

Cor de la Bryère

Foaled 1968, France

Imported to Holstein, Germany, 1971

Height 16.21/2

Stood at Siethwende from 1971 to 1984, Zangersheide 1985, Elmshorn 1986 to 1988, Sollwittfeld from 1989 until his death in 2000



Cor de la Bryère is the stallion that revolutionized jumping horse breeding. His is the name astute breeders like to see, especially on the mare line for 'Cord' tends to give great form over a jump. His sire – the French Thoroughbred, Rantzau, was bred to be a jumper being a descendant of the enormously influential Bay Ronald. Rantzau was by Foxlight by Foxhunter by Foxlaw by Son-In-Law by Dark Ronald by Bay Ronald.

A serious racehorse, Rantzau was the third ranked three year old of his year - in nine races between 2000 and 3000 meters, he won two and was placed five times. Purchased by the National Stud, he arrived at the stallion depot of Saint-Lô on January 5th, 1951. Of Rantzau, the stud inspector noted: 'good front extension, remarkably built through the shoulder and fore-arm, long haunches, this classy stallion of rare nobility, also has low-placed joints and covers ground'.

Contrary to legend, the breeders in the area were quite enthusiastic about this well-bred, well-conformed and well-performed newcomer and between 1951 and 1962, he bred between 40 and 49 mares a year. In those days French state stud stallions were only allowed to breed 40 mares a year, plus the National Stud director's cards used by him 'in the interest of breeding'. In 1971 he covered his last book of mares, with five foals the result. In twenty years of breeding he covered 772 mares at an average of 38 mares a year for 179 fillies and 194 colts. His fertility of 50% was regarded as normal

for the time.

By 1964, Rantzau had moved into 3rd place on the ranking of aged sires of jumping horses, behind Lutteur B and Kenavo D, and the next year he moved into 2nd place with progeny jumping with success all over Europe, and held that second place until 1969. In 1970 he moved down to third place behind Ibrahim and Furioso, but the next year he moved into first place on the jumping rankings, as well as being in 5th place on the sire of eventers rankings - he was even ranking in the 20s as a sire of dressage horses. As late as 1976, when he had been dead for five years, Rantzau was still 3rd on the jumping sires rankings, by 1980 he had moved into 4th place. He remained for many years one of the leading sires of broodmares.

On the bottom side, Cor de la Bryère was royally bred, out of Quenotte B, by Lurioso a son of the most influential Precipitation son, Furioso. In French jumping circles, Furioso had been a sensation, siring the 1964 Olympic gold medallist, Lutteur B and the world showjumping champion of 1968, Pomone B. Lurioso was himself a sire of international show jumpers.

Cor de la Bryère almost never made it to the breeding barn. In 1970, the selection committee of the Haras du Pin visited his owner, Xavier Ribard and suggested 'that is not breeding stock, he's too much of a sport horse. Better geld him; he'll make a useful gelding.'



The horse was now on the market – and it just so happened that the Holstein Association was looking for French blood, having seen the success of Furioso II and Futuro in Oldenburg. Oldenburg breeder (and showjumping ace) Alwin Schockemöhle was looking for a stallion star, and leased the Furioso xx son Urioso – however he was prepared to sub-lease the stallion to the Holstein Verband. Hence a

Holstein inspection committee travelled to France to evaluate Urioso and in doing so, discovered Cor de la Bryère. Urioso ended up standing two forgettable seasons in Holstein while 'Cord' left an indelible mark on the Holstein breed, and jumping the world over.

He was not only a sire himself but a sire of sires. The full brothers, Caletto I, II were stars, as were the brother quartet of Calypso I to V. In the jumping arena, his handsome grey son, Corrado has been a star for Franke Sloothaak, while Cordalmé Z with Gilbert Böckmann has also been successful at international level. Both went on to become influential sires.

In his first season, Cor de la Bryère covered 70 mares at Siethwende and four colts from his first crop were licensed. He was a stallion of great vigor, and as late as 1977 served a full book of 111 mares.

