
Frederiksborg Sire Lines

The pedigrees of Frederiksborg horse are fantastic to study because the breed has such a well documented history. The keeping of studbook records was done thoroughly at the Royal Frederiksborg stud and when the breeding was left in the hands of the local farmers new systems were build up. Their first attempt was the creation of regional stud books, which were not breed specific. However, the Frederiksborg horse was by far the prevalent horse on Sealand, which means that to a large extent the Sealand Studbook was the first Frederiksborg studbook after the era of the Royal Stud.

In 1894 the system changed towards studbooks that more outlined the breed of the horse. Admission into the studbook was based on previously obtained breeding results, as opposed to today where a horse is not allowed to be active in breeding until it has been entered into the studbook.

In 1920 there was another improvement in the system, where all horses could enter a breed register from the age of 3, ie. without breeding results, the purpose was to get a complete overview of the population. Parallel to this an Elite studbook was kept, a continuation of the old studbook, which summed up breeding results of the best mares and stallions. This left the Frederiksborg Studbook with 2 parallel numbering systems, which every pedigree reader has been acquainted with. The numbering system of today's Frederiksborg horses is the direct continuation of the 1920 register.

Classic Sire Lines

3 sire lines within the Frederiksborg breed are called Classic sire lines. These are named after the stallion that can be accounted as the line founder after the Royal Stud era.

Regulus: The oldest line that can be traced to the founder stallion Mignon, born 1690. This line is also to be found in the Lipizzan breeding through the Pluto line.

Zarif: Named after Zarif II, who is probably the most important breeding matador in the Frederiksborg breed ever, but traces back to Zarif ox, born 1840 in the Desert (wherever that may be), and

Pegasus: Originating from the thoroughbred stallion Logic XX, imported to the Royal Stud from England during the time of the "Thoroughbred-madness of the Duke" (The Duke of Augustenborg, who with his obsession of English thoroughbreds and racing is accused of being the main force behind the final degradation and fall of The Royal Stud). Logic XX was of the thoroughbred sire line descending from Byerley Turk.

The Pegasus line no longer exists in direct sire line within the Frederiksborg breed. Already in Elite Studbook no. 20 from 1937 it is noted that the line has strained circumstances with only few living individuals. The last stallion to enter the register was born in 1948.

Now, sire lines in themselves are not amazingly interesting from a practical breeding point of view. Some breed organizations, e.g. the Lipizzan, like to ascribe specific properties to the lines with respect to temperament and exterior. The fascination of sire lines as breeding criteria may origin from a more patriarchic view on society transferred to horse breeding, because from a genetic point of view there is no explanation of inheritance of these properties down the sire lines.

The only thing that with certainty is given from father to son is the Y-chromosome. It would be a breeding scoop if important exterior or performance related genes were located on this chromosome, but unfortunately that is not the case. On this chromosome genes that are important for the reproduction of the stallion are located. Research into the Y-chromosome has been conducted and evidence was found that the diversity both within breeds, but also across breeds is very, very small [Lindgren et al.]. This has made the scientists conclude that present time stallions all origin from very few progenitors.



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Nevertheless, it is also a part of the history that breeders, especially in the first half of the 20th century, used a line breeding method that preferred Zarif lines to Zarif lines and Regulus lines to Regulus lines. Therefore there may have been a tendency that the lines could be described as two sub-breeds within the breed with typical characteristics. Such a breeding method can, if not shown the greatest caution, lead to inbreeding. In the Elite Studbook preface from 1937, it is mentioned that certain branches of the Regulus line in Frederiksborg County show distinct tendencies to degeneration as a consequence of inbreeding.

Zarif horses are described as rougher and of more robust air, and the line had less tendency to inbreeding, because compared to the Regulus line it was to a spread over a larger geographical area.

Further it can be said that the sire lines are important because they due to the many offspring of a single stallion relatively quickly obtains prevalence both genetically and geographically. In this context the female lines of the stallions are just as important as the sire line.

