



The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

NUMBER 73

1954 • FIFTY YEARS • 2004

FALL 2004

50th Anniversary Celebration Honors George L. Ohrstrom Jr.

By Rebecca M. Tomlinson

The National Sporting Library will celebrate its 50th anniversary in October with a tribute to long-time chairman George L. Ohrstrom Jr., a coaching extravaganza and an exhibition honoring the Library's history.

Ohrstrom assumed the leadership of the fledgling Library following the death of his father in 1955. The previous year, George L. Ohrstrom Sr. had launched the NSL with the help of Alexander MacKay-Smith, then editor of the Ohrstrom-owned *The Chronicle of the Horse*, and Fletcher Harper, MFH, Orange County Hunt.

Working with Mackay-Smith, who became the Library's curator, Ohrstrom guided the growth of the Library which originally served as a means of preserving special sporting collections.

In 1993, the Ohrstrom Foundation donated to the NSL the



George L. Ohrstrom Jr.

von Hünersdorf Library — a treasure of European works (56 of the books are in French, 47 Italian and 31 German) that includes the earliest books published on the horse. In the collection was a classic first edition of the Duke of Newcastle's *Methode et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux* (Antwerp, 1657).

At the time, Ellen Wells, an NSL director who headed the Smithsonian Institution's Special Collections Department, observed: "This extraordinary collection provides researchers with a rich selection of major European texts on riding, training, breeding, cavalry applications and veterinary medicine from the Renaissance to the late 19th century."

In 1995, the Library experienced another milestone with the donation of the 5,000-volume John

Continued on page 3

Woolums Collection Expands Thoroughbred Base

By Carlos S. E. Moore

Margaret (Sissy) Woolums spent a lifetime making racing statistics and Thoroughbred pedigrees available to all who study the sport. Now, after her death earlier this year, she has ensured that this wealth of data will be forever accessible by donating her 3,300-volume research library to the National Sporting Library. The collection includes 20th-century Thoroughbred books, stud books

and racing charts from 40 different countries.

Present-day computerized databases of racing records in most cases reach back only to the 1980s and most international information is available only from the mid-1990s. Therefore if researchers are seeking detailed race records on such Thoroughbred legends as War Admiral, Seabiscuit, Kelso or even

Continued on page 2

Duplicate
Book Sale
Listings start
on page 6.

Woolum's Collection Expands

Continued from page 1



Irish-bred Pilsudski wins the 1996 Breeders' Cup turf race under Walter Swinburn in *Favorite Racehorses* (1997) from the Woolums collection.

Secretariat, they are still dependent on the complete compilations of racing charts in print. With the addition of the Woolums library, the NSL's statistical base for 20th-century Thoroughbred racing is now second to none in the world.

Ironically, the NSL – whose collection of 18th- and 19th-century charts is among the best in the world — was lacking in some areas of 20th-century records, which the Woolums collection now fills.

Apart from racing calendars, there are other treasures to be found in this vast collection such as rare Kentucky Derby Programs, Charles Howard's (of Seabiscuit fame) personal farm catalog and a large group of historical volumes new to the NSL.

Woolums was a leading authority on pedigrees and genealogy of the Thoroughbred. She first became involved in Thoroughbred sales cataloging after an early job at *The Blood-Horse* with Dan Bowmar III, director of the cataloging and pedigree department. She later joined the Jockey Club Statistical Bureau under Joe Estes, a bloodstock expert and creator of the Jockey Club's database. In the 1960s, she and her husband, Bill Woolums, created Pedigree Associates (later Pedigree Productions).

Pedigree Associates soon became

the world leader in the production of Thoroughbred sales catalogs and pedigree research. To this day they are still the exclusive providers of



Margaret (Sissy) Woolums.

catalog pages for Fasig-Tipton Sales Company. Woolums and her company designed, standardized and copyrighted the present-day catalog pages which include the horse's pedigree and bold type for stakes winners and stakes-placed horses.