Although best known as a sire of jumping horses, Cor de la Bryère was also the sire of Corlandus, a World Cup Dressage Champion in 1989, and his sons Calypso I and Calypso II have proven a useful sire of dressage horses. Former German Olympic team member, Chacomo ridden by Alexandra Simons de Ridder was by Calypso I, as was Alexandra's other FEI star, Champus.

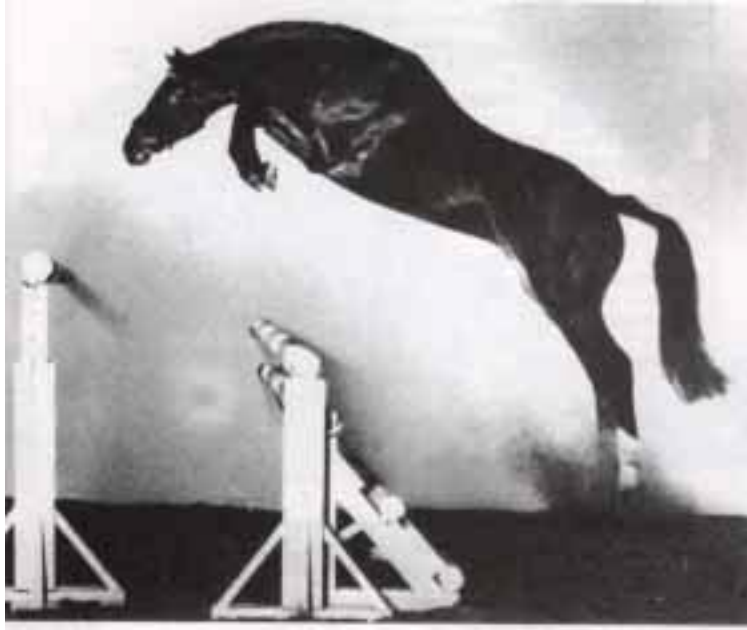
In Australia the influence of Cor de la Bryère has been strong through his son, Contact imported in 1976. Although subject to a vicious campaign of vilification by established breeders (with stallions of their own), Contact produced a number of international level competitors: Corroboree (Grand Prix dressage) and the showjumper, Talkind, ridden by Colleen Brook at the first WEG in Stockholm in 1990, and sold on to Italy. The Contact son, Northern Congress is the sire of Australian Grand Prix champion and World Cup representative Charisma.

Calypso Classic (by Calypso II) was imported by Barbara Burrows, and after quite a successful dressage career, he went showjumping. He is the sire of Glennis Barrey's Grand Prix dressage horse, Classico. In Western Australia, Barrabadeen Stud imported two own daughters of Cor de la Bryère. More recently, two offspring of the Calypso II son, Carbid – the stallion Carbine and the mare, Cinderella, have been imported. Carbine has been a finalist at the Australian Young Horse Championships, while Cinderella won the five year old title in 2000. She then went on to represent Australia at the 2006 WEG in Aachen.

In the WBFSH ratings for 1992/2001, Cor de la Bryère is ranked 18th with 28 points earning progeny, but there are a staggering 20 own sons on the rankings: Calando I, II, IV; Caletto I, II; Calvados I, II; Calypso I, II, III; Cantares, Carneval, Carte d'Or, Casanova, Cavalier Royale, Cinzano, Constant,

Contact, Corrado I, Cortez 679, Cosinus. There are also 12 grandsons of Cor de la Bryère in the standings - not to mention important stallions like Cathago Z and Burggraaf - who are out of Cor de la Bryère mares.

