

Review 2014

FEBRUARY

European Stud Culture at the horse fair „Pferd Bodensee“

From February 14th to 16th ESSA together with its Czech partner stud KLADRUBY NAD LABEM was present on the large jubilee information stand of MARBACH State Stud at the horse fair „Pferd Bodensee“ at Friedrichshafen, located in the very south of Germany close to Austria and Switzerland. 22 stallions of both studs represented European stud culture with its diversity of breeds. Among them were German Sport Horses, Black Forest Coldbloods, a Pure Bred Arabian, a Cob Normand and 8 Oldkladruber horses.

It was the 6th horse fair at Friedrichshafen and the organisers counted 27% more visitors than in 2012. The fair attracted 29.100 horse lovers, added by 6.400 spectators of the Gala Show „Im Takt der Pferde“, which was opened by an eight-in-hand of Oldkladruber stallions in front of a historic carriage of MARBACH State Stud. A highlight of the show was the performance „500 Jahre Marbach“, in which all breeds of the stud were shown harnessed, under the saddle and at long reins. The KLADRUBY horses could be seen once more in the large driving quadrille of Daniel Würgler, who



Black Forest Coldblood Stallion WILDHÜTER with
HSM Rudolf Schmelcher performing in the gala show
Copyright: Messe Friedrichshafen



Bridle of the Kings of Württemberg
on display at the information stand
Photo: Alexandra Lotz

gathered some of the best drivers of Europe around him, among them the stud employees Jiří and Radek Nesvačil. The MARBACH stallions LARIMAR, IL DIVO xx, KAISERSTOLZ and LEMBERGER enchanted the audience of the stallion show on Sunday.

The information stand was very busy at all days of the fair. The autograph session of Olympic rider Anabel Balkenhol was especially well received. The stand layout with historic pictures, videos, carriages and precious bridles of the MARBACH stud museum focused on the 500th stud jubilee and the cultural significance of the European State Studs.



Gala-carriage with Oldkladruber stallions and Jiří Nesvačil at the reins.

Copyright: Messe Friedrichshafen



Kladruby director Jiří Machek with his employees Daniel Bejr and Roman Vyskočil, the horses SIGLAVI P. MONTILLA XI and GENERALE AVERSA XLIX and ESSA manager Alexandra Lotz. Copyright: NHKladruby

ESSA board meeting at Strasbourg

On February 24th the ESSA board met at Strasbourg to discuss the budget and activities of 2014. After a good meeting the board members had the chance to visit the former National Stud of the city, which today houses a hotel and restaurant. The architectural complex was built in the 18th century. It is an outstanding piece of architecture, the front of the building, the roof, the monumental gate, as well as the main stable, are classified as historical monuments.

The building became headquarter of the city's horse riding academy in 1752, and in 1756 it became home of the Royal Stud farm. The horse riding school disappeared in 1845 and only the National Stud remained on the site. In 2005 the horses were finally moved from the prestigious buildings located in rue Ste Elizabeth.

In 2010 renovation and construction works started under the authority of the Ministry of Culture and under the control of the Regional Direction of Cultural Affairs, of the Architect of French Buildings and of the Regional Curator of Historical Monuments. Since September 2013 the restaurant and hotel “Les Haras” welcome visitors. It is sad not to see horses at this traditional site any longer, but due to the skilled architecture and interior design some of the horsy atmosphere is left. A good place to sleep, dine out or have a drink in Strasbourg!



In the courtyard of the former stud at Strasbourg
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



The hotel lobby reminds of the historic use of the site
Photo: Alexandra Lotz

JULY

Festival of European Stud Culture: the European State Studs congratulated Marbach to the stud's 500th jubilee

From July 2nd to 5th the representatives of the leading European national studs met at the Festival of European Stud Culture, which took place in connection with the 500th jubilee of MARBACH State Stud. It was a superb equestrian event with horses, riders and drivers from hosting MARBACH State Stud, the Brandenburg State Stud NEUSTADT-DOSSE, the Mecklenburg-Pomeranian State Stud REDEFIN, the Polish State Stud SIERAKÓW, the National Stud KLADRUBY NAD LABEM and PÍSEK State Stud (both Czech Republic), the Slovakian National Stud TOPOL'ČIANKY, the Slovene National Stud LIPICA, the Suisse National Stud AVENCHES, the French National Studs UZÈS and ROSIÈRES-AUX-SALINES, and the SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL of Vienna.