Other sire lines

When examining the first studbooks from 1894 and forwards it is revealed that other sire lines were the game of the Frederiksborg breed than those 3 that has been named Classic.

Zarif II was born in 1889, but before him, there were other important stallions of this line. The sire of Zarif II, Hamlet born 1869 was very important in production of both mares and stallions, and the influence of many of his sons is neglected because their line did not manage to survive through entering the 20th century. This holds for e.g. Aurelius and Robinus, who had several stallion delegates in the first issues of the studbook.

Further there are lines after the stallions Palmer, Gl. Båruphingsten and Bæveren III (Bæveren is a very

traditional name within Frederiksborg breeding, translated it means The Beaver). The former two founder stallion themselves only goes back 1 or 2 generations in their own pedigree, and it is unknown whether they are of Stud blood or farmer's horse blood.

Bæveren III originated from the Stud stallion Bæveren 6 born 1821. Bæveren 6 was by Stærkodder and this line is one of the absolute oldest in the Royal Stud, descending to the Spanish stallion Superbe, born 1683.

3 stallions of the Bæver-line had been admitted in the new studbook: Bæveren V, Unge Bæveren (=Young Beaver) and Mullerup II, and they were all active in the breeding on the island of Funen, which during this period was more oriented towards breeding of heavier half-bloods with imports from Holstein and Oldenburg. Therefore the Bæver-line did not stand a chance in surviving as sire line. It could have changed history if just one had been on Sealand.

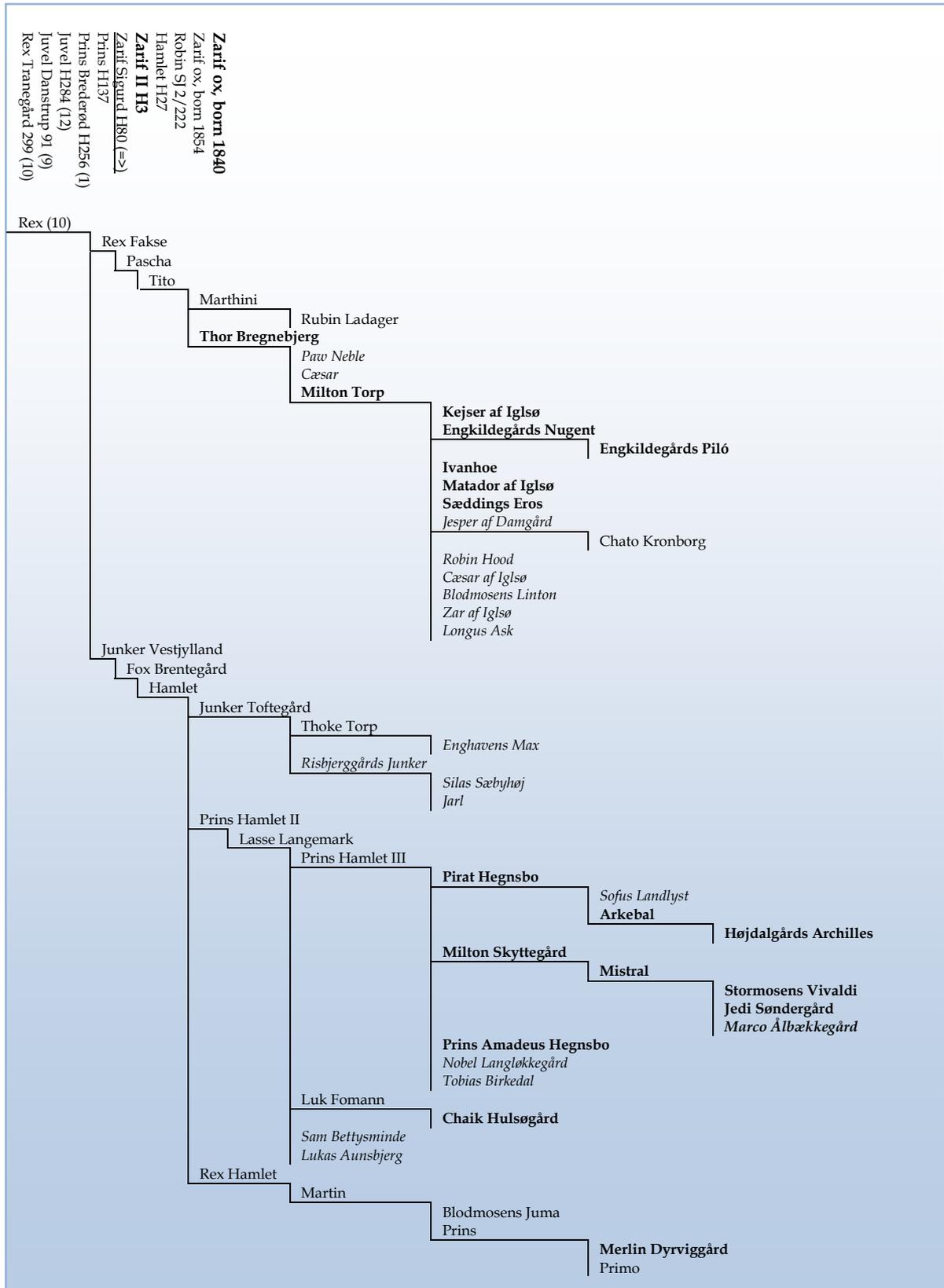
Another, rather different, example from the studbook is the Manfred-line. Manfred was one of several horses the Danish War Ministry had purchased in East Prussia and employed in the local breeding on both Sealand and Bornholm, along with e.g. Petrus, Sonnengott and Abendteuer. The stallions were of East Prussian origin with a high degree of thoroughbred blood. Manfred had several sons who were active in the Frederiksborg breeding and he founded a line through Primus Manfred – Dandy – Dandy II. The last representative of the line, Robert was born in 1915 and that ends the line.

