jubilee of the wedding between Frederik August II. and Maria Josepha, the daughter of the Austrian emperor Joseph I. No need to say, that horses played a significant role in the festive events of these days.

Another symposium at Branitz dealt with Pückler and the Orient. It was evident that the horses he had imported were mentioned. Over all, the hippological heritage of the Prince who wrote history as garden artist and travel author, is still largely undiscovered and only little interpreted. I used the symposium to stimulate activity in this direction.

My last conference in 2018 took place at the end of November and the beginning of December in California. I was very pleased to contribute with the presentation *European Stud Culture – Living History* to the Equine History Conference at the University Cal Poly Pomona. The university evolved on the ranch of the cereal magnate Kelloggs and contains besides the usual academic facilities a centre for Arabian horses and a library on the subject. I met interesting people, learned a lot and collected new impulses. The best thing about events of this kind is that one doesn't need to explain all the time why equine history matters.



## December

During advent time it was my pleasure to follow the invitation to the Scheidel collection at Mannheim. I was aware that many treasures were waiting there, but the quality and the amount of historic carriages, harnesses and all sorts of additional equipment blew my mind. How good, that people with passion and skill take care of traditional driving culture.

I spent the last days of this remarkable year and the first days of the new one at the Loire river in France, in the chateau of Marie-Louise von Plessen, who encouraged me to start a new project. I hope to report about it in my 2019 review.

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## Outlook on 2019

During the next months the cooperation between Horses&Heritage and Museum-on-Tour will start to which I'm looking forward a lot.

In April a journey will take me to equine history destinations in Portugal and Spain.

In May I'm looking forward to continue the „The Horse and the Country House“ endeavours in England with friends of the Attingham study programme.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> PfingstTurnier at Wiesbaden will take place from June 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

For my travelling clients I'm planning an excursion to equine heritage destinations in Saxony.

In September the World Championships of pairs will take place at Drebkau (15 minutes from Cottbus) and the European Championships for four-in-hand teams are scheduled one week later at Donaueschingen in the south-west of Germany. A programme for friends of driving sports and culture is in preparation.



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