Marbach Classics Open Air: A journey through the European horse world

The art of classical riding and driving was celebrated in the large stud arena at two glamorous gala evenings with live music of the Wuerttemberg Symphonic Orchestra. Within the *Marbach Classics* shows 12 national studs of 8 countries presented the diversity of their breeds, from heavy draft horses to rare special breeds and modern sport horses. 12.000 spectators experienced a musical journey through 500 years of history, in which the hoof beat of the horse gave rhythm in war and peace, for travel, agriculture and at social events. The event was screened twice on German TV station SWR and achieved high response.



European Quadrille at the Marbach Classics Open Air Shows, Photo: Cathrin Schütt

Symposium about European Stud Culture

The gala evenings were added during the day by a well-received symposium with presentations about European stud culture and visits of the MARBACH stud premises. The representatives of the present studs introduced their institutions and exchanged their views on the equestrian heritage of Europe and the role of the national studs in the past, the presence and the future. Their contributions were added by presentations of renowned experts as Prof. Dr. Peter Burman, former conservation director of the National Trust for Scotland and head of the conservation study course at the University of York, Martin Haller of the Documentation Center of Old-Austrian horse breeds and the Chief Riding Master of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, João Pedro Rodrigues.

New ESSA board

During the festival the ESSA General Assembly 2014 took place. ESSA founding president Bernard Maurel, heritage delegate of the French stud administration IFCE, retired from his position and was appointed as honorary member. Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, director of Marbach State Stud and so far ESSA treasurer succeeded him. The conference participants elected Dr. Maximilian Dobretsberger, director of the Austrian State Stud Piber as vice-president. New treasurer is Dr. Stefan Rieder, who is responsible for the Suisse National Stud. Thierry Delsalle, delegate of international affairs at the French stud administration IFCE, was appointed as new board member. Janez Rus, stud manager of the Slovene National Stud Lipica was confirmed as board member. Alexandra Lotz continued in her position as head of the ESSA office.



Participants of the ESSA General Assembly 2014 at Marbach

Photo: Marion Junger

The European State Studs presented classical riding and driving and the diversity of their horse breeds at Eurocheval

From July 23rd to 27th the Eurocheval fair invited horse lovers to Offenburg in the south west of Germany for the 20th time. With 404 exhibitors from twelve countries and a large activity programme the organisers had accomplished wide ranging offers for horse enthusiasts. 41.830 visitors came to the fair-grounds during the five event days. The State Studs are strongly connected with the “European Horse Fair”. Since the early days of the event the most prominent horse breeding institutions of the continent present themselves at Offenburg.

In the fair’s jubilee year, MARBACH State Stud, which as Offenburg is located in the State of Baden-Württemberg, also celebrated an important anniversary. According to the slogan “500 years of Marbach – rooted in the region, connected with the world” hall 4 was dedicated to MARBACH in connection with the European State Studs. Here visitors could experience the different horse breeds, proud stallions, noble mares and even a trusting Equus Kinsky foal close up. The exhibition about the MARBACH jubilee gave insight into the changeful history of the stud. ESSA presented the large national studs of the neighbouring countries and their diverse equine heritage.



The “European-Quadrille” of the ESSA partner institutions was performed during the daily shows.

Photo: Alexandra Lotz

For the 20th Eurocheval issue, the ESSA partner studs came up with something special. The traditional “European Quadrille” was presented for the first time mounted and driven, since the state studs are devoted to the preservation of classical riding and driving alike. MARBACH State Stud, the Suisse National Stud AVENCHES, the Polish State Stud SIERAKÓW and the French National Studs BESANÇON

and MONTIER AN DER sent horses, riders and drivers to this unique performance. The colourful picture of the different horse breeds was added by the “golden” hunters of the noble Czech Kinsky family.

Another highlight of the daily show programme was the driving quadrille of MARBACH and AVENCHES. Black Forest Coldblood and Franches Montagnes stallions were harnessed in front of sulkies. Both breeds are listed as endangered and owe their survival largely to the state studs which provide enough stallions for the private breeders.

The individual partner studs presented their horses additionally in breed shows and performances of their home countries. Highlights were the appearances of the famous Weil-Marbach-Arabian mares on the Offenburg grass. In 1817 the Württemberg king William I. founded the oldest pure bred Arabian stud of Europe. His heritage is continued today by MARBACH State Stud.