In modern times there has been some outcrossing with foreign stallions of Hannoverian or Arab blood.

The Hannoverian stallion Lohengrin (by Lugano I) made 2 generations over the son Jason and his son Zefyr. Magyar, son of the Shagya Arab Siglav, has turned out to be very important in modern pedigrees through the dam lines, but he never produced a breeding stallion himself.



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Stallion list 2009

All 37 lifetime approved stallions as well as the 8 stallions with temporary license on the 2009 list of stallions in the Danish Frederiksborg Association (FHF) are out of either the Zarif or the Regulus line. In the tables accompanying this article, the lines are specified, although only completed for branches that has been represented by active breeding stallions since 1991. Stallions written in bold font are currently active. Stallions written in italic font, either bold or not, have only received temporary license. Some are on their way to performance test and some are stallions that were rejected after the temporary license.

The Regulus line is slightly in front as the leading sire line today, parted in two by Nobel Fuglebjerg. Via Regulus Hornsherred there is a minor branch, today represented only by Kazahr and his first son Charming Ballegård, who has so far gained a temporary license. Not so many years ago there were quite a few stallions of this branch to gain a temporary license, and there is a theoretical chance that possible heirs are alive and hiding somewhere, but otherwise the branch is narrowing down.

Through Nobel Mølager and particularly through his grandson Zarif Klintgård (who the active reader will notice is not at all of the Zarif line), the most widespread branch is blooming. This line shows a split into 2 modern branches, through Zarif Langløkkegård and Juvel Klintgård, two horses who are very important in the development of the modern Frederiksborg horse.

Of the 36 stallions on the 2009 stallion list, 19 of those are of the Regulus line, i.e. 53%. This line also includes Salisbury Vejleby, a fully licensed stallion who has been withdrawn from breeding to attend a very promising dressage carrier. Hopefully he will be back to give more offspring, when he retires. Of the stallions with temporary license 6 of 8 are of the Regulus line, i.e. 75%.