All this was accomplished before the days of computerized research and data. To be able to be the source of this information, Woolums undertook the challenge of creating an extensive, privately held, Thoroughbred research library of international material. This amazing collection included racing calendars, stud-books and other historical volumes from every country where Thoroughbred racing exists. All the information gleaned from the books was put onto index cards and then used for the production of catalogs.

Word soon got out and with her engaging hospitality, Woolums's working library in Lexington, Kentucky soon became a Mecca for researchers, writers and people from around the world seeking to further their knowledge of the Thoroughbred.

In the 1980s, the Jockey Club started to computerize all data collected from national and international sources. In the 1990s, in conjunction with Weatherbys (keepers of the *General Stud-Book* of the U.K. and Ireland), they proceeded to create the World-Wide Data Base and Woolums came on board as the international information coordinator for the American Jockey Club.

Woolums loved her books and in recent years, she also came to love the National Sporting Library. Acting Director Rebecca Tomlinson said after the donation was announced, "This gift greatly enhances the NSL's value to Thoroughbred researchers. Sissy Woolums was a warm and generous lady. Her contributions to the Thoroughbred world will continue to live through our Library."

Editor's note: The collection will be available to researchers and racing enthusiasts in coming weeks when the librarian has completed cataloging the collection.

BOOK SIGNING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:00 PM

Riding & Schooling the Sport Horse

By Paul D. Cronin

50th Anniversary Celebration

Continued from page 1

H. and Martha Daniels collection, including such rare first editions as Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* published in 1653.

The Library's home was in the basement of the *Chronicle* headquarters at Vine Hill, a stately 1804 mansion located on seven acres on a hill overlooking the town of Middleburg, Virginia. Rare book experts would later conclude that the basement provided an ideal climate, amazingly enough, to preserve the books, but the Library had clearly outgrown Vine Hill.

In the late 1990s, Ohrstrom was the guiding force behind the construction of a magnificent facility worthy of the priceless collections of rare sporting books. The English carriage-house exterior tastefully conceals a 15,000-square-foot structure that includes a rare book room especially designed to preserve the books, a large Founders' Room which could serve as the home for lectures, the Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall, and equally significant, two faux-painted reading alcoves where visitors can leisurely read the works of the collections.

In honor of the new facility, the late Paul Mellon commissioned British sculptor Tessa Pullan to produce a bronze statue of a Civil

War horse to honor the sacrifice of horses and mules killed or injured during that conflict.

Ohrstrom also recruited retired *Reader's Digest* editor-in-chief Kenneth Y. Tomlinson to succeed Peter Winants as president and director of the Library in 1999, and the Library would emerge — in keeping with Ohrstrom's vision — not only as the home of rare sporting books, but also as an intellectual force dedicated to the preservation of our sporting culture.

Ohrstrom, Robert E. Duke, his long-time friend and philanthropic consultant, and Tomlinson created the Chairman's Council, a group of major donors that would soon number nearly 100, thus assuring a financial foundation for the Library.

The Chairman's Council Salute to George Ohrstrom will take place Thursday evening, October 21 at the Library. Speakers will include Library benefactor Jacqueline B. Mars, Duke and Tomlinson who has continued as the Library's president after leaving the directorship when appointed by President Bush to spearhead the nation's international broadcast operations.

On October 22, 23 and 24, the National Sporting Library Drive, chaired by Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom and George A. Weymouth, will

attract some 40 privately-owned road coaches and park drags in what *Driving Digest* calls the "Turnout of the Century." The public is invited to view the procession of coaches on Saturday morning, October 23, 10-11 am, at the Upperville Colt & Horse Show grounds. Admission is \$10 per car with ample parking. A gala is planned for that evening at Takaro Farm, Middleburg, with dinner and dancing. Tickets are available for \$250 each.

"This is the National Sporting Library," an exhibition in the Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall, by NSL curator Walta Warren opens to the public on Monday, October 25. This exhibition showcases the evolution, breadth and depth of the principle collections of the Library: horsemanship, steeplechase, Thoroughbreds, shooting, foxhunting, sporting art and angling and will feature some of the NSL's most important rare books.