The Eurocheval-team of the European State Studs:

Representatives of Avenches, Marbach, Sieraków, Besançon, Montier en Der and the Equus Kinsky Breeding Association with the vice director of Marbach, Dr. Carolin Eiberger, and ESSA-manager Alexandra Lotz

Photo: Anke Müller

AUGUST

Visit at PIBER, the SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL, TOPOL'ČIANKY and KLADRUBY NAD LABEM

In August Alexandra Lotz undertook a journey to Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, visiting the ESSA partners at PIBER, the SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL (SRS) of Vienna, TOPOL'ČIANKY and KLADRUBY NAD LABEM.

At PIBER she saw the superbly organised CAI event, with participants from 13 countries including teams of different ESSA partner institutions. In the single class the hosting stud was represented by the stud director of PIBER and ESSA vice-president Dr. Max Dobretsberger and MAESTOSO CATTINARA-10. The Suisse National Stud AVENCHES participated with the Franches Montagnes stallion LASTING, Leonhard Risch and Daniela Hauptle. In the competition for pairs the LIPICA stud driver Mitja Mahorčič and the TOPOL'ČIANKY stud driver Pavol Gaspar participated with Lipizzaner stallions of their home institutions. The exciting sport days were added in the evening with Shakespeare's *Twelfth night or what you will* in the wonderful courtyard of PIBER Palace.



Dr. Max Dobretsberger and
MAESTOSO CATTINARA-10



Leonhard Risch and LASTING



The team of Topol'cianky
All photos: Alexandra Lotz

Following the performance of horses and riders of the SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL at the Festival of European Stud Culture in July, the riders invited Alexandra Lotz to take a look behind the scenes of this precious institution, which will celebrate its 450th jubilee in 2015. It was an impressive and very enjoyable experience!

At TOPOL'ČIANKY Alexandra Lotz visited the different parts of the stud and took photographs for the articles which appeared in different magazines until the end of the year.



Young Lipizzaner mares
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



Huculs on the pastures
Photo: Alexandra Lotz

At KLADRUBY NAD LABEM, which Alexandra Lotz visited regularly in 2014, she followed the renovation process of the stud, which is proceeding quickly. Step by step the historic buildings regain their original colours and proportions. Urgent repair work is done and new installations are introduced. There is a lot horses, employees and visitors can look forward to when the site starts operating again!



Freshly renovated foal stable
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



Still a lot to be done in the central stud ensemble
Photo: Alexandra Lotz

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

FEI World Equestrian Games at Normandy

During the World Equestrian Games ESSA had the opportunity to distribute information material at the information stand of the Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation (IFCE) within the central games village at Caen and at our partner stud LE PIN, where the eventing dressage and cross country took place. Despite the "very British" weather conditions and long traffic jams 35.000 spectators followed the action live on the stud premises with beautifully designed obstacles reflecting the character and the history of the region. Alexandra Lotz enjoyed the invitation to the cross country day by LE PIN and the accreditation for the driving competitions which was generously offered by KLADRUBY NAD LABEM.

Three ESSA partner institutions participated in the World Championships with four-in-hand teams. IFCE was represented by the team of Benjamin Alliot, TOPOL'CIANKY by the team of Miroslav Matuška and KLADRUBY NAD LABEM by the teams of Jiří and Radek Nesvačil. The most successful stud driver of the individual result was Benjamin Alliot, who ended on rank 17, followed by Jiří Nesvačil on rank 23. In the final cone competition his team of grey Oldkladruber horses finished on a

sensational 5th position, leaving most of the world's first class drivers behind with a stunning performance that looked easy and totally in style. Congratulations!