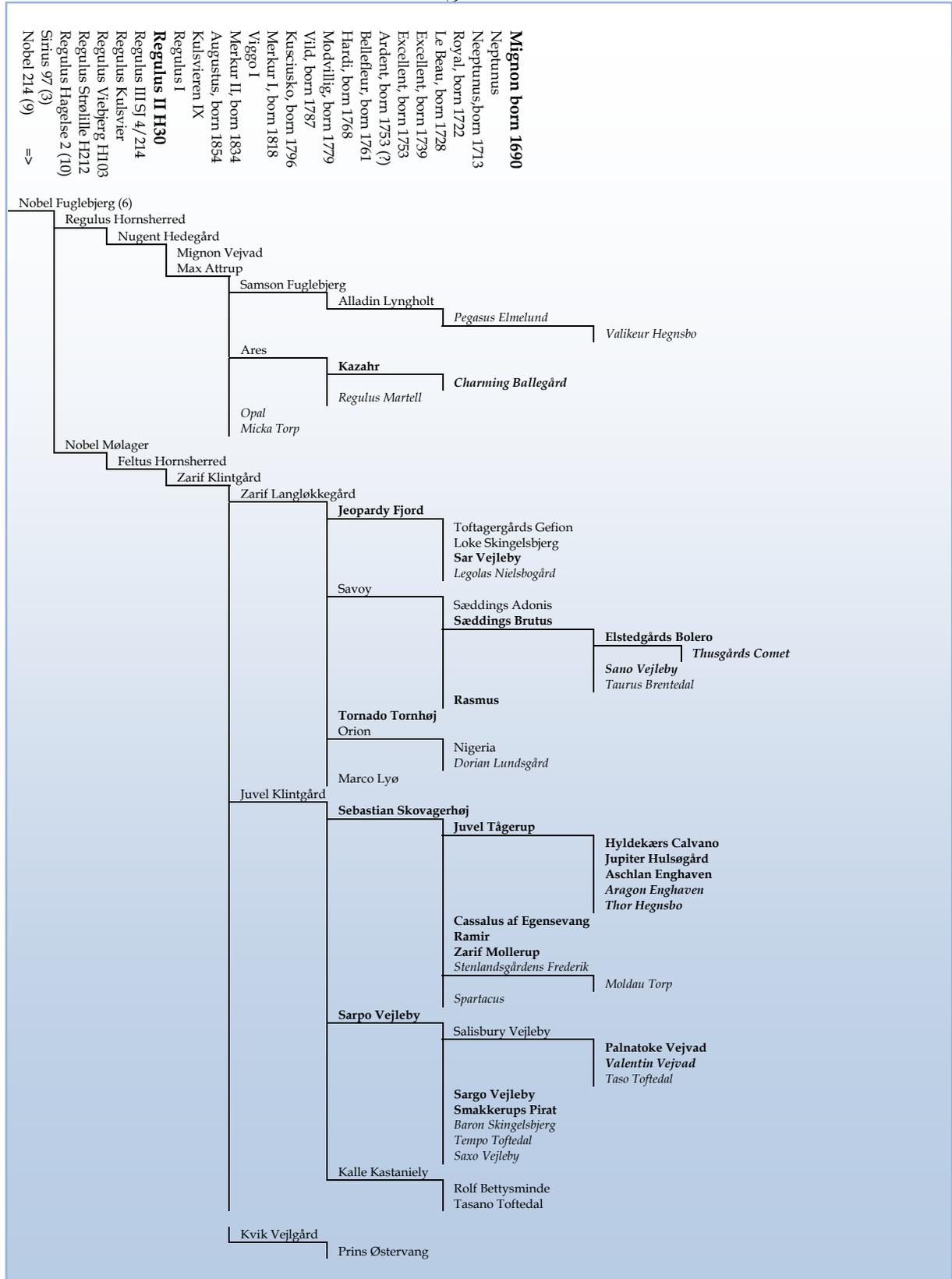
The Zarif line splits into to very important branches at a very early stage, through the Zarif II son Zarif Sigurd. The first one, the so-called Zarif Lynggård line, today has only limited distribution; the last horse to represent it was Zorba, who regretfully was gelded not so long ago. A few stallions of this line are known to be born within the last couple of years, but we have yet to see one achieve breeding license.