The celebration of the life and vision of George L. Ohrstrom Jr. and the 50th anniversary honors the National Sporting Library's commitment to the preservation of the books — and art and film — that provide the foundation of our sporting culture.

PETER MANIGAULT

Peter Manigault, 77, of Charleston, S.C., and a member of the Chairman's Council, died June 14. Manigault was president and publisher of the Evening Post Publishing Co., a company his grandfather acquired in 1895.

Manigault was a major force in preserving large swaths of Lowcountry land and protecting thousands of acres along the Santee River from development. He was an outdoorsman who loved fishing, horseback riding, and with his son, Pierre, also owned and raced steeplechasers.

Manigault is survived by his wife Patricia, a member of the NSL's Board of Directors, and two children, Pierre and Gabrielle.

An Evening with Arthur Hancock III

The National Sporting Library is pleased to present an evening with the legendary horseman Arthur Hancock III, Tuesday, November 30, at 7 pm. Hancock will be interviewed by his long-time friend Kenneth Tomlinson. Hancock bred and raced champion Sunday Silence as well as horses like Menafee, Harlan and Strodes Creek. His Stone Farm, Paris, Ky., has produced more than 100 stakes winners including champion Fusaichi Pegasus whom he sold at Keeneland in 1998 as a yearling for \$4 million.

Book Reviews



Martin W. Sandler. *Galloping Across the USA: Horses in American Life.* Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016. 2003. Index. Appendix. Illus. 63 pp. \$19.95.

If you need a good book for your elementary or middle-school age child to refer to for a report on the horse's place in American history, this is the one. On top of that, you can sneak it off for an evening and learn a few new things yourself.

In the first 17 pages of this remarkable children's book, a 50-year-old reviewer learned three new facts. One, the word "mustang" was derived from the Spanish word *mesteños*, meaning "wild," hence the name for the horses that the Spaniards brought and lost or turned loose in the American southwest in the 1500s. Two, the turnpike is a type road that originated in medieval England and the word is derived from the pole, or pike, that was turned when the toll was paid. And three, why do we drive on the right side of the road? "Because the head horse in the team that pulled the Conestoga wagon was positioned on the left, the wagon driver would walk or ride on the left. Thus if he needed to pass someone he would pass them on the left and drive on the right side of the road," writes Sandler.

The author composed an outstanding history that is a reality check for circumstances which movies, fiction and textbooks often portray as romantic. For example, stagecoaches pulled by fast horses on new roads cut travel over 62 miles from Lancaster to Philadelphia from over a week to less than four days. But it was hazardous. Sandler writes, "The constant bouncing around had passengers so shaken up that many had trouble standing at journey's end. Many others were injured or even killed when the horses pulling the coach fell into a mud hole or plunged over an unexpected ridge or gully."

Sandler describes the important role of the horse in the westward expansion, the development of the cattle industry, the Pony Express and hauling freight in the East. The horse was important in urban areas as well as rural, a relatively unsung but imperative role. "American cities teemed with horses," he writes. "Horse-drawn delivery wagons, peddlers' carts, fire engines, ambulances, cabs, and private carriages clogged the streets."

Quotations are used throughout the book from newspapers of the era which give a place-in-time sense to the narrative. Numerous illustrations were carefully picked and enrich the text.

Sandler concludes the book with the importance of fire horses and police horses. "The horses were the pride and joy not only of the firemen but the people who lived in the neighborhood," he writes. "No understanding of U.S. history can be complete without an appreciation of what it owes to the horse." Amen.

— Lisa Campbell



K. J. FitzGerald. *In-Hand: A Practical Guide to Preparing & Showing Your Horse.* Half Halt Press, P.O. Box 67, Boonsboro, MD 21713. 2002. Photos. Diagrams. \$27.95.

Showing horses in-hand requires patience and practice, just like showing under saddle. The fact that the horses are usually very young adds an exciting wrinkle to the equation.

K.J. FitzGerald aptly covers plenty of territory to help the novice exhibitor and hone some finer points for the more experienced in her book *In-Hand: A Practical Guide to Preparing & Showing Your Horse*. She focuses on dressage and hunter shows but also draws on insights gained from other disciplines.