Romedio Graf von Thun-Hohenstein in his book, *The Holsteiner Horse*,



commented on Cor de la Bryère's shape over a jump: 'When the goal was to join the exciting powerful jumping ability of the Holsteiner with a sophisticated skill, combined with an ideal bascule, sooner or later a stallion such as Cor de la Bryère had to be selected. The arching back, like a taut band of steel combined with the super elastic end gives limitless, but always expedient, springing capability to the

natural dynamics of each effort. Add to that ease of riding, marvelous disposition, and a floating, highly balanced canter. These qualities are absolutely to the benefit of young horses, who will no longer have to pay with premature breakdowns caused by jumping and showing solely with a raw, crude jumping talent.'

And perhaps it was a case of a stallion being in the right place at the right time - French equestrian journalist, Bernard le Courtois is firmly convinced, that left in France, Cor de la Bryère would have simply confirmed the original assessment of the French selection committee:

According to Bernard: "Some stallions cross very well in a particular situation. For example, Cor de la Bryère. He was exceptional in the 70s in Holstein because he was a horse that was very quick with the front legs. He did not have the power on the back side, but he was a very electric horse, with the blood of the Thoroughbred, Rantzau, and mixed with the heavy Holsteiner mares, he was fantastic. But when we tried to breed Cor de la Bryère with the French mares, we had rabbits. Cor de la Bryère needed a very strong mare, and we didn't have this kind of mare in France."

In the most recent edition of the French breeding bible, *Monneron 2007-2008* (www.monneron.com) Bernard le Courtois has gone through the FEI list of the top 2515 best showjumpers to compile a stallion ranking of the top 75 stallions, based on CSI winners. He finds that, after Almé, Cor de la Bryère is the most influential sire. Corde himself still holds 51st place on the rankings with 6 CSI winners - and that 14 of his sons make up 19% of the 75 best stallions in the world. The most successful of these sons is Corrado I, who occupies 23rd spot with 11 winners - with four sons of Corrado also featuring in the top 75: Corofino is 30th with 10 representatives, Coriano (43rd) with 7, Indorado (43rd) with 7, and Clinton (64th) with 5.

Cor de la Bryère's influence is also transmitted via the full brothers Caletto I & II. Although Caletto II does not make the top 75, he is represented by his sons, Caretino (24th with 11 winners) and Calvarro Z (65th with 5). Caletto I is himself in 65th place with 5 winners, and is represented by his son Cantus (30th with 10). Cantus is the sire of Calido I who is in 19th place with 12 winners.

Another Cor de la Bryère son, Calypso II is well represented on the top 75 through his son, Contender, sitting in 5th with 28 representatives.

What can one say about the legendary "Corde?" His impact on Holsteiner [and Oldenburg] breeding will be felt for generations to come. He was the 1971 Champion of his stallion 100-day test approval. At his death, he had 85 approved sons, and 65 States Premium daughters, as well as countless approved grandsons and great-grandsons. Holsteiner breeders world-wide mourn the loss of the great "Corde." His impact on modern warmblood breeding will continue to be felt for decades to come. Corde is probably one of the most famous and influential half-Thoroughbred stallions in Holsteiner breeding (second only to Landgraf I).

In 1998 Corde celebrated his 30th birthday at Elmshorn. His offspring came from all over Europe to celebrate this amazing stallion's birthday in a huge gala event. Corde was still looking very fit in 1999 at the gala evening of the Holsteiner approval in Neumunster where he had his last great appearance. On April, 27, 2000, the Anglo-Norman, who was so very successful in the Holsteiner breed since 1971, had to be put down at the stallion station of Thomas Petersen in Sollwittfeld due to acute heart disease. In that place "Corde" - his affectionate nickname among the Holsteiner breeders - spent his last years carefully nursed and taken care of by the Petersen family.



Corde's progeny gained influence in all German breeds. He established many sibling stallion dynasties such as the famous "Calypso" family (I-V), the "Corrado" family (I and II) and the "Caletto" family (I-III) of stallions. Corde was famous for putting his amazing jumping bascule on his offspring. Corde is credited with improving the jumping technique in the modern Holsteiner.

Breeders will do well with Corde in the bloodlines of their breeding stock.