The other line, which could be named the Prins line to parallel the name of the former line, splits again at a much later time through the stallion Rex II. These two branches has achieved equal distribution, the one through Tito (through Thor Bregnebjerg – Milton Torp) and the other one through Hamlet (through Prins Hamlet – Lasse Langemark). Tito and Hamlet are each found 3 generations down from Rex II on each their branch.

Of the 36 fully licensed stallions on the 2009 list, 7 (19%) are of the Tito branch and 10 (28%) are of the Hamlet branch. The branches have one temporarily approved stallion each.



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During 2008, regretfully 3 stallions all of the Regulus line were deceased, which has somewhat assisted in maintaining the balance between the two lines, considering that the recruitment of young stallions have been larger for the Regulus line. Savoy left several licensed sons, Rolf Bettysminde none. Tasano Toftedal fortunately got many offspring the later years after his retirement from his successful dressage carrier so hopefully we will see some attempting to gain breeding license in the future. Thus the offspring of Tasano Toftedal carries the responsibility of spreading the Regulus line somewhat away from the concentration around Zarif Langløkkegård and Sebastian Skovagerhøj, who are very dominant.

The probability for a stallion to continue a sire line

It is interesting to observe that the really important Regulus stallions of the 1930'ies, Aladdin and Kvik Torvedgård, who were the first stallions to achieve a collection of offspring to be awarded 1st class A (the highest price for progeny) and who had 20 and 15 graded sons respectively are nowhere to be found in today's sire lines (but they are of course present in the

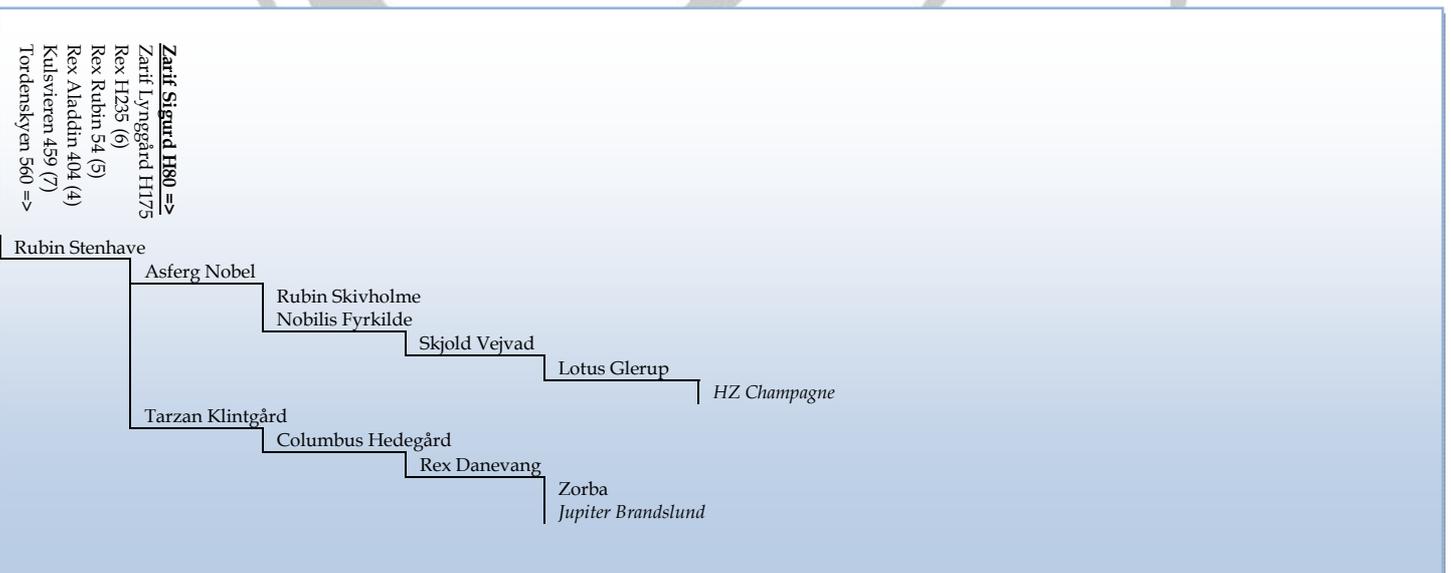
pedigrees through the dams).