The chapters guide the reader on preparation before the show, what to expect on show day, and how to present the horse to its best advantage. Color photos throughout are quite instructive giving examples of proper braiding and well-fitting bridles, plus illustrating proper techniques of training and showing.

One admirable aspect of FitzGerald's philosophy is that horses, especially young horses, are not hot-house plants to be fattened and stall-bound. She endorses the fact that horses are much happier and healthier when turned out on a regular basis and says, "To develop a good mind, a young horse needs the freedom of a pasture and the companionship of other equines. The need for this development of mind surpasses any reason to show."

The chapter, "Grooming, Appearance and Presentation" addresses preparations for the showing for not only the horses but also the handlers. I applaud the section, "To Shave or Not to Shave?" because some breed disciplines shave horses near-naked for the showing. She writes, "Whiskers and other body hair serve a specific purpose for the horse. Whiskers increase a horse's sensitivity to his immediate surroundings and are useful to animals turned out at night." She then describes how to trim and neaten ears, muzzles and fetlocks for the show while leaving the horse's natural protection in tact.

Also, she addresses safety concerns regarding the reality of handling these large lovely, but volatile animals. "Horses outweigh humans by more than a half-ton, they can outrun and outmaneuver us just as a speedboat can outmaneuver a slow moving manatee," she writes. Her chapter "Training Techniques" should be required reading to novice and apprentice trainers of in-hand horses. She emphasizes that frequent and proper handling of horses from birth makes them much easier to train and safer for the handler and others in the show environment.

FitzGerald's book is an excellent and practical addition to the library of sporthorse and hunter breeders who use the showing to market young dressage and hunter prospects.

— Lisa Campbell



Directors of The National Sporting Library

102 The Plains Road
Post Office Box 1335
Middleburg, Virginia 20118-1335

OFFICERS

George L. Ohrstrom Jr.
Chairman

Edward P. Evans
Vice Chairman

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
President

Clarke Ohrstrom
Treasurer

Rebecca M. Tomlinson
Secretary

Karen Showalter
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Mimi Abel Smith
Thomas H. Anderson Jr.
Arthur W. Arundel
William M. Backer
Donald G. Calder
John Coles

John H. Daniels
Edward P. Evans
Diana J. Firestone
Helen K. Groves
Manuel H. Johnson
Patricia B. Manigault
Jacqueline B. Mars
Clarke Ohrstrom
George L. Ohrstrom Jr.
Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom
F. Turner Reuter Jr.
B. Francis Saul II
Joan Irvine Smith
William C. Steinkraus
John von Stade
Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Peter Winants
Anna Wells Zakroff

THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

(ISSN 1068-2007)

Number 73, Fall 2004

Published by the
National Sporting Library
Telephone 540-687-6542
<http://www.nsl.org>

Lisa Campbell, *Editor*

Rebecca M. Tomlinson,
Acting Director

Robert Weber, *Librarian*

Walta Warren,
Assistant Director/Curator

Karen Halver,
Assistant to the Director

Peter Winants, *Director Emeritus*

George Ohrstrom Honored with Bryce Wing Award



Douglas Lees

George L. Ohrstrom Jr. receives the trophy for Appolinax's 1985 My Lady's Manor Steeplechase. With him are (l-r) Julie Coles, baby Fraley Coles, John Coles and Mrs. Janon Fisher.

George L. Ohrstrom Jr., chairman of the National Sporting Library, recently received the Bryce Wing Memorial Award from the committee of the Maryland Hunt Cup. He is the fifth recipient of the award which is given to the person who has most loyally supported timber racing in Maryland.

The first Virginian to be honored with the award, Ohrstrom has been breeding and racing steeplechasers since the 1950s. Some of his best homebreds to run on Maryland turf include Appolinax, Nem Blong Hem and Bowman's Crossing.