FirscherRocana, a daughter of the Marbach sire ITUANGO xx won team gold and individual silver under the saddle of Michael Jung
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



Jiří Nesvačil with GENARALE ALUMA II-20, GENERALE PASTORELLA XLIX-13, GENERALISSIMUS ECRASEE XXXIII-6 and GENERALISSIMUS AMIGA XXXIV-3 in the cone competition
Photo: Alexandra Lotz

SEPTEMBER

A journey to Poland

In preparation of the next ESSA General Assembly, which will take place in April 2015 at our Polish partner stud SIERAKÓW, Alexandra Lotz travelled to Poland in September. At SIERAKÓW she discussed the details of the conference with stud director Pawel Wojtowicz and Marian Pankowski, director of the agricultural enterprise Galopol to which the stud belongs. SIERAKÓW was founded 1829 as "Königlich Preußisches Posen'sches Landgestüt Zirke". It is the oldest stallion depot of Poland and one of the most significant monuments of the Poznan region. Today, SIERAKÓW is not only a stallion depot, but also home of the Konik Polski native breed. The participants of the ESSA conference 2015 will enjoy the atmosphere of the historic stud premises and the guest house located in the former director's house.

Pawel Wojtowicz kindly invited Alexandra Lotz for a trip to our partner stud JANÓW PODLASKI, one of the most famous places of Pure Bred Arabian breeding in the world. The stud premises are as noble as the horses. Participants of the ESSA General Assembly 2015 will see a good selection of the precious JANÓW PODLASKI Arabians at SIERAKÓW in April.

A huge thank you to Pawel Wojtowicz and Marek Trela, director of JANÓW PODLASKI, and their teams for the great hospitality!



Lovers of special horse breeds: Alexandra Lotz and Pawel Wojtowicz with Konik Polski stallion



Marek Trela guiding Alexandra Lotz and Pawel Wojtowicz at Janów Podlaski
Photos: Monika Lotz

REDEFIN Stallion Parades with guests from Poland and the Czech Republic

Since the ESSA network was established, the connections between its partner institutions have become stronger. They can benefit not only from joint activities at horse fairs and other external events, but also by inviting partners to their own activities. Good examples for this kind of cooperation in 2014 are the REDEFIN Stallion Parades with guests from SIERAKÓW and KLADRUBY NAD LABEM. The visitors enjoyed wonderful days on the beautiful REDEFIN stud premises with first-class performances illustrating European stud culture at its best. A huge thank you to the REDEFIN stud director Antje Kerber and her dedicated team and to the visiting studs for the initiative!



The Sieraków team with their Konik Polski at Redefin
Photo: Sven Först



Eight-in-hand of Kladruby nad Labem with guests of honour
Photo: Alexandra Lotz

New ESSA partner institutions

It was a great pleasure to welcome two new partner studs in 2014. The Portuguese National Stud ALTER REAL and the former Prussian State Stud ALTEFELD, located in Germany, joined our association. Both studs were introduced by their representatives António Saraiva and Manfred Graf at the Festival of European Stud Culture. Here are two short portraits about our new members for those who couldn't attend the event:

The Portuguese National Stud ALTER REAL

ALTER REAL was founded in 1748 by King John V and, since then, has contributed to show to the world the role and vital importance of Lusitano Purebred and in particular Alter Lusitanos in Portugal. In fact, among all Portuguese breeds, Lusitano is the one with more international visibility and has recently achieved recognition for its unique characteristics: gentleness, focus, versatility, courage and enthusiasm. To all these features, Alter Lusitanos add an historical past. They represent stability, tenacity, resilience regarding the several adverse situations the stud has faced during 266 years! Despite all difficulties, ALTER REAL is now in great moment genetics wise. Alter Lusitanos and their influence on other studs show important results in different equestrian activities. Not only in classical riding with the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art but in sport disciplines as driving and dressage. The most popular dressage horse in Iberia is the AR Lusitano RUBI, present at the London Olympics.



AR Lusitano mares and foals



The stud premises of Alter Real

Photos: Alter Real Archive

ALTER REAL is located at 200km east of Lisbon, close to the border with Spain, in a 800ha property with beautiful stables and prairies. Since August 2013, Alter Stud, previously a foundation, is being managed by Companhia das Lezírias, a public agroforestry business with 18.000ha located 30km



north of Lisbon. This company is now in charge of all the public studs. At present, ALTER REAL is counting 510 horses of which 388 stay at the stud's 800 hectares property, while 112 are distributed to other entities (universities, equine management schools, riding clubs). The most important one is the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, located near Lisbon with 49 bay ALTER REAL Lusitanos. The stud itself is home to 307 Lusitanos (225 Alter Real + 82 Coudelaria Nacional), 43 horses of the local Sorraia breed and 40 horses of other breeds, Arabians being the most representative.