Already in the preface of the Elite Studbook in 1946 it was mentioned that none of the sons could maintain the heritage. One grandson of Aladdin, Hadsten Juvel, had the qualifications to take the line forward, but he was sold to Jutland, where at the time the mare material did not have high enough quality to produce valuable breeding stallions. He got one single son, Fuks Hamlet, but this is where the branch ends.

Just as this example, other of the top sires of that time, e.g. Juvel II (28 sons), Zarif Fodby (24 sons), Rubin Havelse (18 sons) or Juvel Kromose (16 sons) are found today as direct sire lines.

It gives rise to surprise and reflection on how low the probability of continuing a sire line is. Zarif II had an uncountable number of sons, registered and not registered, yet only 1, Zarif Sigurd, has survived for more than 100 years. The same can be said about Regulus IV and other stallions through the times.

For stallions, where data can be found with certainty, it is noted in brackets in the sire line tables how many registered sons a stallion had. The following is worth



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noticing:

The Zarif line through Prins:

Juvel H254 was equally to Aladdin one of the most used and appreciated stallions of his time. He achieved 12 registered sons, of which Juvel II for a long time held the position as sire with most registered offspring with 28 stallions and 177 mares, 205 altogether. Aladdin was next with 120 followed by Kvik Torvedgård with 109. The Juvel II line does not exist any longer. On the other hand, Juvel himself was the only registered son of Prins Brederød at all.

The following generations after Juvel achieved 9-10 sons, but the two lines to have survived up until today is characterized by being the only registered stallion offspring of Rex Fakse and Junker Vestjylland respectively. The former is furthermore continued through a stallion that is not even entered into the studbook, Pascha.

The Zarif Line through Zarif Lynggård:

Rex and Rex Rubin are counted to have 37 and 47 offspring respectively entered into the studbook and they are represented by 6 and 5 sons respectively. Further down the line the sires have 4-7 sons each.

The Regulus line:

The number of sons varies between 2 and 10. On the other hand it belongs to the facts that Regulus Viebjerg had something like 9 sons who were active in the breeding, but not entered in the studbook.

Closing Remarks

Conclusively it can be assumed that one cannot necessarily rely on a statistical point of view when evaluating whether a sire line can survive for 100 years. Many sons are not equal to survival and survival is not dependant on many sons.

It is going to be interesting to see which lines will be dominant in 50 years. Will it be the Milton Torp or Sebastian Skovagerhøj branches, which for the time being represents most sons, and will it be possible at all to revive the almost lost Zarif Lynggård branch? Or will it because of the threat of inbreeding in the breed in general be necessary to introduce foreign stallion, and will they be competitive?

To be occupied single minded with sire lines as done in this article is to some extent history for the sake of history only. However the Frederiksborg breeders have a long tradition for taking care of their blood lines, both dam and sire lines, and hopefully it is possible to learn from the history, which in all cases makes history more than just for the sake of history.

List of references:

- 1 Lindgren et al.; *Limited number of patriline in horse domestication*
- 2 *De Samvirkende Danske Landboforeningers Stambøger 1894-1970*
- 3 *Frederiksborg Hesteavlforeningens Stambøger 1974-2001*
- 4 www.flf.dk

This is an update of an article by the same author, which was previously printed in the quarterly member's magazine of FHF.