Appolinax, foaled in 1971, ran nine years under Ohrstrom's yellow and white colors beginning in 1978. The big gray gelding won at Fair Hill, My Lady's Manor, Radnor and Middleburg, and placed third in the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1982 under John Coles (NSL board member and Jt.-MFH Orange County). Appolinax, under Coles, set the course record at My Lady's Manor 1985 in 6:06 over the three-mile course. Three-day event rider Bruce Davidson, of Unionville, Pa., rode Appolinax to second in Maryland's Grand National and fifth in the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1983.

Nem Blong Hem ran five seasons between 1991 and 2000. He was third in the 1999 Maryland Hunt Cup under Brian Moran. Nem Blong Hem's name is Pidgin English meaning "name belongs to him." Ohrstrom's son Clarke said his father had purchased a shipping company in the Solomon Islands in the 1980s where Pidgin English is common and Clarke's brother Peter Ohrstrom, now deceased, named the horse.

Bowman's Crossing is the most recent Ohrstrom entry to run in Maryland. Woods Winants, son of Peter Winants, NSL director emeritus, rode the bay gelding in the Maryland Hunt Cup in 2003 and 2004.

S. Bryce Wing, for whom the award is named, was president of the National Steeplechase Association 1948-1964 and chairman of the Maryland Hunt Cup 1962-1972. (The NSL holds in its archives Wing's photo albums dated 1903-c1930.)



Douglas Lees

Appolinax and John Coles clear the 15th fence at My Lady's Manor.



Douglas Lees

Nem Blong Hem sails the 13th fence in the 1999 Maryland Hunt Cup under Brian Moran.

The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council:

Mr. and Mrs. William Abel Smith	Marlou Tomkinson Gregory	Mr. and Mrs. Robin D. Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Akre Jr.	Helen K. Groves	David and Catherine Rochester
Mr. and Mrs. Hector Alcalde	Mr. and Mrs. Ted J. Guarriello	B. Francis Saul II
Amb. and Mrs. Thomas H. Anderson Jr.	Virginia B. Gunnell	Mildred Fletcher Slater
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Arundel	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Haisfield	Mr. and Mrs. S. Bruce Smart Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Backer	James L. Hatcher Jr.	Gordon G. Smith
Mrs. Charles Baird III	Sam Huff	Joan Irvine Smith
Thomas M. Beach Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III	Robert H. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Zohar Ben-Dov	Mr. and Mrs. Manuel H. Johnson	T. Garrick Steele
Magalen O. Bryant	Mr. and Mrs. James E. Lyons	William C. Steinkraus
Elizabeth Busch Burke	Dr. and Mrs. Edward B. MacMahon	Mead Stone
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Calder	Patricia B. Manigault	George Strawbridge Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Rodion Cantacuzene	Jacqueline Badger Mars	Mr. and Mrs. Phillip S. Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar T. Cato	Mr. and Mrs. John K. Medica	Mr. and Mrs. George Richard Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Chester Jr.	Mrs. Paul Mellon	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Citigroup Private Bank	Col. and Mrs. Robert W. Newton	Peter S. Tsimortos
Jane Forbes Clark	Mr. and Mrs. Francis Q. O'Neill	Laura van Roijen
Mr. and Mrs. John Kent Cooke	Roberta Odell	John von Stade
Mr. and Mrs. W. Carey Crane III	Barnaby A. Ohrstrom	Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Warren
Paul D. Cronin	Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Ohrstrom	Margaret R. White
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Daniels	George F. Ohrstrom	Mr. and Mrs. S. Bonsal White
Paul L. Davies Jr.	George L. Ohrstrom Jr.	Margaret H. Whitfield
Lawrence S. Davis	Lorian Peralta-Ramos	Mrs. James L. Wiley
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Duke	Nicole H. Perry & Andrew Stifler	Mr. and Mrs. Peter Winants
Edward P. Evans	Dr. and Mrs. Jerold J. Principato	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Woodson
P. Jay Fetner	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rathbun	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zakroff
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Firestone	Dr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter	Col. John F. Zugschwert
Dielle and Charles Fleischmann	Mr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter Jr.	
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Fout	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Rietz	

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Weekends by appointment



THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

102 The Plains Road
Post Office Box 1335
Middleburg, Virginia 20118-1335

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 8
MIDDLEBURG VA

Return Service Requested