At the stud property there is also a public equine management school and the Molecular Genetics Laboratory that certifies the identity of the horses and keeps a DNA bank of all Lusitanos worldwide. It is possible to visit the stud and stay at the guest house, a beautiful 5 room house at the heart of the stud. The most important annual event is the annual horse auction, which attracts 2000 people from all over the country and foreign visitors.

ALTEFELD – a Prussian Heritage

The Principal Stud ALTEFELD, the last great state stud created in Germany during World War I, is located in the heart of Germany, close to the border between the States of Hesse and Thuringia, a part of the former "iron curtain". It has its structural roots in the Trakehner tradition and its methods founded in Thoroughbred breeding. ALTEFELD brings together the experiences of breeding both equine lines, to strengthen the noblest attributes of both. It became one of the first stud farms to breed Trakehners after they had been driven from their homeland and almost wiped out at the end of World War II, and it was for many years home of the famous Thoroughbred stud and racing stable Waldfried. Today, ALTEFELD is in private hands and offers a look backwards into a gentle, natural style of equine breeding, which nurtures horses of robust health and balanced temperament. To get to know the history of the site, visitors are invited to the museum, which traces ALTEFELD's past through pictures, displays, saddles and trophies.



The stud consists of many small farm ensembles
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



ALCHIMIST xx was one of the most famous Altefeld horses
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



ESSA publications

Besides numerous publications of press releases about the ESSA activities which have been sent to the international press contacts of the ESSA office, we are happy about the opportunity to publish portraits of our partner institutions in three renowned horse magazines: Kavallo (Switzerland), Magazin Hofreitschule (Austria and Germany) and Revista Equitação (Portugal – translations are kindly provided by ALTER REAL).

In 2014 the following articles by Alexandra Lotz appeared:

- Kavallo 07/2014: *Kladruby nad Labem: Kulturerbe und Weltklasesport*
Kavallo 12/2014: *Topol'čianky: Genpool für vier Pferderassen*
Magazin Hofreitschule 2/2014: *Jubiläum in Bábolna: die Wiege der Shagya Araber feiert ihr 225-jähriges Bestehen*
Magazin Hofreitschule 3/2014: *Lebendige Denkmäler: Altkladruher aus dem tschechischen Nationalgestüt*
Magazin Hofreitschule 4/2014: *Topol'čianky: herrschaftliche Heimat für vier Pferderassen*
Revista Equitação 10/2014: *Defende Preservação da Cultura des Coudelarias Europeias*

For the book „Tiere auf dem Land: Das Pferdebuch - Von schönen Pferden, seltenen Rassen und dem Wohl der Tiere“, which appeared at Dort-Hagenhausen, Alexandra Lotz wrote „Die europäischen Staatsgestüte - Lebendige Kulturerbestätten und Kompetenzzentren für das Pferd“.

Organised by MARBACH the Landinfo magazine of Baden Württemberg published the article “ESSA – Gemeinsam für die europäische Gestütskultur“ by Alexandra Lotz in December 2014.

Due to the initiative of TOPOL'ČIANKY the Slovakian magazine ŽIVOTNÝ ŠTÝL A KŇ published the article *NÁRODNÝ ŽREBČÍN BUDE SÚČASŤOU OSLÁV 500. VÝROČIA založenia nemeckého štátneho žrebčína Marbach* in its April issue.

Thanks to the initiative of KLADRUBY NAD LABEM the Czech horse magazine Jezdectví published two articles about ESSA:

- Jezdectví 06/2014: *Národní hřebčín Kladruby nad Labem je členem Asociace evropských státních hřebčínů, která vede kampaň pro zachování dědictví evropských státních hřebčínů*
Jezdectví 08/2014: *Oslavy 500. Výročí hřebčína Marbach*

ALTEFELD kindly initiated the following press releases:

Werra Rundschau, 17.05.2014: *In Europa hoch angesehen – Gestüt Altefeld wird im Juli in die Vereinigung der 30 europäischen Staatsgestüte aufgenommen*

Werra Rundschau, July 2014: *Festival der Gestütskultur – Treffen der europäischen Staatsgestüte Pferde in Sachsen und*

Thüringen 11/2014: *Privates Hauptgestüt Altefeld jetzt in der Europaliga*

ESSA partner institutions 2014



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the ESSA activities in 2014 and helped promoting the heritage of the European State Studs!